

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON  
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

**Fifteenth Meeting**

(Montreal, 17 to 21 May 2004)

**Agenda Item 2: Report of the Document Content and Format Working Group**

**Agenda Item 2.2: Document format and durability issues**

**PHOTOS OF BABIES ON MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS**

(Presented by the Document Content and Format Working Group (DCFWG))

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This paper is intended to draw attention to the fact that some photographers cannot provide issuing States with photographs of babies or other persons with small heads, that meet the minimum suggested chin to crown measurement of 31 mm.

1.2 Discussion with several photographers using the Polaroid system, using a fixed focus lens, indicate they can provide a baby photograph with a chin to crown measurement of only 20-25 mm. If they attempt to get closer to the head, the resulting photograph is out of focus.

1.3 With the migration to digital printing, high quality photographs are required for the scanning process. As well, the upcoming use of biometric identification, using the facial image, requires a sharp, in focus photo with the eyes well defined.

1.4 Recent discussion with Polaroid Canada has indicated that they have identified a lens that will fit on their fixed focus cameras that will increase up to 36 mm the chin to crown measurement for adults but its effect on babies photos is uncertain at this time.

1.5 The capture of baby photos can be accomplished by placing the baby in an upright position but it is considered acceptable to capture the photo with the baby lying on a white or light coloured blanket.

1.6 The baby may be photographed in a car seat, as long as there is a white or light coloured background behind the head.

1.7 The baby's eyes must be open.

1.8 There must be no hands in the baby photo.

1.9 There must be a shorter validity period for travel documents issued to babies, no longer than 3 years, as their features change dramatically during that time period.

2. **ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD**

2.1 The DCFWG invites the TAG/MRTD to:

- a) note the issue with respect to some Polaroid cameras and the photographs of babies and advise if other States are encountering this problem;
- b) note the advice on the capture of babies photos for travel documents; and
- c) consider inclusion of this advice in the guidelines for photography in the technical paper on biometrics.

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