

Implementation of Machine Readable Passport (MRP) Project in the US

The Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C. wishes to inform Filipinos in its consular jurisdiction that from June 2, 2008 it will be accepting and processing applications for the new Machine Readable Passports (MRP).

A Machine Readable Passport (MRP) is a passport where the personal details of the applicant is printed in such a way that it can be read by the naked eye and at the same time, it contains a "machine readable zone" containing the personal data of the passport holder that can be read by a machine or computer.

The processing of travelers airports of entry and exit is faster because the data in the Machine Readable Passport (MRP) can be read by a machine and stored automatically in the database of immigration offices. This means greater convenience and security for the traveler.

The new MRP is now maroon in color and consists of 44 pages. The MRP has the following security features: watermarked paper, colored UV fibers, UV reactive inks, special designs, microtexts, laser perforated numbers, ultrathin laminates, letter screen, invisible personal information, and holograms.

Only the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila prints the Machine Readable Passports (MRP). Applications received by the Embassy will be sent to the DFA, Manila via diplomatic pouch. **In view of the transit time, it will now take SIX (6) weeks for a passport to be released to the applicants, from the time the application is accepted.**

All applicants whether for the renewal of a passport or those applying for the first time MUST appear personally at the Consular Office of the Embassy to affix his thumb mark and sign his application form. Applications by mail cannot be accepted.

The passport fee did not change. It still costs US\$50.00 per passport.

Currently, holders of a valid Philippine passport (green passport that has not expired) need not worry as the green passport will still be honored as a bonafide travel document issued by the Government of the Philippines until it expires, even after the roll out of the new Machine Readable Passports.

Please check the Embassy of the Philippines website: www.philippineembassy-usa.org for the latest information regarding the Philippine Machine Readable Passport.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT

I. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANT (FOR APPLICANT BORN OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES)

1. Personal appearance, except child below three (3) years old
2. Duly accomplished application form signed by applicant, or in case of minor below 8 years old, signed by one parent or the legal guardian upon presentation of proof of guardianship, and bearing applicant's left and right thumb marks
3. For minor below 18 years old, notarized *Affidavit of Consent to Travel* issued by either parent, or legal guardian upon presentation of proof of guardianship.
4. Three (3) identical 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm photo w/ royal blue background **(See no. VIII below.)**
5. Report of Birth **(See Report of Birth Requirements.)**
6. Passport Processing Fees **(See no. IX below.)**
 - a. US\$ 50.00 for 32 page booklet or
 - b. US\$ 60.00 for 64 page booklet

II. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSPORT RENEWAL

1. Old passport (most recent) and one (1) photocopy of data page(s) of old passport (Old passport is returned.)
2. Duly accomplished application form signed by applicant, or in case of minor below 8 years old, signed by one parent or the legal guardian upon presentation of proof of guardianship, and bearing applicant's left and right thumb marks
3. For minor below 18 years old, notarized *Affidavit of Consent to Travel* issued by either parent, or the legal guardian upon presentation of proof of guardianship.
4. Three (3) identical 1.77 in. x 1.37 in. colored photographs **(See no. VIII below.)**
5. If old passport does not spell out the applicant's complete middle name: one (1) original or certified true copy and one (1) photocopy of proof of middle name, such as Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate etc.
6. Passport Processing Fees **(See no. IX below.)**
 - a. US\$ 50.00 for 32 page booklet or
 - b. US\$ 60.00 for 64 page booklet

III. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST PASSPORT

1. Personal appearance and interview
2. Duly accomplished application form signed by applicant, or in case of minor below 8 years old, signed by one parent or the legal guardian upon presentation of proof of guardianship, and bearing applicant's left and right thumb marks
3. For minor below 18 years old, notarized *Affidavit of Consent to Travel* issued by either parent, or the legal guardian upon presentation of proof of guardianship
4. Duly notarized *Affidavit of Loss* giving details of circumstances surrounding the loss of the passport
5. Police Report, in case passport was lost as a result of robbery, theft or other similar circumstances
6. Three (3) identical 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm royal blue photographs **(See no. VIII below.)**
7. One (1) original or certified true copy and one (1) photocopy of Birth Certificate authenticated by the NSO (Original Birth Certificate is returned.)
8. In the absence of an NSO issued Birth Certificate, one original and one (1) photocopy NSO issued Certification of No-Record of Birth, one (1) original or certified true copy and one (1) photocopy each of other documents that may be required by the Consular Officer pursuant to R.A. 8239 & D.O. 11-97 such as Baptismal Certificate, Seaman's Book, etc. (Original documents are returned.)
9. Lost Passport Processing Fees **(See no. IX below.)**

Passport Fee	US\$ 90.00
Communication Fee	US\$ 10.00
Total Fees	US\$100.00.
10. **Waiting period is minimum of fifteen (15) working days.**

IV. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. **FOR MARRIED WOMAN WHO IS USING HUSBAND'S FAMILY NAME FOR THE FIRST TIME**
 1. In case of woman married abroad: Report of Marriage **(See Report of Marriage Requirements.)**
 2. In case of woman married in the Philippines: one (1) original or certified true copy and one (1) photocopy of Marriage Contract duly authenticated by the Philippine National Statistic Office (NSO)
- B. **FOR WOMAN DIVORCED BY NON-FILIPINO HUSBAND WHO IS REVERTING TO HER MAIDEN NAME**
 1. One (1) original or certified true copy and one (1) photocopy of Judicial Decree of Divorce

2. Report of Dissolution of Marriage

(See Report of Dissolution of Marriage Requirements.)

V. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The Consular Officer reserves the right to require additional proof or documents from an applicant, to prove his/her citizenship or identity pursuant to the Philippine Passport Law (R.A. 8239) and the Foreign Service Act (R.A. 7157.)

N.B. Supporting original documents are returned.

VII. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO HAVE PASSPORT RETURNED BY MAIL OR COURIER

A. APPLICANT RESIDING IN U.S. AND U.S. TERRITORIES

To have the newly issued and old passports returned by mail, **enclose a pre-stamped, self-addressed U.S. Postal Service Express Mail envelope**, with stamps required to send **0.5 lbs.** of documents. **Do not use metered stamps nor P.O. Box mailing address.**

B. APPLICANT RESIDING IN U.S. TERRITORIES OR OTHER COUNTRIES WITHIN THE EMBASSY'S JURISDICTION

To have the newly issued and old passports returned by courier, enclose a **treasurer's, manager's or certified check, issued by a local bank that has a corresponding bank in the U.S., payable to the courier of choice**, such as FEDEX, UPS or DHL, **in U.S. dollars**, in the amount required to send **0.5 lbs.** of documents and a corresponding self-addressed courier's address label. **Do not use P.O. Box mailing address. Personal check and personal money order are not accepted.**

N.B. The Embassy of the Philippines assumes no responsibility for any delay or loss in the mail, or while the documents are in the custody of the courier service. The applicant shall note the tracking numbers of all envelopes used and submitted.

VIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PICTURES

The three (3) identical 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm photographs shall be colored with royal blue background, taken within six (6) months before the date of application, showing clear front view of applicant's face, without eyeglasses and without unnatural piercing, and applicant wearing clothes with collar and sleeves. Blurred or low quality photos are not accepted.

IX. REQUIREMENTS ON PROCESSING FEES

Passport processing fees are non-refundable and payable only in cash when personally applying; or money order issued in the U.S., certified, treasurer's, manager's or cashier's check issued by a bank in the U.S. or by local bank that has a corresponding bank in the U.S., payable to the Embassy of the Philippines when applying by mail or courier. Personal check and personal money order are not accepted.

XI. JURISDICTION OF THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.

Only applications from the following states, countries or territories are accepted at the Embassy in Washington, D.C.:

U.S.: AL, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, NC, SC, TN, VA and WV

FOR OTHER COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES: Bermuda Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Puerto Rico and Turks & Caicos Islands

For other states, territories and countries please visit www.philippineembassy-usa.org.

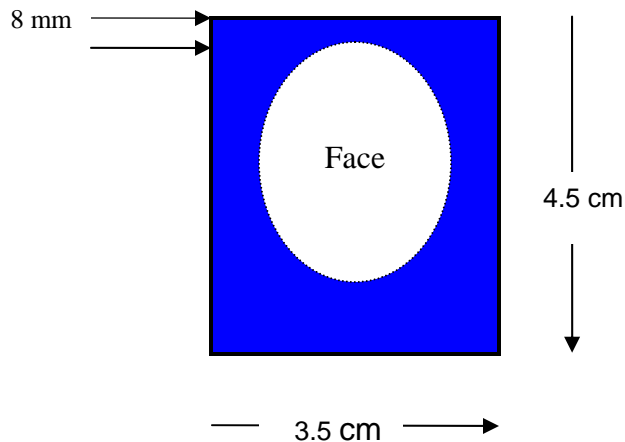
Guidelines on Photo Requirements for Machine-Readable Passport

The Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C. wishes to inform Filipinos of the new PHOTO requirements for Machine-Readable Passport.

The photograph of the passport holder is important because it verifies the identity of the holder.

Photo specifications:

- Background: **ROYAL BLUE**
- Size: 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm



- There should be at least 8 mm space at the top of the photo between the edge of the photo and the head of the person.
- Pose: Full frontal facial image (no tilting of head)
 - Image of the applicant should occupy 70%-80% of the photograph
 - Collared shirt/decent attire
 - Both ears visible
 - Prescription eye-glasses allowed, provided there is no glare
- Taken within the last six (6) months
- Photos can be rejected for the following reasons:
 - Distorted image – head is tilted or smile is too wide
 - Women – excessive make-up, large earrings
 - Men – Wearing make-up, earrings
 - Colored contact lenses
 - Use of headgear other than a scarf or veil for religious or health reasons
 - Use of dark eyeglasses
 - Photos with “red-eye” effect
 - Dirty photos/ poor photo quality/poor or uneven lighting
 - Digitally altered photos/ unnatural skin tones
 - Hair across the eyebrow

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