

UNITED STATES PERMANENT MISSION TO THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

No. 27-B

The United States Mission to the Organization of American States presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the Organization of American States and has the honor to restate and update certain requirements related to G-1, G-2, or G-3 visa applications, either as part of an initial visa application or for requests for a change into such visa status.

When an individual applies for a new G-1, G-2, or G-3 visa outside the United States, or requests a change into G-1, G-2, or G-3 nonimmigrant visa status within the United States, the sending government must provide a diplomatic note that contains the following information:

- the government official or employee's name, date of birth, position and title, place of assignment or visit, purpose of travel, a brief description of his or her duties, travel date, and the anticipated length of the tour of duty or stay in the United States; and
- the names, relationships, and dates of birth of any dependents and other members of household who will be accompanying or joining the government official or employee.



The Permanent Mission to the  
Organization of American States,

Washington, D.C. June 22, 2016

For foreign government officials and employees who are assigned to a Permanent Mission in Washington for 90 days or more and who will be accredited to the Organization of American States, the note must generally originate from the sending government's foreign ministry, and not from the Permanent Mission in the United States.

In the case of a career official currently assigned outside of the United States and outside the sending State, the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate may accept a note from the embassy or consulate outside the United States where the official is currently assigned, provided that the note certifies that the sending government's foreign ministry supports the visa application.

Where a government representative is traveling to the United States for official activities for less than 90 days, the diplomatic note may be submitted by an appropriate foreign government office, such as the governmental office that employs the official or employee. All such notes should come from the relevant office of the sending government, and not from a Permanent Mission in the United States.

Consistent with immigration laws and regulations, the Department of State may require additional documentation to establish whether a particular applicant qualifies for a G-1, G-2, or G-3 visa.

While this circular note focuses on G-1, G-2, and G-3 visa application requirements, a note with the same information must also be submitted with any A-1, A-2, C-3, G-4, and NATO-1 through NATO-6 visa application and with any request for a change into such visa status. A note is also required for A-3,

G-5, and NATO-7 visa applicants. Such a note, however, is generally not required for routine renewals of A-1, A-2, G-1 through G-4, or NATO-1 through NATO-6 visas in the United States.

### **G-1, G-2, and G-3 Visa Eligibility**

The United States Mission wishes to remind and inform the Missions of the requirements regarding G-1, G-2, and G-3 visa eligibility.

To be eligible for G-1 visa classification, foreign government officials and employees are expected to perform services for the foreign government at the Organization of American States on an essentially full-time basis (at least 35 hours per week) and to reside in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Such officials and employees in G-1 status may be employed only by the foreign government which provided the diplomatic note described above, and not by any other entity or individual.

G-1 visa classification is appropriate for designated principal resident representatives of a foreign government and resident members of the staff of such representatives, regardless of rank, which foreign government is a member of an international organization designated under the International Organizations Immunities Act. Acceptable diplomatic titles include Ambassador, Minister, Minister-Counselor, Counselor, First Secretary, Second Secretary, Third Secretary, Attaché, and Assistant Attaché.

Individuals who will be working at a Permanent Mission as resident members of the staff of such mission include those working as administrative and technical staff and service staff at the mission, including service staff

engaged in certain duties owed to the sending government in furtherance of the official functions of the mission pertaining to the maintenance of the residence and representational duties performed at the residence of the Permanent Representative.

Individuals employed by a particular mission member in a domestic or personal capacity, such as to cook, clean, or take care of children in the private residence of a mission member do not qualify for a G-1 visa, regardless of whether the sending government or the mission member pays the employee. Rather, such individuals must qualify for and obtain a G-5 visa.

To be eligible for G-2 visa classification for temporary travel of less than 90 days, foreign government representatives must be traveling to the United States to engage solely in official activities on behalf of the foreign government. Where a foreign government is not a member state to the Organization of American States, a G-3 visa may be appropriate for temporary travel of less than 90 days.

Immediate family members forming part of the household of G-1, G-2, and G-3 visa holders are generally expected to travel to the United States on the same visa classification as the principal representative whom they are accompanying or following to join.

The United States Mission to the Organization of American States avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the Organization of American States the assurances of its highest consideration.