

Russian Visa Notification

(July 25, 2003)

The following message has been sent to all guests with Russian citizenships or affiliations.

The RHIC & AGS Users' Center received a notice from the US Embassy in Moscow (below), which they would like to share with the Russian collaborators.

The U.S. Embassy press service announced last Friday that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow will make considerable changes in the procedure of visa issuance for Russian nationals on August 1, 2003.

Virtually all applicants for non-immigrant visas in all countries of the world will be bound to show up in person to be interviewed by a consular officer, says the Embassy's press release received by RIA Novosti. The press service does not deny that this arrangement will cause considerable delays in waiting for interviews. In this regard, the U.S. Embassy recommends submitting visa applications 6-8 weeks prior to the expected date of departure. Urgent interviews will be carried out in exceptional cases only, when the death or serious medical problems are the issue. Interviews can be waived for children below 16 years of age inclusively and individuals above 60, as well as applicants for diplomatic or service visas and those who have had their previous visa expired less than one year ago.

Effective July 22, 2003, the Embassy will use new forms of visa applications, available in the Embassy or printed out from the website. The Embassy also makes more restrictive its requirements for photos and rules of filling out the applications. The U.S. Embassy, Moscow explains such changes in visa issuance procedures by consequences of 9/11/2003 attacks in Washington, D.C. and New York.

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