

Introducing two new identity cards

1. National Identity Card

– this is for British citizens

The card is lilac and salmon in colour. The holder's nationality is featured, as the identity card can be used as a passport within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. It can also be issued to British subjects with the right to live in the UK.



2. Identification Card – this is for nationals from the EEA and Switzerland who live in the UK, as well as for those British citizens who are subject to travel restrictions

The card is turquoise and green in colour and does not contain the holder's nationality. It can be used for identification purposes only, and not as a travel document.



These two new cards are being launched by the IPS in November 2009. If you have any questions about them, please visit www.ips.gov.uk/identity

3. Identity Card for Foreign Nationals

– this is for non-EEA foreign nationals

There is also an Identity Card for Foreign Nationals, which was launched in 2008 by the UK Border Agency. This is for non-EEA foreign nationals and is being rolled out to those subject to immigration control. The card is blue and pink in colour.



You will find a separate guide to the use and security features of this card on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

What are the benefits?

The new identity cards are designed to help protect the public from identity fraud and theft. They will also be useful as proof of identification in day-to-day life.

- Travelling within the EEA and Switzerland
- Verifying age when buying age-restricted goods and services (such as alcohol and DVDs)
- Signing an official document
- Applying for a new job (employers are required by law to check your identity)
- Opening a bank account
- Applying for a mortgage or loan

Two new identity cards

How they work to improve security

Home Office
Identity & Passport Service

idsmart™
ID at your fingertips



The Identity and Passport Service is introducing two new identity cards:

- National Identity Card
- Identification Card

Find out more about them inside.

What is an identity card?

An identity card is a credit card sized proof of identity which holds both biographic information (name, nationality and date and place of birth) and biometric information (fingerprint scans, digital photo and signature).

The face of the card resembles the personal details page of a passport. It also contains a secure chip on which all the biographic and biometric information is stored.



The National Identity Register

This same information is recorded on the National Identity Register (NIR). It adds another level of security, allowing details on the card to be verified by phone or online with the Identity and Passport Service. IPS has a legal obligation to maintain a safe and reliable NIR.

Only security-cleared IPS staff will be able to access and update the NIR and will only do so having undertaken thorough security checks with an individual to establish their identity.

Each identity card costs £30 and is valid for 10 years.

The identity card's security features

The identity card is designed to give greater security to the general public. It does this using the following features.

Colour-changing ink

In the card's top left hand corner, between the words 'UK' and 'United Kingdom', is the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) symbol to show the card contains a biometric chip.

Tilt the card to see the symbol change from gold to green.

Hologram

The identity card has a transparent hologram of the Royal Coat of Arms built into its card layers, surrounded by the letters 'U' and 'K' with radiating lines.

Tilt the card to see the hologram change.



Personal information

Both the cardholder's surname and the card's expiry date are slightly raised above the surface.

Run your finger over the raised area to make sure.

Design

The background of the card displays the words 'United Kingdom' surrounded by a set of interlocking Celtic knots. The foreground shows the four floral emblems of the United Kingdom: the shamrock, daffodil, thistle and rose.

Lens image

An oval-shaped area on the back of the card has a small image of the cardholder, the card's expiry date and the letters 'U' and 'K'. If you run your finger over it, you should feel that it is slightly raised from the surface. And if you scratch it with your nail, it should make a high-pitched noise.

Tilt the card backwards and forwards and the letters will alternate.

