



FINGERPRINT CHECKS AT THE BORDER


For travellers to the UK
with biometric visas, entry
clearances and Identity Cards
for Foreign Nationals

SECURING OUR BORDER CONTROLLING MIGRATION

This leaflet explains the fingerprint checks introduced by the UK Border Agency at UK ports for travellers to the UK with biometric visas, entry clearances and Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals (ICFNs).

On arrival in the UK we will scan your fingerprints at border control and will check these against the fingerprints you gave with your application.

The purpose of these checks is to verify that the individual entering the UK is the same person who applied for their visa, entry clearance or ICFN.



Unique external physical characteristics, such as fingerprints, that can be captured electronically.

Travellers with biometric UK visas, entry clearances or ICFNs who are age 6 and over are required to provide their fingerprints on arrival at the UK border. These individuals will have already had their details captured and stored as part of the application process.

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Why do I need to be fingerprinted again when I gave my details as part of my visa/entry clearance/ICFN application?

We need to check that the individual entering the UK is the same person who applied for their visa/entry clearance/ICFN. Using fingerprints enables us to do this with greater certainty.

What does the check involve?

We will scan two fingerprints on an electronic fingerprint reader. In the majority of cases we will use your right hand thumb and first finger. If these are not of suitable quality, we will continue to scan the remaining right hand fingers and then left hand thumb and fingers (except the little finger on each hand) until we have captured two of suitable quality. There is no ink or mess involved; you are simply required to place your fingers on the glass plate.

What happens if none of my fingerprints are of suitable quality?

We will scan all your fingers (except the little finger on each hand) and take the best two quality fingerprints you can provide.

Do children have to provide their fingerprints?

Children aged six and over are required to provide their fingerprints for checks at the UK border.

How long does it take?

The fingerprint check at the UK border should take no longer than current entry times for holders of visas, entry clearances and ICFNs. It may take additional time if there are difficulties in scanning your fingerprints.

What happens if I refuse to comply?

If you refuse to provide your fingerprints for checking you will be subject to further investigations and this may result in a delay to your journey while a decision on admission is made.

What happens if I have suffered an injury that prevents the check?

Our Officers will try wherever possible to carry out the fingerprint check, whilst being sensitive to your injury. With partial injuries, we will take your fingerprints, avoiding the injured fingers. If it is not possible our Officers will continue their checks under the current UK Border Agency procedures.

What happens if my fingerprints were not captured as part of my application?

You will not be required to provide your fingerprints at border control and our Officers will continue their checks under current UK Border Agency procedures.

Will my fingerprints be checked each time I travel to the UK?

Yes. Each time you travel to the UK with a biometric visa, entry clearance or ICFN you will be required to provide your fingerprints for checking.

Will I have to pay a fee?

No. There is no charge.

Will I be interviewed?

You will be asked standard immigration related questions on arrival in the UK as normal. If the fingerprint check reveals any queries around your identity, these matters may be resolved through an interview. However, this will not routinely be required.

What happens to my fingerprints after they have been checked?

Fingerprints will be held for a maximum of two working days, after which time they will be destroyed.

Under what legal powers are you taking my fingerprints?

Fingerprint checks at the border operate within legislation already in place to conduct biometric checks. This includes:

- Schedule 2 Para 4(5) of 1971 Immigration Act
- The Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2008

Where can I access more information?

For further information please visit:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

FINGERPRINT CHECK PROCESS

Step 1

Hand documents over to Officer



Step 2

When asked, place right hand thumb on fingerprint reader



Step 3

When asked, place right hand first finger on fingerprint reader

