



Home Office

Rail and maritime Partner Pack: ID cards

Changes to travelling to the UK using EU, EEA and Swiss ID cards

To support Home Office stakeholders and the freight network in communicating to industry partners.



Contents

1. What's changing
2. Why is it changing
3. Supporting you with this change
4. Communication materials
5. Get in touch



What's changing

- From 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss citizens can **only travel to the UK using a valid passport**, unless they have:
 - ✓ applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, or have an application pending.
 - ✓ or otherwise have protected rights under the Citizens' Rights Agreements.
- Until this date, European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss citizens can currently travel to the UK with a valid passport **or** a national identity (ID) card.
- Data from Calais in 2019 shows **around 83% of EEA and Swiss freight drivers used an ID card**. This puts into perspective the size of the audience who need to be aware of this change.
- The change from 1 October means **an ID card will no longer be accepted** for travel to the UK, unless the exemptions apply.
- Anyone travelling to the UK on an invalid travel document is liable to be **refused entry at the border**.



Why is it changing

- ID cards are amongst **the least secure travel documents** and they are often used by organised crime groups. Phasing these out will help to deter those who would abuse the system.
- The end of free movement on 31 December 2020 means EU, EEA and Swiss citizens **now follow the same rules for entering the UK** as travellers from the rest of the world.
- The removal of ID cards will **strengthen our borders and pave the way for a future digitised border**, delivering a more streamlined and seamless customer experience for travellers entering the UK.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will no longer be able to use an ID card to enter the UK unless they are exempt.

Only the following EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens will be exempt from this change:

- ✓ who have received settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)
- ✓ who have made an application to the EUSS but have not yet received a decision on their application
- ✓ have an [EU Settlement Scheme family permit](#)
- ✓ who are an [S2 Healthcare Visitor](#)
- ✓ with a frontier worker [permit](#)
- ✓ who are Swiss nationals and have a [Swiss Service Provider](#) from Switzerland visa

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens in the groups above can still use their ID cards to travel to the UK at least until 31 December 2025. They'll also be able to use them after that date, if the cards meet the security standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

This will also not apply to Gibraltar ID cards issued to British citizens or to passport cards issued to Irish citizens, they will continue to be accepted for travel to the UK.

- To avoid delay and disruption at the border, companies should encourage drivers to make sure that they are properly documented for their trip.
- While haulage company owners will not be fined where their employee travels to the UK without the correct documentation, those drivers may be refused entry to the UK.

Supporting you with this change

- It is vital **all drivers are properly documented** for travel to the UK.
- Anyone travelling to the UK on an ID card is liable to be **refused entry at the border, unless they are exempt.**
- To support you in providing essential guidance about this change to your network, **we have developed a suite of assets you may use to help haulier stakeholders prepare** and understand their responsibilities.
- The following section of **this pack outlines key messages and provides communication products** for use on channels including social media, via WhatsApp and email templates and e-newsletters.
- **Your help and support in communicating this guidance is crucial.** We want hauliers to be prepared for this change and we hope this pack makes it as easy as possible for you to share updates with your audience and stakeholders.



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Communications materials



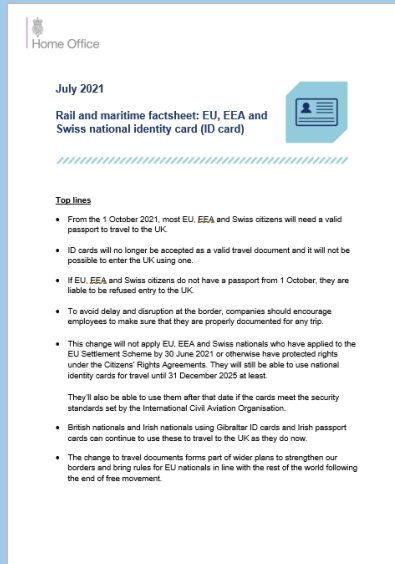
Key messages



Stakeholders and haulier networks may use these when communicating to partners about the change:

- From the 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will need a valid passport to travel to the UK.
- ID cards will no longer be accepted as a valid travel document and it will not be possible to enter the UK using one.
- If EU, EEA and Swiss citizens do not have a passport from 1 October, they are liable to be refused entry to the UK.
- To avoid delay and disruption at the border, companies should encourage employees to make sure that they are properly documented for any trip.
- While haulage company owners will not be fined where their employee travels to the UK without the correct documentation, those drivers may be refused entry to the UK.
- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who hold pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, or who have made a valid application under the scheme which is still pending, and those whose rights are protected under the Citizens' Rights Agreements (such as Frontier workers) will be able to use their national identity cards to enter the UK until 2025 at least.
- British nationals using Gibraltar ID cards, and Irish nationals using Irish passport cards, can continue to use these to travel to the UK as they do now.

Factsheet



This includes key lines and Q&As to help you communicate the changes to your stakeholders.

You may use this to develop your own key lines and answer frequently asked questions.

What's included:

- What's changing and why
- Who it impacts
- What people need to do

This is available in the [asset library](#).



Digital and social assets



Digital assets for you to use to communicate on social media and digital platforms.

We suggest the below copy to accompany any social posts:

- From 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss nationals will need a passport to travel to the UK, find out more on GOV.UK
- Travelling to the UK using an EU ID card? From 1 October you'll need to use your passport to enter the UK. Find out more on GOV.UK

Please link to the GOV.UK site: [Visiting the UK as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen](#)



The assets are available in the [asset library](#).

Newsletter and website copy



Here's some copy that you can use in newsletters or for updating your websites or guidance.

Copy is available in the [asset library](#).



Email copy



Here's some copy that you can use in emails for updating your network.

Copy is available in the [asset library](#).



WhatsApp message



Here is copy that you can use in WhatsApp to communicate the changes to your drivers and network.

Copy is available in the [asset library](#).



Haulier leaflet



Here is a leaflet which can be handed to drivers to communicate the changes.

This has been translated into the following languages to target the most hard-to-reach drivers who rely on hard-copy products:

- **Polish**
- **Romanian**
- **Lithuanian**
- **Bulgarian**
- **Hungarian**
- **Czech**
- **French**

The leaflet is available in the [asset library](#).



GOV.UK



The GOV.UK website has the latest guidance and information all in one place to support you with communicating the changes.

Please include a link to the site in your materials.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-as-an-eu-eea-or-swiss-citizen>



Get in touch

We hope you find this pack useful.

If there is something you think is missing from this pack that would be helpful for your channels, please do let us know.

Translated assets and more social assets will be available before 1 October.

For any questions, feedback, or to discuss how we can work together to communicate this change please contact:

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ID cards communications campaign lead



Further resources



Further resources:

- [Travelling between the UK and Ireland, Isle of Man, Guernsey or Jersey](#)
- Transporting goods between Great Britain and the EU by RoRo freight: [guidance for hauliers](#)
- Guidance for hauliers who move goods through a port in the UK that uses the [Goods Vehicle Movement Service](#).
- From 1 January 2022, an Entry Summary (ENS) declaration must be submitted to goods that are to be imported to or transiting through Great Britain. Visit [GOV.UK](#) for more information.



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Thank you

