# **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.

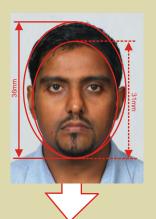
If you need further advice, or feel that you cannot meet one or more of our requirements, please contact the Department of Immigration and Emigration. Please note that photographs become part of the official records of the Department and will not be returned.

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.

#### **General Requirements**

The photograph you submit must:

- be taken within the last month
- be 45mm in height x 35mm in width (please do not trim your photographs to meet this condition)
- have no creases and not be damaged by staples, pins, paperclips, folding, ink marks or pen indentations
- be a close up of your head and top of your shoulders so that your face takes up 70-80% of the photograph
- show your skin tones and colour naturally (please do not retouch digital photographs in any way)
- be taken so that an imaginary horizontal line between the centres of the eyes is parallel to the top edge of the picture







Too close



#### 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



Hair across eye / hair covering edge of face



**Contact lens obscuring eyes** 



**Acceptable Photo** 



Headband or bandana partially covering forehead



Scarf covering chin / edges of face



Face covered



Shadows across face / forehead partially covered



**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.