



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Consulate General of Angola in Houston, Texas, would like to announce the following:

Subsequently to the Government of the Republic of Angola's creation of a new legal regimen for foreigners, consolidated under Act #02/07, dated August 31, 2007, which introduced new types of visas, on the one hand, and

Considering the Visa Liberalization Agreement between the Republic of Angola and the United States of America, signed in 1994 and reviewed in 2004, on the other hand:

A new visa processing system was recently installed at the Consulate General, called SAVIS, under which, in accordance with the Migration and Foreigners Services' (*SME-Serviços de Migração e Estrangeiros*) rules, the Consulate General is now issuing work visas, as described below:

- **Short-duration Work Visa (3 and 6 months).** These visas, **issued by the Consulate** in Houston, replace the previous visas issued by the *SME* at the airport, with duration of 15 days and renewable for equal periods for all foreign nationals, including Americans, which, in one form or another, were rendering services at oil platforms, on a 28/28 rotation period. These visas (3 and 6 months) allowing multiple entries, make it easier for visa holders since they are not required to comply with all formalities required by law. You can **obtain a visa in less than 72 hours**, as long as you present an invitation letter, and this letter is authorized by the competent government entity.
- **Work Visa (12 and 24 months) – locally** authorized and **issued**, these visas are intended to reduce the wait time that American citizens have been subjected to, since previously this type of visa was issued by the *SME—Serviços de Migração e Estrangeiros*. As long as the visa requestor presents all the basic documentation required by law, **the visa is granted in a period not to exceed 72 hours.**

We would like to emphasize that, the introduction and granting of these visas locally, seeks to, simultaneously, reconcile the presence of expatriates working in Angola with the new Act #02/07 provisions, imbu the visa concession activities with swifter processing times, as well as safeguard the accords existing between the two countries, under the VisaLiberalization Agreement.

With the introduction of these new rules, some of the constraints which were apparent once Act 02-07 became enforceable, such as restrictions to the movement of American citizens to specific work zones, such as Malango or oil platforms, even if they possessed the ordinary two (2)-year visa, cease to exist.

We would like to take this opportunity to also inform you that the multiple-entry visa (ordinary) lasting between three (3) months and two (2) years, will continue to be granted to other American citizens who visit Angola with other objectives as provided in the Bilateral Agreement (tourist, expatriates' direct relatives, participants in cultural and sporting events, meetings, conferences, etc.).

For technical reasons, this type of visa, which was suspended one (1) week ago, will be reinstated in the new system within fifteen (15) days. In the meantime, ordinary visas of up to thirty (30) days are being granted temporarily to American citizens and others who must travel to Angola urgently, for reasons other than specific work activity (for this purpose, work visas are being granted).

We appreciate your understanding.

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF ANGOLA IN HOUSTON, TEXAS ON
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.**