



Home Office

Transit

Version 4.0

This guidance is intended for Entry Clearance and Border Force staff and covers:

- 'Transit visitors'
- 'Standard visitors' and 'marriage/civil partnership visitors' wishing to transit
- Transit without visa (TWOV) scheme
- Direct Airside Transit

It is based on the:

- Immigration Rules
- Immigration (Passenger Transit Visa) Order 2014 (as amended)

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About this guidance

This guidance tells Entry Clearance and Border Force staff about the four ways people can seek to transit the UK.

The crew of a ship, aircraft, hovercraft, hydrofoil, or train are not covered by the Immigration Rules as 'transit visitors'. See related links for more information.

Transit provisions can be found in [Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#) and in the [Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014 \(as amended\)](#).

Contacts

If Border Force officers have questions about the guidance and your line manager or duty Border Force manager cannot help, contact the relevant BF Regional Command & Control Units (RCCUs). If Entry Clearance officers have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or Entry Clearance manager cannot help, email Visit Policy. If you think that the guidance has factual errors, email Visit Policy.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **4.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **22 August 2019**

Changes from last version of this guidance

- Additions have been made to reflect the expansion of ePassport gate eligibility to seven additional nationalities on Monday 20 May 2019.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

[Immigration Rules – Part V7](#)

Original [Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014](#)

[All amendments to Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014](#)

Crew members: [section 8\(1\) of the Immigration Act 1971](#)

[UK visa requirements: list for carriers](#) – useful desk aide

Introduction

This page gives Home Office staff an overview of the different ways an individual can transit through the UK and provides some definitions of terminology used throughout this document.

Depending on the circumstances, a person can transit:

- as a [‘transit visitor’](#)
 - a ‘transit visitor’ is a person who seeks to travel through the UK on their way to another destination country outside the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#) – see [CTA guidance](#) for more information
 - this route allows individuals to transit the UK [landside](#) (such as pass through Immigration Control), leaving within 48 hours
 - this route allows individuals to transit the UK **only**
- as a [‘standard’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership’ visitor](#)
 - transit was added to the list of permitted activities for ‘standard visitors’ and ‘marriage/civil partnership visitors’, as set out in [Appendix 3 of Appendix V](#) of the Immigration Rules in January 2018
 - this means that a person who has, or is applying for, leave as a ‘standard visitor’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ does not need separate ‘transit visitor’ leave to transit the UK
- under the [Transit without visa \(TWOV\) scheme](#), some visa nationals do not require a ‘transit visitor’ visa to transit the UK [landside](#) if they meet specific eligibility requirements and hold an exemption document
- as a [Direct Airside Transit](#) passenger, certain nationalities require a visa to transit the UK [airside](#)

Transiting landside means:

- the passenger is applying to enter the UK
- a passenger passing through the UK must depart within 48 hours of arrival, but can arrive at one port or airport, and transfer to another port or airport to continue their journey or spend time between their arrival and embarkation outside the transit area, perhaps to re-check in baggage

Transiting airside means:

- a passenger does not pass through UK border control and is not deemed to have entered the UK
- for example, catching an onward flight from the same UK airport at which they arrived – arriving at Heathrow Terminal 3 and departing from Heathrow Terminal 5

Related content

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‘Transit visitors’

This section tells Entry Clearance and Border Force staff about the requirements under [Part V7 of Appendix V](#) of the Immigration Rules.

‘Transit visitors’: eligibility requirements

This section tells Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs) and Border Force officers (BFOs) things they may want to consider when assessing whether an individual meets the ‘transit visitor’ eligibility requirements under [V7.5 of Appendix V](#) of the Immigration Rules.

You must be satisfied that the individual meets all the requirements of V7.5 (a) to (d). The following factors will help you assess if an individual is a genuine ‘transit visitor’:

- reasonable transit route:
 - is it reasonable for an individual to be travelling from the country of origin to their destination through the UK
 - the Home Office does not specify what routes are acceptable for this purpose, however, there should be a clear reason why they are travelling through the UK, such as it forming part of a journey from east to west
 - an example of an unreasonable transit route may be an individual travelling from Australia to New Zealand, seeking to transit through the UK
 - must be on their way to another destination country outside the common travel area (CTA) – see [CTA guidance](#) for further information
- the credibility of the application as a whole:
 - the main purpose of the journey
 - the applicant’s circumstances, including travel history
- intention and ability to leave the UK within 48 hours after arrival:
 - details and availability of connecting flights
 - destination
 - confirmed onward bookings in applicant’s name
- any evidence to suggest that an applicant intends to access public funds or medical treatment or intends to work or study in the UK, for example, an admission, intelligence, supporting documents
- assurance of entry to their country of destination and any other countries they are transiting on their way there, for example:
 - entry or visa requirements for applicant’s nationality to destination – refer to Travel Information Manual or embassy websites
 - if needed, does the applicant have a valid visa or entry clearance for the country they are travelling to or documentary evidence of acceptability in that country
 - if a person intends to transit through the UK on their return, does the applicant’s travel document guarantee return to their country of residence
 - consider that some countries enforce minimum passport validity and refuse entry if a passport is valid for less than 6 months
- other considerations:

- remember your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – [Section 55 of the Border and Citizenship Act](#)
- Vulnerable Adults and Children guidance (Horizon link)
- UKVI Adult Safeguarding Strategy (Horizon link)
- Border Force guidance on Children (Horizon link)
- Modern Slavery guidance and considerations (Horizon link)
- Border Force guidance on Modern Slavery (Horizon link)

There are **no** specified documents for ‘transit visitors’ (other than a valid passport or travel document) and an applicant or passenger should not be refused a visa or leave to enter on the sole basis that a document has not been provided. Failure to provide a valid travel document that satisfies you of the applicant’s identity would be automatic grounds for refusal.

The above, are considerations that may help you to consider whether, on the balance of probabilities, taking all the information together, you are satisfied that the applicant or passenger meets the Immigration Rules.

