



Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy

APRIL 2008
E-NEWSLETTER
FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

U.S. Embassy Lisbon

Av. das Forças Armadas,
Sete-Rios
1600-081 Lisbon
Tel: 21-727-3300

American Citizen Services
Hours: Monday to Friday
8 am—12 pm, 1:30—4 pm
Tel: 21-727-2122
E-mail: Conslisbon@state.gov

For emergencies concerning an American citizen, please call 21-727-3300. This line is answered 24 hours.

U.S. Consulate Ponta Delgada

Av. Principe do Monaco
No. 6-2 F
9500-237 Ponta Delgada
Azores
Tel: 296-282-216

American Citizen Services
Hours: Monday to Friday
9 am—12:30 pm, 1:30—5 pm
E-mail:

U.S. Consular Agency Funchal

Rua da Alfandega, No. 10
2nd Floor, Rooms A & B
9000-059 Funchal
Tel: 291-235-636

American Citizen Services
Hours: Monday to Friday
9 am—1 pm



Closures of the Consular Section for April and May

The U.S. Embassy and Consular Section will be closed for the following Portuguese and American Holidays during April and May:

April 25—Liberty Day
May 1—May Day
May 22—Corpus Christi

IRS-Trained Volunteers to Hold “Economic Stimulus Tax” Workshop

As you may already know, the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 was passed by Congress and signed by the President. In March, taxpayers began receiving a mailing from the IRS explaining the Economic Stimulus Payments.

Under this new law, you may be entitled to a payment of up to \$600 per adult and \$300 per child. The new law provides payments to individuals who have a total of \$3,000 or more annually in earned income, social security benefits, and/or certain veterans' payments.

To receive a payment, individuals who qualify must file a 2007 tax return. If you have already filed a 2007 tax return, you do not need to do anything else.

American citizens and green-card holders living overseas are eligible to qualify for the payment. An individual, spouse and any qualifying child must have a valid social security number.

IRS-trained tax volunteers will hold a special “Economic Stimulus Tax Workshop” on Tuesday, April 15, at 2:30 p.m., at the Consular Section to provide instructions on completing the 1040A tax return for those filing only to receive the one-time payment. If interested in attending, you must sign up for the workshop with the Consular Section by either sending an email to: conslisbon@state.gov or calling 21-770-2499/2411.

In addition, there are several aids available on the [IRS website](#). To see if you qualify for a stimulus payment, take two minutes to complete [IRS's Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator](#). To learn more, visit [Instructions for Getting Economic Stimulus Payments](#), or [How to File a 1040A Tax Return](#).

Tax Help Available at the U.S. Consular Section

For regular tax preparation, our “VECTA” tax volunteers are still assisting folks at the Consular Section. Trained by the Internal Revenue Service, the volunteers can provide information on tax law and how to prepare basic tax returns for retirees and wage-earners making under \$35,000 annually. The volunteers will assist up to 30 people each Thursday. Appointments may be requested by e-mail at: conslisbon@state.gov, or phone at 21-770-2499/2411.



Deadline for Tax Returns

Taxpayers living overseas have until **June 16, 2008** to file their 2007 taxes as they are eligible for an automatic 60-day extension. Please note that your tax return must be post-marked by June 16.

Any amounts owed to the IRS, however, must still be paid on or before April 15, 2008, to avoid incurring interest on the principal. The automatic extension applies only to filing the return and you must attach a statement to your return showing that you were living outside the U.S. on April 15th.

News from Social Security: How do I Change My Name?

If you change your name, be sure to tell both Social Security and your employer. Otherwise, you risk a delay in your tax refunds and your wages being posted incorrectly to your Social Security record which may affect your future Social Security benefits.

To change your name on your Social Security card, you must present proof of your U.S. citizenship or immigration status, legal name change document (such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order), identity and a completed Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5). All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency.

In addition to presenting a legal document with your new name, you must provide us with two identity documents, including one document in your old name (document can be expired) and one identity document in your new name (unexpired).

For further information, please contact the Social Security Office at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon at: 21-770-3300. You may also visit the [Social Security website](#).

New Appointment System for Visa Applicants

The Visa Unit recently initiated an appointment system for visa applicants in order to provide better customer service to the public.

The process is simple: After an applicant completes his application online, at http://portugal.usembassy.gov/ConsDocs/VISAS_NonImmigrantVisas.html, he selects the option "How do I request an interview?", and follows the instructions provided. **Re-member:** Under the Visa Waiver Program, Portuguese citizens traveling to the U.S. for tourism or business for periods of less than 90 days do not need a visa.

For visa applicants with emergency travel to the U.S., please submit your request to the Visa Unit by fax: 21-727-1500 and we will promptly respond.



PHONE LINE

Call the
American
Citizen
Services
Phone Line at
anytime for
more infor-
mation about
our services.

21-727-2122

What is the Passport Card and Do I need It?

On February 1, 2008, the State Department began accepting applications for the new passport card. You may notice as you complete the new passport application form that you are asked whether you want a passport book or a card. *For Americans living in Europe, the passport book is still the required travel document.*

The passport card will facilitate entry and expedite document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry only when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda.



The card may not be used to travel by air.

It will carry the rights and privileges of the U.S. passport book and will be adjudicated to the exact same standards. For more information about the passport card, please visit: http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html

PHONE LINE

Call the American Citizen Services Phone Line at anytime for more information about our services.
21-727-2122

Consular Fees

Passport	Adult Renewal	54.00 €	\$75.00
	Minor Renewal	61.00 €	\$85.00
	Before 16 years old	72.00 €	\$100.00
	Lost/Stolen	72.00 €	\$100.00
Report of Birth Package		108.00 €	\$150.00
Consular Certificate		22.00 €	\$30.00
Notaries	1st document	22.00 €	\$30.00
	2nd Document on	14.00 €	\$20.00