

eVisas

Moving to a digital proof of immigration status

Throughout 2024, the government is replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa for customers already living in the UK, and new visa customers. 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 an eVisa. An eVisa is a digital record of a person's immigration status, and the latest information on them is available at www.gov.uk/evisa.

What is happening and when?

In 2024 customers who currently prove their immigration status using a physical or legacy paper document will need to take action to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa, to ensure that they can prove their rights without delay or difficulty.

All BRP holders should visit www.gov.uk/evisa now to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. Holders of other physical immigration documents, including passports containing vignette stickers or ink stamps (for those who hold indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain), and BRCs, can also find information here on what they need to do to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

What are the benefits of an eVisa?

These changes will bring significant 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](#).

Who is affected by this change?

The move to eVisas affects those who currently use a physical document to evidence their status and prove their rights, including:

- Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) holders

- Legacy paper documents such as a passport containing an ink stamp or vignette sticker (where the holder has indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain)
- Biometric Residence Card (BRC) holders

From autumn 2024, most new visa applicants will also receive an eVisa. Further details about this will be provided when they apply for their visa.

What do customers need to do?

If customers use a physical or legacy paper document to prove their immigration rights, they should go to www.gov.uk/evisa to find out what they need to do next, and when they can do it.

Creating a UKVI account is free, straightforward, and the move to an eVisa will not affect a customer's underlying immigration status.

Visa nationals should continue to carry their in-date physical immigration documents with them when they travel internationally, along with their passport. Customers who already have an eVisa should tell the Home Office about any passport on which they intend to travel using the update my details service if this is not already linked to their account. They can do this at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

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.

BRP holders should retain their BRP after they have created a UKVI account as they may need the reference number for future applications to stay in the UK.

Customers will be able to create an account quickly and easily post-2024, using their expired BRP if needed, at www.gov.uk/evisa. BRP holders will still be able to use the online right to work and rent services to prove their rights once their BRP expires – provided they still have valid status – although they are encouraged to register for a UKVI account and to use that to access those services.

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