

United States Department of State

CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520
Main Switchboard: +202-647-4000
www.state.gov

Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs
www.state.gov/e/eb/index.htm

ABOUT STATE

DOS is the prime federal agency responsible for managing the international relations of the United States with other nations. The agency is multi-faceted and addresses a wide variety of topics from human rights to arms control to environmental issues. The Department of State manages the U.S. embassies and consulates around the world and approves both individual and business-related visas.

DOS is not the lead agency in developing or administering U.S. trade policies. However, it plays a critical role in ensuring that trade policies are consistent with broader U.S. foreign policies.

DOS' principal sub-agency focused on trade and investment policies is the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (BEBA). The Bureau's mission is "to promote economic security and prosperity at home and abroad." The specific DOS trade-related sub-agencies include Commercial and Business Affairs and Trade Policy and Programs. DOS participates in the Executive Branch interagency trade policy development process through the TPSC and TPRG committees. (See memo on USTR for more details.)

Commercial and Business Affairs (<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/cba/>)

The Commercial and Business Affairs office, housed within BEBA, helps promote U.S. businesses operating in the global marketplace. The Commercial and Business Affairs office acts as a liaison with trade partners to compile commercial information and identify market opportunities. Commercial and Business Affairs assists businesses obtain visas and provide information on market access issues like export controls and political corruption.

The Global Entrepreneurship Program (<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/cba/entrepreneurship/gep/>) works with U.S. embassies to encourage new business ventures. This program entails creating mentoring programs, angel investment networks, and other entrepreneurship delegation missions to promote innovation. DOS works with other departments such as USAID, OPIC, and the Small Business Administration to coordinate entrepreneurship activities abroad.

Trade Policy and Programs (<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/tpp/>)

The DOS' Trade Policy and Programs unit works on global, regional, and bilateral trade initiatives including negotiating new and implementing existing trade agreements and working with the World Trade Organization. Trade Policy and Programs is organized by sector: agriculture; biotechnology and textiles; intellectual property rights; bilateral trade affairs; and multilateral trade affairs. These efforts support other lead Executive Branch agencies working in these fields.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Plans, Performance and Budgets: <http://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/c6113.htm>

Features Department of State performance-related plans and reports, budget information, and other supporting documents.

Major State Department Publications: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/dos/221.htm>

Includes fact sheets, Congressional Testimony, Country Commercial Guides and other published works by the State Department.

For Domestic and International Businesses

Business Visa Center: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/business/business-visa-center.html>

(202)-485-7675; BusinessVisa@State.gov

The department has a Business Visa Center that assists enterprises throughout the process in obtaining their business-related visas.

State Department Tools for Businesses: <http://www.state.gov/e/eb/cba/tools/index.htm>

The State Department link illustrates all of the department's services for businesses.

Includes a database for procurement opportunities, and links to relevant State Department programs.
