

MRTD

MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS



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- Home
- MRTD Overview
- TAG/MRTD
- Guidance material
- Publications
 - > Doc 9303
 - > How to order Publications
- Biometrics
- Download Center
- Meetings & Events
- Contact Us

Doc 9303

Document 9303 specifications are published in three separate Parts, one for each type of travel document:

- Part 1 for Passports
- Part 2 for Visas
- Part 3 for Official Travel Documents (Cards)

All three Parts have a common structure. The first two "sections" of each Part contain the introductory material, definitions and references.

The third section contains technical specifications common to all machine readable travel documents. For example, all MRTDs are required to meet the same physical requirements as regards deformation, toxicity, resistance to chemicals, temperature stability, humidity and light, and incorporate appropriate security safeguards to protect against fraudulent use and counterfeit. All MRTDs follow a standardized layout to facilitate reading of data on a

➤ ICAO Standard for ePassports

-  Biometrics deployment of Machine Readable Travel Documents 2004
-  Annex I - Use of Contactless Integrated Circuits
-  Logical Data Structure(LDS) version 1.7
-  PKI for Machine Readable Travel Documents offering ICC read-only access v1.1
-  Supplement to Doc 9303 - ePassports

global basis by both eye-readable and machine readable means. While the content, use and dimensional (size) flexibility of the visual inspection and machine readable zones are common in all MRTDs, these can differ slightly to accommodate the unique requirements of the different types of documents and the diverse requirements of issuing States and organizations. Section 3 also specifies how the name of the holder is to be written, in both zones, and contains specifications for the holder's portrait (i.e. photograph or digital image).

Specifications unique to the specific Part under discussion are found in section 4, while section 5 if applicable, contains the specifications for the additional size variant of the document under discussion. Visas and travel cards each come in two sizes, hence Parts 2 and 3 of Doc 9303 each have the additional Section 5.

Part 1 does not have this additional Section, because the passport comes in one size only. To give one example, Section 4 of Part 1 (MRP) includes the specifications for the dimensions of the document and its data page, the general layout of the data page, the content & use of zones and the detailed layout of the data page which

contains, for example, technical specifications for the machine readable zone (MRZ). Other requirements include details for the representation, in the MRP, of the issuing State or organization, nationality of holder, and representation of dates, specifications concerning the location of the portrait (facial image) in the MRP data page, quality specifications of the MRZ and check digits in the MRZ.

Co-existence of technologies

The principle of coexistence of travel document data presentation and data storage has been adopted.

OCR-B data presentation was chosen over 20 years ago as the best method for data presentation in the context of global interoperability and cost. Since then, as many as 300 million travel documents based on OCR-B have been issued. A large infrastructure based on a rapidly growing number of ever-improving document readers has been built, around this technology, by issuing Governments, air carriers and border inspection officials. However, data storage technology has expanded tremendously. Therefore, the idea of co-existence of technologies on the same document was

developed.

The available space on travel documents was examined for where other technologies could be located, consistent with the use and function of the specific travel document and in conformance to existing ISO standards. Traditional passports and visas have only one side of one page used for presentation of data. Travel cards have two sides available, but only the Type 1 (TD-1 or credit card) size has data locations specified on both sides. The matrix of possibilities for various combinations of storage technologies and document type is included in each part of Doc 9303.

For example, Doc 9303 specifications allow the co-existence of technologies including those for bar codes, magnetic stripes, integrated circuits with contacts, contactless integrated circuits optical memory to co-exist on the document along with OCR-B. These are "optional" technologies, to be used at the discretion of the State or organization issuing the MRTD, and as appropriate to specific documents issued.