

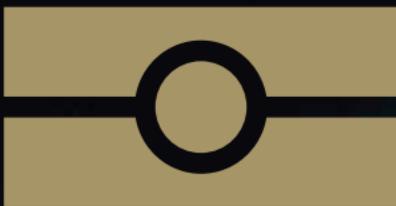


Passport  
Canada

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# The Special and Diplomatic ePassport: What you need to know



**>> This passport contains a contactless integrated circuit chip which is an electronic device.**

In addition to the normal care and respect afforded a passport, please regard this passport as you would any other portable electronic device, and take caution that this passport not become wet, folded or damaged. Abuse may adversely affect the operation of the chip and reduce its utility to the bearer and to border inspection personnel.

Passport Canada is currently issuing the majority of special and diplomatic passports as ePassports. This is in preparation of Passport Canada's full, national implementation of ePassports set for 2011, following the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) recommended practices.

» This technology is already in use in several countries worldwide, but as it is new to the Canadian passport we've assembled some of the most common questions and answers.

## **What is an ePassport?**

An ePassport, or electronic passport, is a passport with an embedded integrated chip and antenna.

In compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) specifications, the chip contains a digital version of the bearer's identification information found on page 2 of the passport, including the bearer's photo. An image of the applicant's signature, however, is not included on the chip.

An ePassport is very similar to a regular passport except for a few additional features. EPassports feature the international ePassport symbol on the front cover.

This signifies that the passport contains an integrated circuit or chip on which data about the passport and passport bearer is stored.



### *The ePassport symbol*

The Canadian ePassport's embedded electronic chip is located in the back cover. This makes the cover stiffer than that of a non-electronic passport. This is to prevent bending which could damage the chip.

#### **• *What are the advantages of an ePassport?***

The ePassport offers an increased security element that provides for:

- Greater protection against fraudulent misuse and tampering, and
- Reduction of the risk of identity fraud.

■ ***Will someone be able to read or access the information on the chip without my knowledge?***

The ePassport contains a proximity contactless chip that must be held within 10 cm of a reader in order to be read. Other security measures are also in place so that the chip cannot be read unless the passport is open and the Machine Readable Zone on page 2 has also been read.

■ ***What happens if the chip is defective or if my ePassport fails at a port-of-entry?***

Non-functioning chips do not nullify the passport's validity. As per ICAO guidelines, border agents should continue to verify the authenticity of the passport through current means. However, there may be some delays in processing.

It should be noted that physically altering or removing the chip will not only nullify the passport's validity, but cause a border authority to scrutinize the book more closely. If a problem arises with an ePassport embedded chip, please contact Passport Canada.

**>> For more information,  
or to contact us with questions  
or comments, you can reach us:**

**Online**

**[www.passportcanada.gc.ca](http://www.passportcanada.gc.ca)**

**By telephone**

**Official Travel: 819-994-3550 or  
819-956-8772**