

Grant of Swiss entry visas to delegates

The Office would like to remind participants in the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference that, depending on their nationality, they may be required to hold a valid visa for entry into Switzerland (please consult www.imes.admin.ch/einreise/merkblatt_e.asp for more detailed information on conditions of entry).

All participants subject to the visa requirement must therefore submit a full personal application for authorization to enter Switzerland to the competent Swiss representation abroad, sufficiently in advance of their departure (the list of Swiss embassies and consulates is available at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/e/home/emb/addch.html).

When exceptional circumstances so warrant (in particular, where there is no Swiss representation in the country of origin), the Swiss authorities may authorize the delivery of a visa upon arrival in Switzerland, provided that the request is made sufficiently in advance of the departure date.

In order for the Office to support a visa application, the following conditions must be met:

- The first and last names of the person concerned must be included in the official credentials of the delegation submitted to the International Labour Office; it should be noted that only the Government may issue credentials, including for Shipowner and Seafarer delegates;
- The request for intervention must reach the Office at least a week before the departure date, indicating the Swiss representation to which the visa application is being made;

- For exceptional requests for a visa to be delivered on arrival, the following information must be provided in addition: First and last name of the person concerned, date of birth, type and number of the passport and dates of its issuance and expiry.

As the Office does not have the capacity to handle each request individually, it will transmit directly to the competent Swiss authorities its support for any visa application within 24 hours of the request. Requests should be sent in writing to the following e-mail address:

credentials@ilo.org or by fax to the following number: +41 22 799 85 70.

Owing to the public holiday in Geneva on 9 and 10 September, **the Office will be closed from 9 to 12 September** and will therefore be unable to handle requests during that period.

Neither will it be possible to contact the competent Swiss authorities during that period.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that no request will be handled for persons who make the trip without having first obtained a visa or the necessary authorization to obtain it upon arrival in Switzerland. Any person who travels to Switzerland without meeting these requirements risks being returned at the border.