



CONSULADO-GERAL DO BRASIL

17 December 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

From the commencement of my present tour of duty as Consul-General in Sydney, in August 2006, I have received numerous questions and remarks on the requirements and issuance of visas by the Consulate-General of Brazil. As these queries and comments are constant, and often repetitious, I am of the opinion that it is now time to provide the Australian-Brazilian business community within the jurisdiction of the Consulate-General in Australia (New South Wales, Queensland and Northern Territory) with further clarification on this matter.

The issuance of visas corresponds to 65% of the activities of the Consulate-General in Sydney. It is estimated that by the end of the current year, in excess of 10,000 visas will have been issued to Australians and other foreign nationals traveling to Brazil as tourists, on business or for various other purposes. The issuance of visas, however, is just one - perhaps the most visible to the business community - of the many activities performed by the Consulate-General. Others include the issuance of passports and other travel documents for Brazilian citizens in Australia, legalization of Australian documents to be valid in Brazil, birth, marriage and death registration of Brazilian nationals, in addition to a myriad of activities that impact on the daily lives and businesses of Brazilians, Australian and citizens of several countries. The Consulate-General is also responsible for the promotion of Brazilian exports and tourism in Australia, investments in Brazil and assistance to Brazilian businessmen or trade missions on visits to this country.

Without exception, the issuance of visas is the legal obligation of all Brazilian consular offices around the world. The Brazilian immigration laws and regulations require that foreign citizens must have a valid visa issued by a Brazilian consular office or a Brazilian Embassy consular service to enter Brazil. These laws and regulations also set the conditions that must be met by applicants, the duration of stay in Brazil and also the consular fees to be charged for the issuance of a visa in each case.

In some circumstances, however, a foreign national can travel to Brazil without a visa. If an agreement exists between Brazil and a foreign country, some categories of visas, i.e. tourist or business visas, can be waived on a reciprocity basis. For this reason, citizens of many countries (a list is available on the website, www.brazilsydney.org) can visit Brazil for tourism or short-stay business trips without previously applying for and receiving a visa at a Brazilian Embassy or Consulate. Conversely, Brazilian citizens are permitted to visit these countries for tourism or short-stay business trips without a visa in their passports.

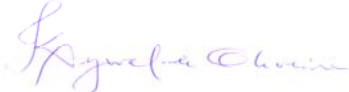
Inescapably, where a bilateral visa exemption agreement does not exist, a traveler must present a visa on his/her arrival in Brazil as a condition of entry into the country. As you are certainly aware, there is no agreement of this kind between Brazil and Australia and Brazilians are required to be in possession of an appropriate visa to enter Australia and vice-versa.

Respecting the limits of the current legal framework, the Consulate-General of Brazil certainly does not fail to understand the convenience and importance of the fast issuance of visas for all those interested in traveling to Brazil. To this effect, measures have been taken to streamline the visa processing procedures within the Consulate. Since March 2007, the processing time for the issuance of tourist and short-stay business visas by the Consulate-General of Brazil in Sydney has been substantially reduced. Provided that the application has been completed correctly and the documentation and other requirements by law or regulation are met by an applicant, visas of these two categories are, at present, issued in Sydney in five business days.

More improvements are still possible. As a result of the forthcoming development of a new visa issuing system, recently announced by the Ministry of Foreign Relations, in Brasilia, I am confident that applicants in Sydney will enjoy the benefit of an even shorter processing time in the not too distant future.

I would appreciate if you could distribute this letter to all interested parties, companies and institutions you may have direct contact with. I hope it will contribute to clarifying this matter. However, if any doubts still remain, please feel free to contact me. I will be more than happy to provide you with any additional information you may require.

Yours faithfully,



Kywal de Oliveira
Consul-General of Brazil