

Department of Immigration & Emigration



Photographic Image Requirements for Maldivian Travel Documents





Photographic Image Requirements

The Department of Immigration and Emigration has revised its requirement for photo standards used in Maldivian Travel Documents. The following photographic guidelines will help avoid application processing delays by ensuring that acceptable photos are taken first time.

The new photographic guidelines follow the revised standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the governing body that recommends standards for travel documents. The ICAO standards have been revised to accommodate the introduction of biometrically enabled passports, known as electronic passports or ePassports, with the potential to use Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) as part of border facilitation.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the photo submitted meets the requirements in these guidelines. Some applicants, because of either physical or mental disability, will find it difficult to meet our requirements. We are able to therefore accept an applicant's statement that they cannot meet the requirement because of disability. In these instances we ask that as good an image as possible is captured.

If you need further advice, or feel that you cannot meet one or more of our requirements, please contact the Department of Immigration and Emigration. Please note that photographs become part of the official records of the Department and will not be returned.

A photo of the holder is an essential part of a Travel Document. A good clear photo means that the holder can be easily identified as they cross international borders. Please ensure staff taking photographs for Maldivian Travel Documents are familiar with these guidelines and have the appropriate skills and experience to meet the photographic requirements. Any photos not meeting the acceptable standard as per these guidelines will be rejected.

Clarity, Focus, Brightness, Contrast & Colour

The photograph you submit must:

- be of high quality colour (black and white photos are not acceptable)
- have appropriate brightness and contrast
- have a strong definition between the face and background
- have the entire face in focus



Poorly Focused



Photo too dark



Photo too light



Poor pixelation



Visible dot pattern



Contrast too high



Ink mark / creased



Acceptable Photo



Black and white



Unnatural skin tones



Washed out color



Acceptable Photo

Please note that the photographs must be printed professionally. Digitally printed photos should be produced without discernible pixels or dot patterns. Photographs printed at home are not likely to be of an acceptable quality.

Head Position, Facial Expression & Eyes

The photograph you submit must:

- show the head centred / square on looking directly at the camera, not looking over one shoulder (portrait style) or tilted, and showing both edges of the face clearly
- show a neutral expression with the mouth closed (not grinning, laughing or frowning or raised eyebrows)
- show the eyes open and clearly visible



Eyes looking away



Eyes partially closed



Acceptable Photo



Portrait style



Head not facing camera



Image not centred



Head tilted



Expression not neutral



Mouth open



Acceptable Photo

Background, Lighting & Exposure

The photograph you submit must:

- have a plain white background (people with white hair and people wearing white *buruga* may use an off-white or cream background)
- show you alone (no chair-backs or other people visible)
- not be over or under exposed
- be taken with uniform lighting and not show shadows or flash reflections on your face and no red eye



Busy background



Incorrect background colour



Shadows on background



Acceptable Photo



Red eye



Shadows on face



Over exposed /
flash reflection



Under exposed



Acceptable Photo

Glasses, Head Covers, Head Bands & Hair

If you wear glasses:

- the photograph you submit must show your eyes clearly with no flash reflection off the glasses, and no tinted lenses (avoid heavy frames – wear lighter framed glasses if you have them)
- contact lenses must not obscure the definition or colour of the eyes
- make sure that the frames do not cover any part of your eyes
- sunglasses may not be worn or appear on top of the person's head



Frames too thick / heavy



Frames obscuring eyes



Acceptable Photo



Tinted lenses



Flash / light reflection on lens



Acceptable Photo

Head coverings:

- are not permitted except for religious or medical reasons, but your facial features from bottom of chin to top of forehead and both edges of your face must be clearly shown with no hair across the eyes or covering the edge of face



Sunglasses either on face or on head



Wearing hat, *thaakiha* or *fagudi*



Headband or bandana partially covering forehead



Scarf covering chin / edges of face



Hair across eye / hair covering edge of face



Contact lens obscuring eyes



Face covered



Shadows across face / forehead partially covered



Acceptable Photo



Acceptable Photo

Babies

Check that the photograph shows:

- the baby or child with eyes open looking straight at the camera with mouth closed and not crying
- both edges of the face clearly visible in the photo
- no toys, blankets, dummies, chair-backs or other people visible



Eyes closed / sleeping



Crying



Mouth open



Dummy in mouth



Looking away from the camera



Another person's hand visible



Another person in background



Acceptable Photo

When photographing infants under the age of 12 months, we only require that the image shows a good likeness. The requirements on head size, eyes open and mouth closed, for example, will not be enforced strictly.



Contact Information

For more information, contact us at (+960) 333 0470, or email us at passports@immigration.gov.mv. To download application forms, visit our website www.immigration.gov.mv.