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Transiting as a ‘standard’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership’ visitor

This section tells Entry Clearance and Border Force staff about the requirements under [Part V4, V6 and V7 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#).

Transit was added to the list of permitted activities for ‘standard visitors’ and ‘marriage/civil partnership visitors’, as set out in Appendix 3 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules on 11 January 2018. This means that a person who has, or is applying for, leave as a ‘standard visitor’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ does not need separate ‘transit visitor’ leave to transit the UK and can undertake any of the permitted activities in Appendix 3 to Appendix V.

For example, a visitor who holds a long-term ‘standard visitor’ visa valid for 10 years can come to the UK to transit using that visa, without the need to obtain a ‘transit visitor’ visa and for the long-term ‘standard visitor’ visa to be cancelled.

Another example could be a visitor who applies for a ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visa valid for 6 months can, if issued, come to the UK to get married or form a civil partnership, leave the UK to honeymoon in a third country and transit the UK on their way to returning to their home country using the same visa.

Transiting as a ‘standard’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership’ visitor: eligibility requirements

You must be satisfied that the individual meets all the requirements of V7.5 (a) to (d) – see [‘transit visitor’ eligibility requirements](#) for considerations.

You must also be satisfied that the individual meets the requirements of V4 if applying for entry clearance or leave as a ‘standard visitor’ or V6 if applying for entry clearance or leave to enter as a ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’. See [Visit guidance](#) for further information.

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Visa applications for those intending to transit the UK landside

This section tells Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs) about assessing applications for those intending to transit the UK.

Visa nationals, whose main purpose for coming to the UK is to transit landside can decide to apply for the following visas:

- a 'transit visitor' visa, which will allow them to transit the UK only
- a 'standard visitor' visa, which will allow them to transit the UK and undertake any of the permitted activities listed in [Appendix 3 to Appendix V](#) of the Immigration Rules

The cost of a 'transit visitor' visa is less than a 'standard visitor' visa.

It is unlikely that an applicant will apply for a 'marriage/civil partnership visitor' visa if their primary purpose is to transit the UK. However, holders of 'marriage/civil partnership visitor' visas will be able to transit using that visa.

'Transit visitor' visas

If applying under the 'transit visitor' visa route, a visa national who seeks to enter the UK for the purpose of landside transit (that is, to enter the UK) must have a visa that allows them to enter the UK as a 'transit visitor' under paragraph V7.5 of the Immigration Rules.

When considering an application, you must do the following:

1. Check the application in line with the Operating Mandate.
2. Assess whether the applicant falls to be refused under suitability grounds of [Part V3 of Appendix V](#) – see Visit guidance for more information.
3. Assess whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of the category under [V7.5 of Appendix V](#). The applicant must intend to transit the UK only.

'Transit visitor' visas: validity period: multiple and single entry

You should normally issue a 'transit visitor' visa if you are satisfied that the passenger:

- meets all the eligibility requirements of paragraph V7.5 of Appendix V
- should not be refused under any of the suitability rules of Part V3 of Appendix V

You should issue a **multiple entry** 'transit visitor' visa valid for **6 months** (long-term 'transit visitor' visas are not available). The length of leave for 'transit visitors' is 48 hours.

Single entry 'transit visitor' visas would be issued on rare occasions for a maximum validity period of 6 months, conferring leave to enter for 48 hours, but allowing the applicant to enter the UK only once – for example, the applicant only has limited validity left on their entry clearance for the country of destination.

An example of when it may be appropriate to reduce validity is where evidence of acceptability in the country of destination (outbound or return journey) expires in less than 6 months. Some countries require passports/travel documents to have a minimum validity period remaining before travel.

Where you intend to issue a visa for less than 6 months, it must be referred to an entry clearance manager (ECM) for approval. The details and record of authority should be recorded on Proviso.

Where an applicant has requested 6 months, but has been issued a shorter validity, you must issue a letter clearly explaining the reasons for this. In such cases, no refund (full or partial) is available.

'Transit visitor' visas: endorsement

Category B
VISIT – IN TRANSIT

'Transit visitor' visas: refuse a visa

You should normally refuse a 'transit visitor' visa if you are:

- satisfied that the applicant should be refused under any of the suitability requirements of [Part V3 of Appendix V](#)
- not satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph [V7.5 of Appendix V](#)

Where an individual fails to meet the criteria set out above, it will only be in exceptional circumstances that the public interest in maintaining the refusal will be outweighed by compelling factors.

To refuse a 'transit visitor' visa:

1. Select the appropriate refusal template –Visit_NRA or Visit_ROA (Horizon link)
2. Check applicant's details are correct.
3. Clearly explain to the applicant why they do not meet the rules to be issued a 'transit visitor' visa, with reference to the appropriate sub-paragraphs of Appendix V (V7.5 (a) – (d) or appropriate suitability rules under V3).
4. The reasons for refusal must be factual, clear and relevant to the application. See Visit Refusal Notice Guidance (Horizon link) for more details.

There are no specified documents for 'transit visitors' and an applicant should not be refused a visa on the sole basis that a document has not been provided. The [eligibility section](#) of this guidance gives considerations that may help you to consider

whether, on the balance of probabilities, taking all the information together, you are satisfied that the applicant or passenger meets the Immigration Rules.

‘Transit visitor’ visas: suggested eligibility refusal wording examples

Reasonable routes – V7.5(a)

You intend to transit the UK from [xx] to [yy].

[Give details about why this is not a reasonable transit route. Give details of alternative reasonable routes that are available.]

Intention and ability to leave within 48 hours – V7.5(c)

You intend to transit the UK from [xx] to [yy]. You have presented [x], [y] and [z], however, the documents you have provided and information on your visa application form do not demonstrate that you intend to leave the UK within 48 hours of arrival.

Work/study/accessing public funds/medical treatment – V7.5(b)

The documents you have provided / the information on your visa application form demonstrate/s that you intend to work/study/access public funds/medical treatment in the UK. [Give details.]

