

### Do I have to pay?

No. there is no charge for EEA applications.

### How do I know if I am an EEA national or not?

In addition to the UK, the EEA includes the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

### How long are the documents issued for?

Documents for EEA nationals have no expiry date.

Non-EEA national residence cards are usually issued for five years. The permanent resident card issued to a non-EEA national is renewable every ten years.

### I already have European residence documentation issued by the UK. Do I need to now get a new EEA document?

No. Documentation issued before 30 April 2006 remains valid until any relevant expiry date has passed.

### How long will the application process take?

We will deal with applications for registration certificates immediately through the postal application service. There is also a same day service at the Croydon Public Enquiry Office. You can book an appointment by calling **0870 606 7766**.

We will deal with applications for residence cards and documents certifying permanent residence through the postal application service only. We will deal with these within 6 months of application.

For an update on the cases we are currently dealing with visit [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/eeaeunationals](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/eeaeunationals)

### How do I find out more?

Visit our website [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/eeaeunationals](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/eeaeunationals) or call the Immigration & Nationality Enquiry Bureau on **0870 606 7766**.



Home Office

## Movement Rights of EEA Nationals & their Family Members

Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Free Movement of Persons Directive?

The Free Movement of Persons Directive\* came into force across the European Union (EU) on 30 April 2006. It deals with European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and their family members exercising the right to free movement and residence across EU Member States.

\*(2004/38/EC)

## Why has this Directive been introduced?

The aim of the Directive is to modernise and consolidate existing laws in this area.

## What has changed?

The Directive brings all previous requirements on free movement and residence into one document. Most fundamental rights remain unchanged. In addition however, the Directive now includes matters such as:

- a right to permanent residence under EU law for EEA nationals and their family members. (This was previously provided in the UK under the Immigration Rules);
- the extension of EU rights of residence as family members to civil partners;

- provision of specific rights for third country nationals to retain the right of residence in the case of death or departure of the EEA husband or wife, or the breakdown of the marriage or civil partnership.

The names of the documents we issue will also change, and there will be new time standards for processing applications.

## What does it mean to me and my family?

The Directive sets out the rights of EEA nationals and their family members to move and reside within EU Member States. In the UK this usually means the rights of a national from another part of the EEA who wishes to reside with his or her family. The Directive clarifies who may do this, what conditions they must satisfy, and what they can expect from the UK.

## Who can apply and what can they apply for?

All EEA nationals and their family members (including non-EEA nationals) can apply for documentation formally recognising their residence in the UK.

EEA nationals can initially apply for a registration certificate. In general, after residing in the UK for five years in accordance with the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 they may also apply for a document certifying permanent residence.

EEA nationals under the restrictions of the Worker Registration Scheme can apply for a registration certificate after they have worked for a continuous period of 12 months. For more details on the Worker Registration Scheme see [www.workingintheuk.gov.uk](http://www.workingintheuk.gov.uk)

Non-EEA national family members can initially apply for a residence card. In general, after residing in the UK (in accordance with the Regulations) for five years they may also apply for a permanent resident card.

## Do I have to apply?

Under EU law EEA nationals and their family members do not need to apply for documentation confirming their right of residence in the UK. However, EEA nationals may need proof of residence if they are seeking to support an application for a residence card for a non-EEA national family member.

## How do I apply?

You can find application forms and guidance notes on our website at [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/applicationforms](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/applicationforms)

Or you can call the Immigration & Nationality Enquiry Bureau on **0870 606 7766**. You can also book appointments at the Public Enquiry Office in Croydon on this number.