

GUIDELINES ON NEW PHOTO REQUIREMENTS For Machine-Readable Passport (MRP)

The Passport Division requires that the passport photos of the applicant should comply with the following guidelines consistent with International Standards.

GENERAL RULE

The photograph of the Passport Holder is important because it allows the Immigration & other proper authorities to verify the physical appearance of the Passport Holder.

Background color, pose and image size

Background color should be preferably **ROYAL BLUE** or dark blue

Full frontal facial image

Image of the applicant should occupy approximately 70% - 80% of the photograph

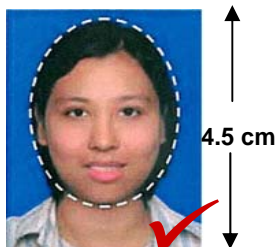
Cropping

There should be at least 8mm - 10mm space at the top of the photo between the edge of the photo and the crown/head of the person to allow 'cropping' of the photo at the Passport Information Control Center.

Matte Paper preferred

Photograph should be printed on good quality photo paper with MATTE surface. Photograph should be free from ink marks, dirt, grease, fingerprints and any kind of stain.

70% - 80% of image



For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

1 Changkat Kia Peng
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel.: (03) 2148-4233 local 107, 111 or 117

Please ask for
Atty. Shirlene C. Mananquil
Third Secretary and Vice Consul

Mr. Jose Juancho A. Perez
Ms. Ma. Romina R. Bautista
Ms. Filipina C. Galicia
or
Ms. Evangeline R. Tubana

Fax: (03) 2148-3576
E-mail: webmaster@philembassykl.org.my

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

MACHINE
READABLE
PASSPORT



BOTH THE GREEN HAND-SCRIPTED PASSPORT AND MAROON MRP ARE VALID UNTIL THEIR EXPIRY

WHAT IS A MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT?

A Machine Readable Passport (MRP) replaces hand-scripted passports. It will carry the passport holder's personal information: photograph and other data in a standard bio-metric format — all contained in an area called the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) in the data page. These data can be read both with the naked eye and by a machine/passport reader.

WHY THE CHANGE TO A MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT?

In order to accelerate the immigration procedures of the increasing number of international travelers at ports of entry and exit, specifications for machine readable passports were published by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1980.

A United Nations body with 190 Member States, including the Philippines, ICAO sets the standards for passports and other such documentation.

In July 2005, the format for MRPs specified by ICAO became the worldwide standard with an implementation deadline of April 2010.

Pilot testing of the Philippine MRP was launched in June 2007, with full implementation of the new passport system on 17 September 2007.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT?

Due to its standard layout and global recognition of data in the MRZ, MRPs are easily read and processed by immigration officials the world over, allowing for faster identification and shorter clearing times for the passport holder.

MRPs also have additional features such as special paper, designs, inks, and laminates, among others, making them more secure in comparison to hand-scripted passports.

WHERE CAN I GET A MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT?

In the Philippines, MRPs are issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); abroad, the Philippine Embassies/Consulates issue these passports.

The issuance of the new Philippine maroon-colored MRP requires a personal appearance at the DFA or at Philippine Embassies/Consulates for both first-time applications and renewals for purposes of fingerprint and signature verification.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT?

The following basic requirements are needed for the issuance of a(n) MRP:

For first time passport applicants

- ✓ Personal appearance
- ✓ Duly accomplished application form
- ✓ Birth certificate in Security Paper (issued by NSO) or
- ✓ Report of Birth (for those born abroad)
- ✓ Three Colored Photos (with royal blue background)
- ✓ Proof of identity/Supporting Documents

For renewal of passports

- ✓ Personal appearance
- ✓ Duly accomplished application form
- ✓ Three Colored Photos (with royal blue background)
- ✓ Presentation of old passport and submission of photocopy of passport pages 1-4 and the pages with valid (Malaysian) visa.
- ✓ If passport being renewed is brown or issued prior to 01 May 1995, submit any document with complete middle name
- ✓ For married women who choose to adopt surname of husband - Original Marriage Contract issued by the National Statistics Office and authenticated by the Department of Foreign Affairs (if married in the Philippines)

Applicants may be required to submit additional supporting documentation. Contact the Embassy for more information.

HOW MUCH IS THE FEE FOR A MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT?

The fee for the new 44-page MRP is still RM 192.50.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO PROCESS MY APPLICATION?

Due to the transition to the new passport system and the increase in passport applications, processing of the MRP will take **thirty (30) calendar days**.