Assurance of entry – V7.5(d)

You intend to transit the UK from [xx] to [yy]. You have presented [x], [y] and [z], however, the documents you have provided and information on your visa application form do not demonstrate that you have assurance of entry to [the country of destination].

Credibility

[Give details about why you are not satisfied that the applicant is a genuine transit visitor, for example on grounds of credibility, intention to leave, funds. You should make a rounded assessment of the applicant’s circumstances and intentions against the requirements of V7.5 (a) to (d).]

‘Transit visitor’ visa: right of appeal

No right of appeal or right to administrative review.

For further information on human rights claims see the following link – [Considering human rights claims in visit applications](#).

‘Transit visitor’ visa: leave outside the rules

Where an applicant does not meet the Immigration Rules, but there is nonetheless a clearly established and verifiable reason for transiting the UK or compelling or compassionate circumstances, the case must be referred to the Referred Casework Unit (RCU). You must refer to guidance on leave outside the rules and referral processes (both Horizon links).

‘Standard visitor’ visas

Where a visa national applies to transit the UK landside (that is, to enter the UK) as their primary purpose under the ‘standard visitor’ visa route, they must meet the requirements under [V7.5](#) of the Immigration Rules **and** the relevant paragraphs of [V4](#).

When considering an application, you must do the following:

1. Check the application in line with the Operating Mandate (Horizon link).
2. Assess whether the applicant falls to be refused under suitability grounds of Part V3 of Appendix V – see Visit guidance for more information.
3. Assess whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of V7.5 of Appendix V as well as the eligibility requirements for ‘standard visitors’ under V4 of Appendix V.

Further guidance on assessing applications for ‘standard visitor’ visas for other permitted activities can be found in the [Visit guidance](#).

‘Marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visas

It is unlikely that an applicant will apply for a ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visa, with their primary purpose being to transit the UK. However, if they do, you will need to assess whether the applicant meets the requirements under [V7.5](#) and [V6](#).

You should assess applications for ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visas where the main purpose is to marry or form a civil partnership, or give notice of this as detailed in the [Visit guidance](#).

‘Standard’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership’ visitor visas: validity period: multiple and single entry

You should normally issue a ‘standard visitor’ visa or a ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visa where the applicant’s main purpose is to transit the UK if you are satisfied that the passenger:

- meets all the eligibility requirements of paragraph V7.5 of Appendix V
- meets all the eligibility requirements of paragraph V4 and V6 respectively
- should not be refused under any of the suitability rules of Part V3 of Appendix V

You should issue a **multiple entry** ‘standard visitor’ or ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visa.

The ‘standard visitor’ visa should be issued for the duration paid for, unless you have reasons to limit the validity – see [Visit guidance](#) for further details.

‘Marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visas are issued with a validity up to 6 months.

Standard' or 'marriage/civil partnership' visitor visas: endorsements

If issuing a 'standard visitor' visa for the purposes of transit, select the following endorsement on Proviso:

Category C
VISIT

If issuing a 'marriage/civil partnership visa, select the following endorsement on Proviso:

Category C
VISIT – MARRIAGE/CP

'Standard' or 'marriage/civil partnership' visitor visas: refuse a visa

You should normally refuse a 'standard visitor' visa or a 'marriage/civil partnership visitor' visa for the purposes of transit if:

- you are satisfied that the applicant should be refused under any of the suitability requirements of Part V3 of Appendix V
- you are not satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph V7.5 of Appendix V
- you are not satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements of V4 and V6 respectively

Where an individual fails to meet the criteria set out above, it will only be in exceptional circumstances that the public interest in maintaining the refusal will be outweighed by compelling factors.

To refuse a 'standard visitor' visa or a 'marriage/civil partnership visitor' visa:

- 1) Select the appropriate refusal template –[Visit NRA or Visit ROA](#) (Horizon link).
2. Check applicant's details are correct.
3. Clearly explain to the applicant why they do not meet the rules to be issued a 'standard visitor' or 'marriage/civil partnership visitor' visa, with reference to the appropriate sub-paragraphs of Appendix V (V7.5 (a) – (d), V4 or V6, or appropriate suitability rules under V3).
4. The reasons for refusal must be factual, clear and relevant to the application. See Visit Refusal Notice Guidance (Horizon link) for more details.

Related content

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Passengers wishing to transit the UK landside: at the border

This section tells Border Force Officers (BFOs) about how to consider passengers seeking leave to enter for landside transit.

Visa nationals

When a visa national presents at the border seeking leave to enter to transit the UK landside for a maximum of 48 hours, you must:

1. Check the passenger in line with the Border Force Operating Mandate (Horizon link).
2. Check that the passenger holds valid entry clearance.
3. If not, is the passenger eligible to benefit from the Transit without visa (TWOV) scheme? See the TWOV section of this guidance for further information.
4. Assess whether the visitor should be refused under suitability grounds of Part [V3 of Appendix V](#) – see Visit guidance for more information.
5. If the passenger holds a ‘transit visitor’ visa or ‘standard visitor’ visa, assess whether there are grounds for cancellation of the visa under part [V9 of Appendix V](#).

Granting entry to visa nationals for transit: stamp and LTE code

You should normally grant leave to enter to a holder of ‘transit visitor’ visa if you are satisfied that the passenger:

