

**Information for passport applicants on the introduction of
Germany's new biometrically-enabled passports (e-passports) as from 1 November 2005**

With the introduction of facial biometrics in passports issued from 1 November 2005 onwards, please note that passport photographs need to meet higher standards than in the past. The fee for the new chip-based passports will also be increased.

Photograph specifications for e-passports

To ensure that passport photographs satisfy the requirements for the new biometrically-enabled e-passports, they must meet the following specifications:

FORMAT

Full front view of face, centred, features from chin to hairline and both sides of face must be clearly visible. From top to bottom face must fill 70-80% (between 32 and 36 mm) of the photograph. Front of head (including hair) must be completely visible, with dimensions of face as specified.

CONTRAST AND SHARPNESS

Whole face must be clear, with proper contrast and sharpness.

LIGHTING

Face must be well lighted, with no flash reflections, shadows or red eyes.

BACKGROUND

Background must be uniform, light-coloured (ideally a neutral grey) and provide a good contrast with face and hair. Best background for light-coloured hair is medium-grey, for dark hair light-grey.

Photograph must show subject only (no other person or items permitted, important especially for photographs of young children). Shadows on background are unacceptable.

PHOTOGRAPHIC QUALITY

Photograph should be printed on high-quality paper, resolution at least 600 DPI (dots per inch), have no creases or marks and represent natural skin tones.

HEAD POSITION, FACIAL EXPRESSION AND DIRECTION

A position with the head leaning or turned (e.g. half profile) is unacceptable. Facial expression must be neutral and the mouth closed. Subject must look straight into the camera. Eyes must be open and well visible, not covered by hair or frame of glasses.

GLASSES

Eyes must be clearly visible (reflections on glasses, tinted or sun glasses are unacceptable). The edge of the glasses or frame must not cover the eyes.

HEADCOVERINGS

Headcoverings of any kind are unacceptable.

For further clarification please consult the collection of specimen photographs available at www.bundesdruckerei.de, Bürgerservice. More information is available at the websites of the Bundesdruckerei (Federal Printing Office), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (www.bmi.bund.de, www.bundesinnenministerium.de) and the Federal Office for Information Security (www.bsi.de).