

eVisas

A guide for customers who use a passport containing an ink-stamp or vignette sticker, or other legacy paper document to prove their rights

- Government is replacing physical immigration documents with a digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa.
- Customers in the UK who currently use a legacy paper document, such as a passport containing ink stamps or a vignette sticker (if they have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain), to prove their UK immigration status should take action to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa later in 2024.
- The move to an eVisa will not impact a customer's underlying immigration status.
- It is free for customers with BRPs to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.
- The latest updates and information on these changes can be found at www.gov.uk/evisa.

This guide is designed to help customers who currently prove their immigration rights using a:

- Passport that contains an ink stamp or vignette sticker
- Or other legacy physical immigration document (other than a BRP).

eVisas are a key part of delivering a border and immigration system which will be 'digital by default' by 2025. This process is already underway, and millions of people in the UK who applied for their visa through the EU Settlement Scheme or used the ID Check app already have a digital proof of their immigration status. These changes will bring significant benefits to customers, deliver excellent value, and increase the UK immigration system's security and efficiency.

The latest information about eVisas is available at www.gov.uk/evisa.

British passport holders and Irish citizens, including those who previously held an immigration status but have since acquired British citizenship, do not need to do anything. British citizens who do not have a British passport because they are dual nationals (excluding Irish passport holders) may need to take action in future regarding how they prove their right to abode. Updates on this will be provided in due course.

What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is a digital record of a person's immigration status. It removes the need for physical documents such as the passport containing ink stamps or visa vignette and brings a range of benefits to customers who hold an immigration status in the UK:

- An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or damaged.

- Customers can prove their rights instantly, accurately and securely to anyone who requests it while sharing only necessary information.
- It will prevent unnecessary delays when travelling internationally where customers travel using the passport/national identity document linked to their UKVI account.
- Customers can access many UK government services and benefits without needing to present proof of immigration status. This is because selected government departments and authorities can securely access immigration status information. Immigration data is held securely, and government will never sell customer data. Further information on how the Home Office handles customer data can be found [here on GOV.UK](#).

As physical documents that evidence immigration status expire, customers who have created a UKVI account will be able to use the view and prove service to prove their rights.

What legacy paper document holders (passports containing ink stamps, vignette stickers, Home Office letters, etc.) will need to do

Customers who have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain and prove their rights using a passport containing an ink stamp or vignette sticker, or use another type of legacy paper document, should make a 'No Time Limit' application. It is free to make a No Time Limit application, and information on how to do so is available at www.gov.uk/evisa. As part of the application process customers may need to travel to a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services Centre (known as a UKVCAS) to provide a photograph, and in some cases provide fingerprints.

Once an application has been processed successful No Time Limit applicants will be issued with a biometric residence permit (BRP), which from summer 2024 can then be used to create a UKVI account.

Customers can continue to use their passport or other paper document alongside their eVisa and they should continue to take it with them whenever they travel internationally to avoid unnecessary delays. From January 2025 customers will need to use their eVisa to prove their rights.

Later in 2024, the Home Office will take steps to launch a revised No Time Limit application process which provides an eVisa directly, without issuing a BRP. Further information on the new process will be available at www.gov.uk/evisa. Until then, if customers hold a legacy document there is no reason to delay making a No Time Limit application.

If customers hold a passport containing a vignette sticker issued to them under EEA Regulations, this document ceased to be valid on 30 June 2021 because the UK has left the European Union. To continue living in the UK, customers should obtain an immigration status as soon as possible. They may be able to make a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme as a family member of EU, EEA or Swiss citizen at

www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme, where they will also find information on the range of support available.

Who is affected by this change?

Everyone who have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain and prove their rights using a passport containing an ink stamp or vignette sticker, or use another type of legacy paper document can take action now by making a no time limit application at www.gov.uk/evisa.

If customers use a vignette sticker to prove their rights but do not have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain then they cannot yet make a No Time Limit application. Those who hold visitor vignettes, for example cannot yet take action. These customers should continue to use their vignette as they do at the moment, and information will be made available in due course on what they will need to do to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

What should customers do when travelling internationally?

Customers should continue to carry their in-date physical immigration documents with them when they travel internationally, if they have been issued with such a document. Customers who already have an eVisa should tell the Home Office about any passport on which they intend to travel if this is not already linked to their account. They can do this using the 'Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

During 2024, the Home Office is taking steps to allow carriers, including transport operators such as airlines, ferry, and international train operators, to securely and automatically access the immigration status of passengers travelling on their services when they present their passport which is linked to their UKVI account.

This will automate the existing routine checks completed whenever a passenger presents the passport when travelling internationally. This will provide a more convenient customer journey, and enhanced border security.

What if customers lose or misplace my legacy paper immigration documents?

If customers have lost their passport containing an ink stamp or vignette sticker, or other physical immigration document, then they should make a No Time Limit application. If successful, then they will be issued with a BRP. If the document they have lost is a current passport from their home country, then they will need to obtain a replacement from their home country's government before travelling internationally.

Once they receive their No Time Limit BRP, they should visit www.gov.uk/evisa for details of how to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa.

What happens if customers do not create an account to access my eVisa?

We encourage all eligible customers to create their UKVI accounts to avoid issues when travelling and proving their rights in the UK.

Although customers will not lose their immigration status if they do not take action to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa, as the border and immigration system becomes digital by default, they are likely to find it increasingly challenging to easily prove their rights, and may face unnecessary delays when attempting to do so.

Further information, including details of the eVisa support available, can be found at www.gov.uk/evisa.