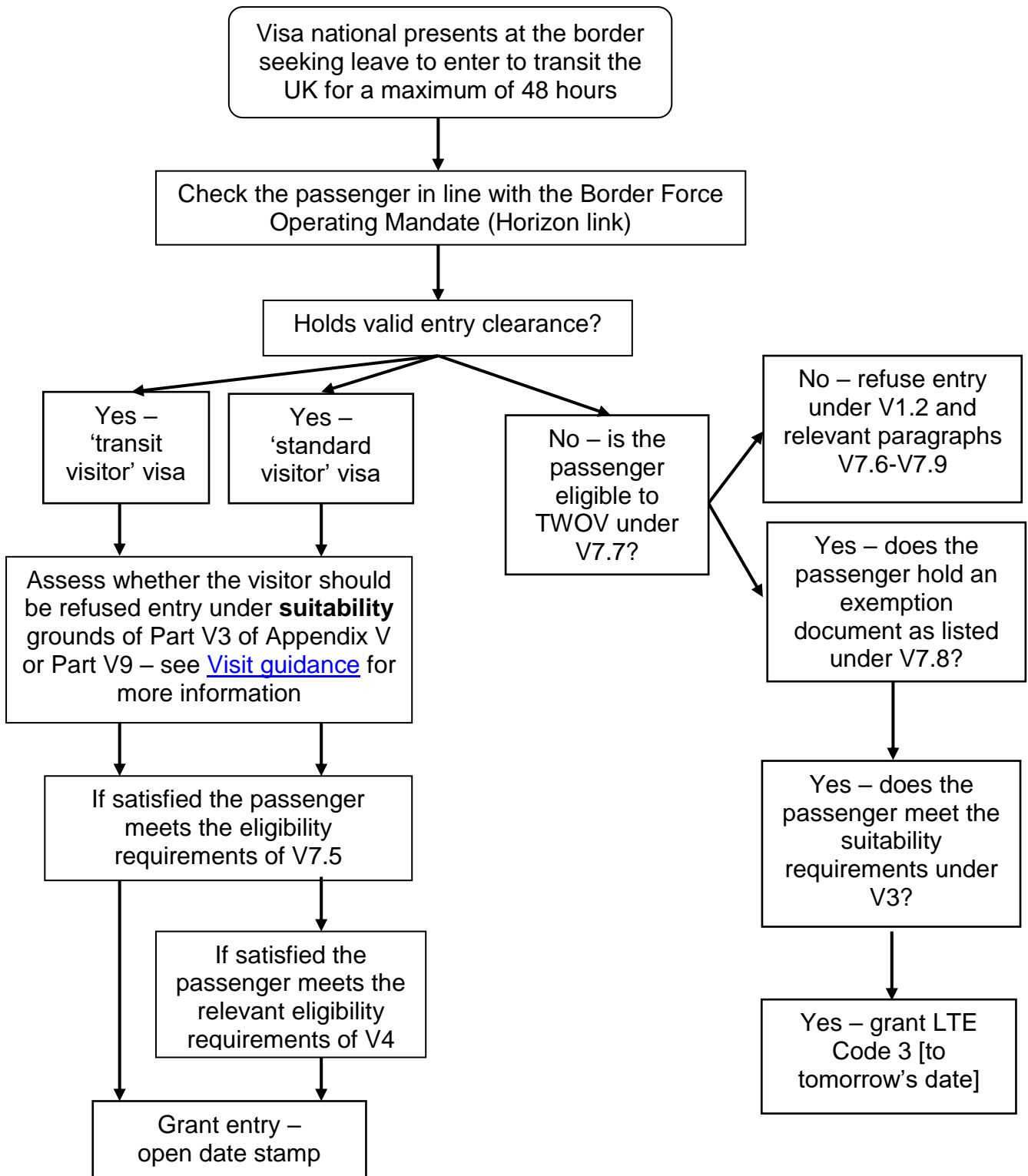
- meets all the requirements of paragraph [V7.5 of Appendix V](#)
- should not be refused under any of the suitability rules of Part V3 of Appendix V

Open date stamp (clipping visa if first presentation)

You should normally grant leave to enter to a holder of ‘standard visitor’ visa if you are satisfied that the passenger:

- meets all the requirements of paragraph V7.5 and the relevant eligibility requirements of V4
- should not be refused under any of the suitability rules of Part V3 of Appendix V

Open date stamp (clipping visa if first presentation)



Refuse entry to visa nationals

The following steps detail how to refuse entry:

1. Visa national without a 'transit visitor' or 'standard' or 'marriage/civil partnership' visa arrives in the UK to transit.
2. Check whether they meet the requirements for the [Transit without visa \(TWOV\)](#) scheme.
3. If not, refuse the applicant under V1.2 and the relevant paragraphs V7.6 – V7.9 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules, making it clear that you have also considered the TWOV route.

See CID for suggested refusal wordings.

See Border Force guidance on Refusal of leave to enter and Removals at port for more information (both Horizon links).

Cancel a 'visitor' visa

Where a passenger holds a 'transit visitor', 'standard visitor' or 'marriage/civil partnership visitor' visa and is seeking entry to transit and you consider that any of the paragraphs [V9.2 – V9.7 of Appendix V](#) of the Immigration Rules apply, you should cancel the visa.

Things to consider:

- change of circumstances
- change of purpose – for example the person is now proposing to enter the UK to work
- false information or failure to disclose a material fact
- medical grounds
- not conducive to the public good
- failure to supply information

See Border Force guidance on Refusal of leave to enter and Removals at port for more information (both Horizon links).

Border Force administrative review (AR)

Border Force AR is only available in certain cases when an entry clearance or biometric residence permit is cancelled. There are only three Border Force decisions eligible for AR and these are cancellation on the grounds of:

- change of circumstances
- false representations
- failure to disclose material facts

For more information, see:

- [Administrative Review guidance](#)
- Border Force administrative review: checklist (Horizon link)
- Border Force administrative review: dealing with applications (Horizon link)
- Border Force administrative review: process maps and scenarios (Horizon link)

Related content

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Non-visa nationals

When a non-visa national presents at the border seeking leave to enter to transit the UK landside for a maximum of 48 hours, you must:

