UK Visas & Immigration

Visa vignettes issued for UK visas

A visa vignette is the physical visa that is added to a traveller's passport or travel document.

The UK Visa and Immigration service uses different types of visa vignette.

CAT C vignettes

The "CAT C" vignette (figure 1) is currently used in limited circumstances for visa nationals coming to the UK as a visitor or transiting the UK:

Figure 1

UKVI stopped issuing CAT C vignettes for most visas in June 2019. Caseworkers continue to have the ability to post-date the validity of a vignette for up to 3 months (90 days), therefore some CAT C vignettes issued during June 2019 will have a validity date that starts up to 3 months later.

The CAT C vignette is only used to print visas where permission to enter is granted for 3 months (90 days) or less. These visas include:

- approved destination status (ADS) agreement visas (valid for 30 days for Chinese nationals)
- visitor in transit (valid for a stay of up to 48 hours)
- direct airside transit visas (DATV)
- any visit visa where the caseworker decides, based on the specific circumstances of the application, to restrict the validity of the visa to 3 months or less

All CAT C visas remain valid for travel to and/or through the UK until they expire. The visa validity date is shown on the vignette, where it states: ‘visa valid for the United Kingdom from (date) until (date)’.

CAT D vignettes

Since June 2019 the “CAT D” vignette (figure 2) is used for almost all categories including visit, employment, study and settlement. Vignettes for employment, study and settlement are usually valid for 30 days to enable the holder to travel to the UK and collect their Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

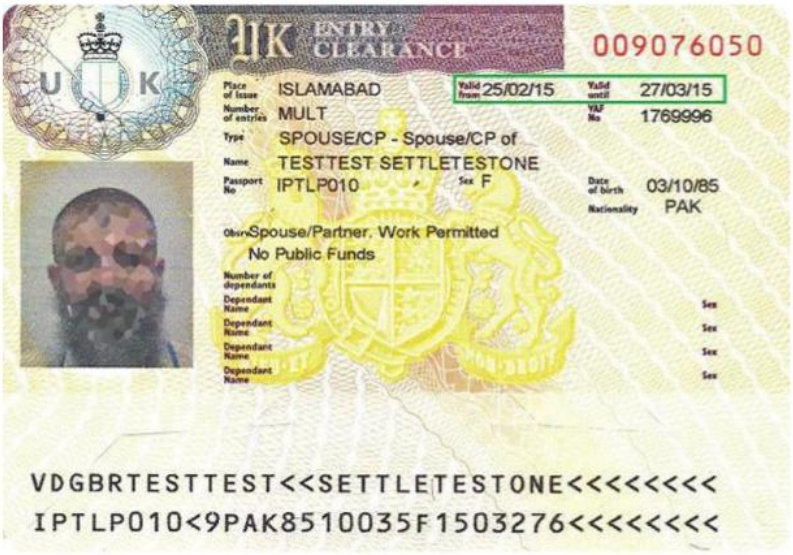

Figure 2