ePassports and Biometrics

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Passport Services
● Information is presented to provide a more comprehensive picture of ePassport issuance and the use of biometrics in border management.

● This Product is derived from open source research gathered from publicly available mediums and by interviews.

● Information is based on the best available data from all sources.

● Information is subject to change.
The matrix identifies:

- countries issuing ePassports (provided in a world view and by region);
- biometrics used with the ePassports;
- estimated annual issuance for Issuing Authority;
- estimated number of ePassports issued to date;
- validity period for document (Adult);
- estimated number of ePassports in circulation;
- issuing authorities participating in the ICAO PKD;
- countries reading chip data at borders or airports;
- countries using automated border control systems supported by the use of ePassports; and
- countries using biometrics as a border management tool.
ePassports and Biometrics – A World View

- 101 Issuing Authorities issue ePassports;
- 47 IAs only use the Face as the biometric;
- 10 of these IAs intend to use the finger as a secondary biometric in the future;
- 54 countries currently use the face and finger as the stored biometrics;
- No (0) country stores the Iris image as a secondary biometric in the ePassport;
- 34 Issuing Authorities participate in the ICAO PKD;
- 23 countries use an ABC system using the ePassport as the token; and
- 57 countries use biometrics (Face, Finger or Iris) at primary.
• A number of countries do issue ePassports but they do not comply with ICAO specifications so their issuance figures have not been counted.

• Several countries have indicated they will be issuing ePassports in the future but have not been counted.
Estimated Number of ePassports issued to date: 489,522,100

The 34 Issuing Authorities participating in the ICAO PKD issued 74.04% of this figure.

Estimated Number of ePassports in circulation: 483,929,100

Africa (issued) 10,195,000 (circulation) 10,195,000
East Asia and Pacific (issued) 114,300,000 (circulation) 112,860,000
Europe and Eurasia (issued) 212,462,000 (circulation) 209,199,000
Near East (issued) 6,920,000 (circulation) 6,920,000
South and Central Asia (issued) 50,500,000 (circulation) 50,470,000
Western Hemisphere (issued) 95,145,100 (circulation) 94,285,100
Assistance is needed:

❖ It is requested that you review the matrix and report all corrections, additions, deletions, or modifications.

❖ Specific areas of interest:
  ➢ useful websites for data collection;
  ➢ starting dates for ePassport programs;
  ➢ annual issuance;
  ➢ validity periods; and
  ➢ reading ePassports at POEs (are they checking the digital signature?).

Your help is appreciated.
Please send information to:

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