

Announcement on the New Machine Readable Passport to be Issued by the Philippine Embassy in Singapore

The Philippine Embassy in Singapore has started accepting applications for the new Machine Readable Passports (MRP) starting **1 June 2008**. The issuance of the MRP is in compliance with the requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Better Security Features and Advantages

The MRP helps safeguard the integrity of the Philippine passport. It contains new security features, such as holographic and micro-printing technology, that will help prevent the tampering of the personal details of the passport holder through data or photo manipulation or substitution.

- The MRP's security features will boost the integrity of the Philippine passport.
- It will substantially lower the incidence of passport data and photo tampering
- It will facilitate the travel of Filipinos overseas as it is easier and faster for immigration officials to scrutinize digitally.

Passport Fee, Requirements, Validity

Despite having more security features and more pages--44 compared to 36 pages for the old green one—there will be no increase in the passport fee.

All passport requirements will remain the same except that the applicant will be required to personally appear and submit three (3) passport-size photos (4.5x3.5 cm), which should have a royal blue (instead of the usual white) matte background.

- Personal appearance is required
- No increase in passport fee
- 44 pages compared to 36 pages for the old green one.
- Like the green passport, the MRP will be valid for five (5) years
- All regular green passports earlier issued will remain valid and will be honored by immigration authorities worldwide until their stated expiry date.

Processing Time

- Processing time is **six (6) weeks** from the date of application to the date of collection/pick-up

Since the new passport will be printed and produced at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, processing time will take *six (6) weeks* from the time the application is submitted to the time it will be ready for pick-up. All MRP applications will have to be sent to Manila by courier, after which the DFA will send the finished passports back to the Embassy in Singapore.

- No more expedite or early release of passports

The Embassy can no longer accommodate requests for the early release of passports.

- Filipinos in Singapore are strongly urged to apply at least **three (3) months** before the expiration of their passports, their scheduled travel, or employment pass/permit or visa expiration.

Because the processing time for the passport is **six (6) weeks**, the Philippine Embassy is urging Filipinos in Singapore to immediately check the validity of their passports and to apply for the new MRP at the embassy **at least three (3) months** before the expiration of their passports/employment permit, pass or visa, or their scheduled travel overseas (which may require at least six months passport validity).

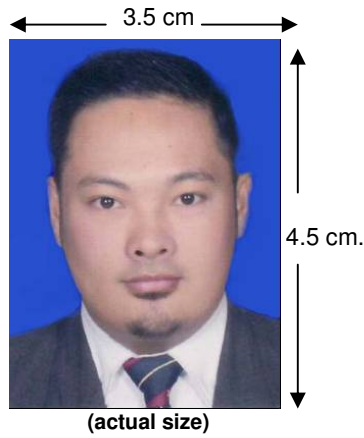
Validity of Green Passport

The regular green passport will continue to be honored by immigration authorities world-wide until its period of validity ends.

Contact Details

For further inquiries regarding the Philippine Machine Readable Passport, please call the Philippine Embassy at +65 6737-3977 extension 101, 111, or 124, or e-mail at mrpings@dfa.gov.ph or php@pacific.net.sg. You may also visit our website at www.philippine-embassy.org.sg to download the MRP application form and for more information.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT (MRP)



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ROYAL BLUE background. Cable No. 80173 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing of prescribed uniform for police and military personnel as well as for pilots and marine personnel is allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 cm. by 4.5 cm in size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No earrings for men.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full frontal facial image. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear eyeglasses and contact lenses (no shades or colors) are allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Image of the face should occupy 70-80% of the photo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark glasses are allowed only for the blind as long as face is recognizable.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo should have been taken within the last six months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smile is encouraged as long as it does not distort the facial features.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decent attire, with collar. No short sleeves/plunging necklines for women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ears should be visible. Head scarf is allowed (for Muslim women, nuns, cancer patients) but should not cover the ears.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaltered and unedited. 	



Cropping

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be at least 8mm -10mm space at the top of the photo between the edge of the photo and the crown/head of the person to allow 'cropping' of the photo.

Important: Photos that do not comply with the above specifications will not be accepted for MRP purposes.

Note: To avoid possible rejection of photos, applicants are advised to have their photos taken at photo booths on the embassy grounds.

**For Work Permit, S-Pass and E-Pass Holders
Whose Passports Will Expire
During the MRP Processing Period of Six Weeks**

- MOM will manually issue a special pass to cover the legal stay of Filipinos whose passports will expire during the MRP processing period of six weeks.
- The special pass to be issued by MOM will not be more than one month. During this time, the applicant is not allowed to travel outside of Singapore.
- The Philippine Embassy will give the applicant a letter for presentation to MOM indicating that his/her MRP application is being processed and the expected date of release of his/her new passport.
- For exceptional cases, the Embassy is willing to extend the green passport of the applicant for a few weeks while the MRP application is being processed. During this time, the applicant is not allowed to travel outside Singapore.