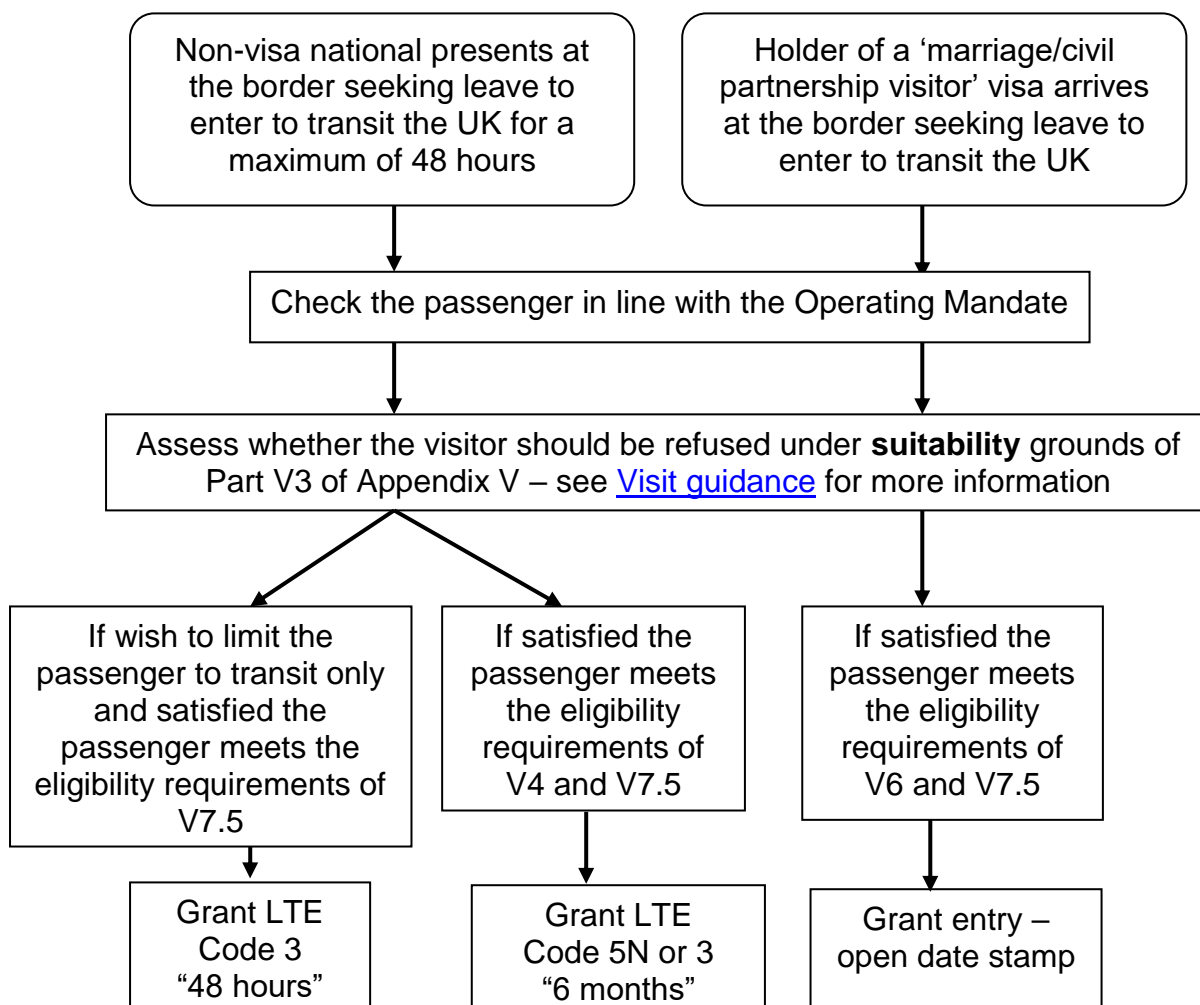
1. Check the passenger in line with the Border Force Operating Mandate (Horizon link).
2. Assess whether the visitor should be refused under suitability grounds of [Part V3 of Appendix V](#) – see Visit guidance for more information.

It is then for the BFO to decide on what basis to grant entry to the passenger.

Granting entry to non-visa nationals for transit: stamp and LTE code

If satisfied that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of V4 **and** V7.5, grant the following: LTE Code 5N “6 months” or Code 3 “6 months”.

LTE Code 3 “forty-eight hours” can be used if the Border Force officer wishes to limit the passenger to transit only.



B5JSSK nationals

Visitors who are nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States of America (B5JSSK) no longer routinely receive endorsements in their passports. If you are granting LTE to a B5JSSK national for 6 months, you do not endorse a code 5N but rather grant LTE verbally in line with the [B5JSSK guidance](#). If you wish to grant LTE for 48 hours then you should continue to endorse using a code 3.

Refuse entry: non-visa nationals

You should normally refuse leave to enter if:

- you are satisfied that the applicant should be refused under any of the suitability requirements of [Part V3 of Appendix V](#)
- you are not satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph [V7.5](#) and/or [V4](#) of Appendix V

See CID for suggested refusal wordings.

See Border Force guidance on Refusal of leave to enter and Removals at port for more information (both Horizon links).

See [Visit guidance](#) for further information.

Holders of ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visas

You should normally grant leave to enter to a holder of ‘marriage/civil partnership visitor’ visa if you are satisfied that the passenger intends to transit the UK and:

- meets all the requirements of paragraph [V7.5](#) and the relevant eligibility requirements of [V6](#)
- should not be refused under any of the suitability rules of [Part V3](#) of Appendix V

See [Visit guidance](#) for further information on marriage/civil partnership considerations.

Visitors: conditions attached to entry clearance/leave

No work, study, medical treatment or recourse to public funds.

Related external links

Border Force guidance: endorsements and signals (Horizon link)

[National referral mechanism guidance: adults \(England and Wales\)](#)

[National referral mechanism: guidance for child first responders](#)

Related content

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Transit without visa (TWOV) scheme

This page tells Border Force officers at airports about the requirements of the TWOV scheme under paragraphs [V7.6 - V7.9 of Appendix V](#) of the Immigration Rules for visa national passengers seeking leave to enter as 'transit visitors'.

The TWOV scheme allows visa nationals who meet all the requirements of paragraph V7.7 and who hold one of the documents specified in paragraph V7.8 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules to transit the UK landside without a visa.

