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PRESS RELEASE

Increase in Non-Immigrant Visa Application Fee

Effective January 1, 2008, the application fee for a U.S. non-immigrant visa will increase from \$100 to \$131. This increase allows the Department to recover the costs of security and other enhancements to the non-immigrant visa application process.

Applicants who paid the prior \$100 application fee before January 1 will be processed at no additional cost, only if they are scheduled and appear for a visa interview before January 31, 2008. Applicants who paid the prior \$100 application fee and appear for visa interviews after January 31, 2008 must pay the difference, \$31, before they will be interviewed. This fee is payable at the Embassy.

The Department of State is required by law to attempt to recover the cost of processing non-immigrant visas through the collection of the Machine-Readable Visa application fee. Because of new security-related costs, new information technology systems, and inflation, the \$100 Machine-Readable Visa fee is lower than the actual cost of processing non-immigrant visas. In fact, the \$100 fee was already lower than the cost of processing non-immigrant visas when the fee was reviewed as a part of the cost of service study in 2004. The Department of State has been absorbing the additional cost. The application fee has only increased twice in the last six years, the last time in 2002.