Airside Transit (where available): Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa or;
- (ii) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - Australia
  - Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - New Zealand
  - USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a stand-alone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
  - a valid common format permanent residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
  - a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
  - a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling to a country that issued it; or
  - a valid airfare ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a confirmed onward flight from another country; or

Landside Transit: Landside transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter the UK (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible).

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airfare ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- (ii) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airfare ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or
- (iii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa; or
- (iv) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - Australia
  - Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - New Zealand
  - USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a stand-alone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
  - a valid common format permanent residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
  - a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
  - a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling to a country that issued it; or
  - a valid airfare ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a confirmed onward flight from another country; or

NB: E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border.

UK permanent residents
If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

Passengers with the right of abode in the UK
If a passenger holds a "certificate of entitlement to the right of abode" label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents
If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit airside without a visa.

Seamen
A seaman travelling on duty, who is a national (including those in the UK through the period in the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a valid seaman's book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO18 or (ILO185, having previously ratified ILO18 or ILO185, convention of 2003): Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, (Burma), Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia (UT), South Africa (UT), South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, South Korea (Republic of), Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vietnam (non biometric), Venezuela (biometric), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.