When considering a passenger, you must check:

- the passenger in line with the Border Force Operating Mandate (Horizon link)
- whether they should be refused under **suitability** grounds of Part V3 of Appendix V – see [Visit guidance](#) for more information
- that the applicant meets the [requirements](#) of the TWOV scheme

A person cannot transit the UK to Ireland. This is because the UK's approach to the Common Travel Area (CTA) is to exercise immigration control at the first point of entry to the CTA. Therefore, a person who arrives in the UK on their way to Ireland is considered for entry to the UK. For example as a 'standard visitor' and not as a 'transit visitor'.

It follows therefore, that a visa national seeking to enter the UK before going on to Ireland would need a UK visa (a visit visa not a transit visa). However, the holder of an Irish biometric visa can enter the UK on their way to Ireland as a visitor without a UK visa.

TWOV: requirements

You must be satisfied that the individual meets all the requirements of [V7.7 \(a\) to \(f\)](#).

The following factors will help you assess if an individual is a genuine TWOV passenger:

- the applicant must have arrived and will be departing by air
- the applicant must have a confirmed booking on a flight departing the UK before 23:59 hours on the day after they arrived
- reasonable transit route:
 - is it reasonable for an individual to be travelling from the country of origin to their destination through the UK
 - the Home Office does not specify what routes are acceptable for this purpose, however, there should be a clear reason for why they are travelling through the UK, such as it forming part of a journey from east to west
 - you must make sure that the route is not being used in order to gain short term entry to the UK without needing a visa
 - an example of an unreasonable transit route would be an individual travelling from Australia to New Zealand and is seeking to transit through the UK

- the credibility of the application as a whole:
 - the main purpose of the journey
 - the applicant's circumstances, including travel history
- is there evidence to suggest that an applicant intends to access public funds or medical treatment or intends to work or study in the UK, for example, an admission, intelligence, supporting documents
- intention and ability to leave the UK before 23:59 hours on the day after the day they arrived:
 - details and availability of connecting flights
 - destination
 - confirmed onward bookings in applicant's name
- assurance of entry to their country of destination and any other countries they are transiting on their way there:
 - entry or visa requirements for applicant's nationality to destination – refer to Travel Information Manual or embassy websites
 - if needed, does the applicant have a valid visa or entry clearance for the country they are travelling to or documentary evidence of acceptability in that country
 - if a person intends to transit through the UK on their return, does the applicant's travel document guarantee return to their country of residence?
- other considerations:
 - remember your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: [Section 55 of the Border and Citizenship Act](#)
 - Vulnerable Adults and Children guidance (Horizon link)
 - UKVI Adult Safeguarding Strategy (Horizon link)
 - Border Force guidance on Children (Horizon link)
 - Modern Slavery guidance and considerations (Horizon link)
 - Border Force guidance on Modern Slavery (Horizon link)

Specified documents

You must also be satisfied that the individual meets **one** of the requirements of [V7.8](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Electronic versions of any documents listed in paragraph V7.8, such as electronic visas (including printed versions), are **not** acceptable.

To note: V 7.8.1 states that paragraph V 7.8 (a) and (b) shall not apply where the transit passenger is a citizen or national of Syria holding a B1 or B2 category visa for entry to the United States of America.

TWOV: grant leave to enter

You should normally grant leave to enter if you are satisfied that the passenger:

- meets all the requirements of paragraph V7.7 and one of the requirements of V7.8 of Appendix V
- does not fall to be refused under any of the suitability rules of [Part V3 of Appendix V](#)

TWOV: entry stamp and LTE code

LTE Code 3 [to tomorrow's date]

TWOV: conditions attached to leave

No work, study, medical treatment or recourse to public funds.

TWOV: refuse leave to enter

You should normally refuse leave to enter if:

- you are satisfied that the applicant falls to be refused under any of the suitability requirements of [Part V3 of Appendix V](#)
- you are not satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of paragraph [V7.7 and V7.8](#) of Appendix V

Refuse the applicant under the relevant suitability rules and/ or [V1.2](#) and the relevant paragraphs [V7.6 – V7.9](#) of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules.

Suggested TWOV refusal wordings

| Reason you are not satisfied the person meets the requirements | Suggested refusal wordings |
|--|--|
| Standard introductory line | You are a national of a country listed in Appendix 2 to Appendix V of the Immigration Rules for visitors. You do not hold a valid UK visa for the purposes of entry being sought and I am not satisfied that you meet the requirements of paragraph V7.6 of Appendix V. You are therefore refused leave to enter under paragraphs V1.2 and V7.6 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules. [Then detail what parts of V7.7-V7.9 have not been met using the paragraphs below.] |
| Not arrived by air | You have not arrived by air as required by paragraph V7.7(a). |
| Does not intend to depart by air | I am not satisfied, as required by paragraph V7.7(a) that you will depart by air because... |
| Not in transit to another country on a reasonable transit route | I am not satisfied, as required by paragraph V7.7(b), that you are genuinely in transit to another country and are taking a reasonable transit route because... |
| Intends to claim public funds, access medical treatment, undertake employment or study in the UK | I am not satisfied, as required by paragraph V7.7(c), that you do not intend to access public funds / access medical treatment / undertake employment / study in the UK because.... |

| Reason you are not satisfied the person meets the requirements | Suggested refusal wordings |
|---|---|
| Does not intend to leave the UK by 23:59 on the day after arrival | I am not satisfied, as required by paragraph V7.7(d), that you intend and are able to leave the UK before 23:59 hours on the day after the day you arrived in the UK because... |
| Does not have a confirmed onward booking to depart before 23:59 the day after arrival | I am not satisfied, as required by paragraph V7.7(e), that you have a confirmed booking on a flight departing the UK before 23:59 hours on the day after you arrived in the UK because... |
| Not assured entry to country of destination or to a country which they will transit through | I am not satisfied, as required by paragraph V7.7(f), that you are assured entry to your country of destination [and other countries you are transiting through on your way there] because... |
| Does not hold required document | You have not been able to present to me a document listed in paragraph V7.8 and I am therefore not satisfied you meet the requirement of paragraph V7.8. |
| Extension beyond maximum permitted | You were granted leave to enter under paragraph V7.6 until 23:59 on [X] date. This is the maximum period permitted under the Transit Without Visa scheme. Your application an extension of leave is therefore refused under V1.2 and V7.5 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules. |

See Border Force guidance on Refusal of leave to enter and Removals at port for more information (both Horizon links).

