

The ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)



The PKD Added Value

ePassports introduce a new class of security feature to identity documents: namely the digital signature. The validation of a digital signature guarantees that the chip contents which include the facial image are genuine and therefore can be compared to the information on the physical document. On this basis it can be proven that a specific ePassport was issued for the person that claims to be the rightful holder. Automated border controls must use ePassport signature validation.

The distribution of certificates and revocation lists necessary for the validation of digital signatures requires a global broker, taking into consideration the international dimension of travel, its complexity and the fast growing circulation of ePassports in the world. The PKD has the capabilities to adopt this role, enjoying full support of ICAO and being managed by a community of experienced, responsible participants under clear and transparent conditions.

The Legal Basis

- PKD Memorandum of Understanding ([MoU](#))

The Financial Basis

- Registration Fee: once only to prepare active participation in the PKD
- Annual Fee (1): contributes to ICAO costs (shared burden among PKD Participants)
- Annual Fee (2): covers active participation costs (individual per PKD Participant)
- fees drop as participation grows (see [Fee Schedule](#) for details)

The Technical Basis

- Netrust Pte. Ltd. (Singapore) operates PKD [main](#) / [backup](#) sites
- the PKD verifies the conformity of certificates to ICAO standards and provides respective feedback
- PKD contents as per MoU:
 - Document Signer Certificates
 - Certificate Revocation Lists
 - CSCA Link Certificates
 - CSCA Master Lists
- free download of PKD contents; upload for PKD Participants only
- ePassport signature check does not mean fingerprint / iris access

The PKD Board

- the governing body responsible for the oversight and supervision of the PKD
- visit the [PKD Board](#) web presence for further information
- contact [ICAO](#) or [PKD Board Chairperson](#) for specific questions

The PKD Participants

- Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and United Nations.
- all ePassport issuing States / non-State entities should [participate](#) in the PKD.