SUBJECT: USING DS-160 FOR K VISA APPLICATIONS

Summary: Effective immediately, the DS-160 Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application will replace the DS-156 Electronic Visa Application form (EVAF), the DS-156K (Nonimmigrant Fiance Visa Application), and the paper-based DS-230 Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration (parts I and II) for processing K-1 and K-2 nonimmigrant visa (NIV) applications. This message describes the timeline for deployment and provides guidance to posts during the transition. End Summary.

WORLDWIDE USE OF DS-160 FOR NEW K VISA CASES MANDATORY

The DS-160 replaces the DS-156 Electronic Visa Application form (EVAF), the DS-156K (Nonimmigrant Fiance Visa Application), and the paper-based DS-230 Application for Immigrant Visa (IV) and Alien Registration (parts I and II) for processing K-1 and K-2 applications. K-1 and K-2 visas may only be processed at IV-processing posts. K-3 and K-4 visas may be processed at any NIV-issuing post using the normal NIV processing procedure.

USING DS-160

You may accept K visa applications using the DS-160 immediately. Posts must require the DS-160 for all K visa applications received more than one week after the date of this message.

As we transition to mandatory use of the DS-160 for K visas, the following exceptions apply:

-- We will not require DS-160s for beneficiaries of cases that have already been scheduled for an interview or have been interviewed and are pending additional documentation or administrative processing.

-- For cases received at post prior to receipt of this guidance, if petitioners have already submitted a DS-156, DS-156K, or DS-230, or received instructions to do so, you should accept those forms. If you have not yet provided petitioners instructions on how to submit their applications, you must require the DS-160. You should not, as a general rule, require the submission of a DS-160 if a valid, signed, unexpired DS-156, DS-156K, or DS-230 is already on file and requiring the DS-160 would result in a 221(g) refusal for an otherwise issuable case.

-- You may not, under any circumstances, accept DS-260 Immigrant Visa Electronic Application forms for K visa applications.

Kerry