



ICAO

Doc 9303

Machine Readable Travel Documents

Eighth Edition, 2021

Part 8: Emergency Travel Documents



Approved by and published under the authority of the Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



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AMENDMENTS

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RECORD OF AMENDMENTS AND CORRIGENDA

AMENDMENTS		
No.	Date	Entered by

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1. SCOPE

Part 8 of Doc 9303 provides guidance on Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs). The purpose of this guidance material is to promote a consistent approach in the issuance of ETDs in order to:

- enhance the security of the document;
- protect the individual;
- promote greater confidence for border staff in handling ETDs at ports; and
- address the vulnerabilities presented by inconsistent practices and security features.

The guidance material covers travel documents issued by Issuing Authorities to travellers in distressed or unpredicted situations where it is not possible to issue a standard full-validity passport or travel document book and addresses the following areas:

- security/issuance;
- cost;
- format;
- validity;
- document title/name; and
- post-issuance.

This guidance material does not cover:

- standard full-validity passports delivered in emergency situations;
- standard passports delivered with limited validity;
- convention travel documents (which are covered under separate guidance on Issuing Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents for Refugees and Stateless Persons¹), or “Laissez-passer” issued by the United Nations or the European Union; or
- travel documents issued by humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

However, it is intended that this guidance material can be used as a measure of best practice across all issuing organizations, such as humanitarian organizations who issue travel documents to stateless and displaced persons, and vulnerable migrants (including refugees and asylum seekers). Humanitarian organizations are encouraged to comply with its general principles to improve the standards and security of their documents.

Part 8 also specifies the use of visible digital seals in ETDs, an optional feature which if implemented, shall be encoded as specified in this part.

1. See ICAO/UNHCR Guide for Issuing Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents for Refugees and Stateless Persons.