



Clarification of the issuing of Chinese Visas for Australian business executives travelling to China for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and participating in Austrade's Business Club Australia (BCA) activities

Austrade had the above issue raised with them by representatives of the Australian business community at the BCA Beijing 2008 Roundtable Advisory Group meeting (held in Sydney, 23 May 2008) with Roundtable participants concerned about the lack of clarity around visa rules and the application requirements which also impacts their ability to participate in BCA Beijing 2008 activities. On behalf of the Australian business community, Austrade undertook to follow up the issue and has since clarified the matter directly with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canberra. The following understandings have been reached:

1. If a business executive is travelling to Beijing to attend the Olympic Games and participates in BCA Beijing at the Hilton Hotel, since this is an informal business networking event, the executive would only require a normal tourist visa. An application for a tourist visa needs to be accompanied by documents showing flight and accommodation bookings. These would be subject to the normal processing time of four working days
2. If a business executive is travelling to China for business purposes (either single, double or multiple entries), the executive should provide a visa notice from the authorised Chinese government (central or local), company, or organisation accompanied by documents showing flight and accommodation bookings. Normal processing times would apply.
3. If a business executive holds a valid APEC business travel card which includes China as a pre-approved destination, then this would be honoured in the usual way on arrival in Beijing.
4. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia has stipulated that the abovementioned visa requirements are not new visa policy but are being re-emphasised for security purposes during the Games.

The above information will be disseminated to the Chinese Consulate Generals in Sydney and in Melbourne by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.