TWOV: right of appeal

No right of appeal or administrative review.

TWOV: extension requirements

Where an individual is granted leave to enter under TWOV, they should have been given the maximum period of leave permitted. There is no provision in the Immigration Rules for someone admitted under TWOV to extend their leave beyond 23:59 the day after they arrive.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

[Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014](#)

[Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014 \(as amended\)](#)

Direct Airside Transit Visa (DATV)

This page tells **Entry Clearance** and **Border Force** staff about the requirements for DATVs based on the [Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014 \(as amended\)](#).

A 'transit visitor' is a person who seeks to travel via the UK on their way to another destination country outside the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#).

A traveller who uses Direct Airside Transit is **not** deemed to have entered the UK. They therefore do not require leave to enter or remain in the UK for that journey. As such, they fall outside the scope of the Immigration Rules and are governed by the [Asylum and Immigration Act 1999](#) and the [Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014](#).

Certain nationals must hold transit visas even when they transit airside, for example change aircraft without passing through UK immigration controls at a UK airport.

An airside transit passenger who on arrival in the UK passes through to another country or territory without entering the UK requires a DATV, if they are one of the following:

- a national of a country or territory listed in [Schedule 1](#) of the Immigration (Passenger Transit Visa) Order 2014 (as amended):
 - Afghanistan
 - Albania
 - Algeria
 - Angola
 - Bangladesh
 - Belarus
 - Burma
 - Burundi
 - Cameroon
 - Congo
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Egypt
 - Eritrea
 - Ethiopia
 - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
 - Gambia
 - Ghana
 - Guinea
 - Guinea-Bissau
 - India
 - Iran
 - Iraq
 - Ivory Coast
 - Jamaica
 - Kenya

- Kosovo
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Malawi
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Palestinian Territories
- People's Republic of China
- Rwanda
- Senegal,
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe
- a person holding a travel document issued by the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'
- a person who holds a passport issued by the Republic of Venezuela that does not contain biometric information in an electronic chip

A Direct Airside Transit Visa is not entry clearance and does not confer leave to enter.

DATV: holders of non-national refugee documents

When considering whether a passenger who wishes to transit airside and who holds a non-national refugee travel document requires a DATV, you must refer to the nationality of the person, and not the country where the non-national refugee document was issued.

Most refugee documents will tell you the country a person was originally a national of by stating it as one or both of:

- the country they are not allowed to return to

- their country of birth

Although not conclusive evidence of their true nationality, this information will be enough to allow you to decide whether the person requires a DATV or not.

If their nationality is one which requires a DATV, they may be eligible to transit airside without a visa but only if they hold one of the specified exemption documents for airside transit as listed in the section [DATV: transiting without a DATV](#).

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.

DATV: consider an application

This section tells Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs) about assessing applications for DATVs.

When considering an application, you must check the application in line with the Operating Mandate.

DATV are **not** subject to the Immigration Rules, however you still need to be satisfied that the applicant is a **genuine** Direct Airside Transit Visa applicant and there are no reasons that make it inappropriate to issue a DATV.

The following factors may help you assess if an applicant is a genuine airside ‘transit visitor’:

- entry or visa requirements for destination depending on applicant’s nationality – refer to Travel Information Manual or embassy websites
- if needed, does the applicant have a valid visa or entry clearance for the country they are travelling to or documentary evidence of acceptability in that country
- the credibility of the application as a whole:
 - the main purpose of the journey
 - the applicant’s circumstances, including travel history
- confirmed onward bookings in applicant’s name from the same airport as they arrived at
- details and availability of connecting flights
- destination
- reasonable transit route:
 - is it reasonable for an individual to be travelling from the country of origin to their destination through the UK
 - the Home Office does not specify what routes are acceptable for this purpose, however, there should be a clear reason for why they are travelling through the UK, such as it forming part of a journey from east to west
 - an example of an unreasonable transit route may be an individual travelling from Australia to New Zealand, seeking to transit through the UK

- on their way to another destination country outside the common travel area (CTA) – see [CTA guidance](#) for further information
- is there evidence to suggest that an applicant intends to attempt to enter the UK (for example to work, study, access medical treatment or public funds)
- any local intelligence or results of checks

Other considerations:

- remember your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: [Section 55 of the Border and Citizenship Act](#)
- Vulnerable Adults and Children guidance (Horizon link)
- UKVI Adult Safeguarding Strategy (Horizon link)
- Border Force guidance on Children (Horizon link)
- Modern Slavery guidance and considerations (Horizon link)
- Border Force guidance on Modern Slavery (Horizon link)

The applicant should not be intending to:

- or need to pass through UK Immigration Control for any reason, including to collect luggage
- change airport
- transit to anywhere in the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#)

You must look carefully at applications with unusual routings or destinations. For example when there is no obvious need to transit through the UK, such as, an applicant travelling from south east Asia to the Middle East passing through London. Or an unusual final destination and the applicant has no plausible explanation for travelling to that country, particularly where they are travelling on to a country where they do not have visa requirements and bookings might be made simply to enable the person to land in the UK and present themselves to a Border Force officer.

If an applicant holds any of the documents listed in [section 4 of the Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014 \(as amended\)](#), they are not required to hold a DATV. See [DATV: transiting without a DATV](#) for further information.

DATV: issue visa

DATVs are not issued under Immigration Rules. In order to issue a person with a DATV the above factors should be considered and you must be satisfied:

- they genuinely intend to transit the UK airside
- they intend to proceed to their country of final destination
- the reason for choosing such a routing is reasonable and credible
- the reasons for travelling to the final destination are credible
- they will be admissible in the country of final destination (and on the return journey if transiting through the UK)
- they can remain airside in transit – for example, passengers cannot remain airside at some airports

- there are no other reasons why it would be inappropriate to issue a DATV
 - for example, criminal history, previous deception or breaches of UK immigration law – you can use the suitability requirements as a guide, but you cannot refuse under these rules as DATVs are not governed by the Immigration Rules (see [DATV: refuse a visa](#) for more details)

DATVs must not be issued to visa nationals travelling to anywhere in the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#).

DATV: validity period

The minimum period of validity is one month and the maximum is two years. A DATV is valid for any number of journeys within the period of validity.

You have discretion to vary the period of validity of the DATV within set limits, depending on the applicant's travel details, as follows:

- first time travellers must be issued a DATV valid for **three months**
- regular travellers, for example, those on business, can routinely be issued with a DATV with a validity of the **maximum of two years**

DATV: endorsement

Category A
DIRECT AIRSIDE TRANSIT

DATV: refuse a visa

You must refuse a DATV application if you are not satisfied:

- they genuinely intend to transit the UK airside
- they intend to proceed to their country of final destination
- the reason for choosing such a routing is reasonable and credible
- the reasons for travelling to the final destination are credible
- they will be admissible in the country of final destination (and on the return journey if transiting through the UK)
- they can and intend to remain airside in transit
- there are other reasons why it would be inappropriate to issue a DATV:
 - for example, criminal history, previous deception or breaches of UK immigration law – you can use the suitability requirements as a guide, but you cannot refuse under these rules as DATVs are not governed by the Immigration Rules

If satisfied to refuse the applicant:

1. Select the notice of decision template – DATV NRA.
2. Check applicant's details are correct.

3. Complete the template. You should not refuse the applicant under the Immigration Rules.
4. In Proviso notes, clearly explain why you are not satisfied that the applicant is a genuine 'direct airside transit visitor' and does not qualify for a DATV. You can use the above and the suitability and transit eligibility requirements as a guide when considering the applicant's circumstances and intentions.

DATV: right of appeal

A DATV is not entry clearance, does not confer leave to enter and an applicant does not have a right of appeal or right to administrative review against refusal. Although there is no statutory requirement to do so you must give a decision notice to all applicants you refuse.

DATV: transiting without a DATV

The [Immigration \(Passenger Transit Visa\) Order 2014](#) allows DATV nationals, who hold one of the documents listed in Article 4 of the Order (and subsequent amendments) to transit the UK airside without a visa. These are:

- valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA – the passenger does not have to be on their way to the country for which the visa is held – Syrian nationals and citizens cannot benefit from an airside transit visa exemption under this provision if they hold a US visit visa (category B1 and B2)
- an expired visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA provided it is less than six months since the transit passenger last entered that country with a valid visa – Syrian nationals and citizens cannot benefit from an airside transit visa exemption under this provision if they hold a US visit visa (category B1 and B2)
- valid Australian or New Zealand Permanent Resident Visa
- valid Canadian Permanent Resident Card issued on or after 28 June 2002
- valid USA I-551 Permanent Resident Card issued on or after 21 April 1998
- expired USA I-551 Permanent Resident Card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising an extension of the period of permanent residency
- valid temporary USA I-551 machine readable Immigrant Visa
- valid standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B attached to a brown sealed envelope
- valid common format Category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland
- valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA State pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002(1) or Switzerland
- valid biometric visa issued by the Republic of Ireland
- valid visa issued by a Schengen Acquis State under the Approved Destination Status Scheme where the transit passenger is undertaking a journey via the UK to that Schengen Acquis State
- valid airline ticket for travel via the UK as part of a journey from a Schengen Acquis State to another country or territory, provided that the transit passenger does not seek to travel via the UK on a date more than 30 days from the date

on which they last entered a Schengen Acquis State with a valid visa issued by a Schengen Acquis State under the Approved Destination Status Scheme

- diplomatic or service passport issued by the People's Republic of China
- diplomatic or official passport issued by India
- diplomatic or official passport issued by Vietnam
- valid diplomatic passport issued by Turkey
- valid diplomatic passport issued by South Africa
- valid alien's passport issued by Estonia or Latvia (non-citizen passport)
- valid Convention Travel Document
- valid laissez-passer issued by the UN or the International Committee of the Red Cross

All documents listed in Article 4 are not acceptable in electronic format or in hardcopy format which comes from electronic format unless they can be verified by the airline.

The following documents do not allow a DATV national to travel airside without a visa:

- a transportation letter instead of a valid USA permanent residence card issued on or after 21 April 1998
- a valid travel document with a USA ADIT stamp which says 'Processed for I-551 TEMPORARY EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL ADMISSION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE VALID UNTIL [...] EMPLOYMENT AUTHORISED'
- a USA visa foil endorsed category 'YY' or 'ZZ' and endorsed 'This is not a visa, and the foil prepared at DHS request'
- a non-national (including refugee) travel document where the holder is determined to be originally from a DATV country (unless they are free from the need for a DATV because of one of the exemptions above)

DATV: leave to enter

Passengers holding a DATV should not normally present themselves to a Border Force officer because passengers transiting airside should not need to enter the UK. A DATV is not entry clearance and does not confer leave to enter.

In exceptional circumstances, for example where a passenger's flight has been cancelled, it may be necessary to grant a DATV passenger immigration bail. See Border Force guidance on immigration bail ([Horizon link](#)) for further information.

A decision in the case of exceptional disruption is usually taken by National Command Centre (NCC), who will advise on granting leave to enter if you are satisfied that the passenger left their port of embarkation with the means and intention of travelling onwards and not entering the UK. In such an event please contact Border Force NCC:

Official – sensitive: start of section

The information on this page has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

Official – sensitive: end of section

Related content

[Contents](#)

Seamen

This page tells staff about the requirements for seamen.

A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a UK visa if they hold a seaman's book issued in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 108 (and No. 185 where the country, as a result of ratifying ILO No. 185, has now denounced ILO No. 108).

The seaman does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document.

For Seamen guidance (Horizon link) for further information.

Related content

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