A seaman travelling on duty may transit without a visa. Persons recognised as stateless have a confirmed arrival and depart the same day from the same airport; and (iv) have a confirmed onward flight that departs before 23:59hrs the following day; and (v) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

Nations of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit the UK:

Airside Transit unless they hold one of the following:

(i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or (ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey to that country; or (iii) a seaman’s book issued by one of these countries and the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or (iv) the holder is travelling TO 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 (v) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:

(a) Australia (b) Canada, after 28 June 2002 (c) New Zealand (d) 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 standalone US Immigrant Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or (v) a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or (vi) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a EEA state or Switzerland); or (vii) a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group visa tour where the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or (viii) a valid airline ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa.

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 VISA REQUIREMENTS

UK visa nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

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 to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

All visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

(i) arrive and depart by air; and
(ii) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
(iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

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).

Whether holders of non-national or refugee travel documents need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national or refugee travel documents need a visa to enter the UK.

All holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourists visits or transit. All holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourists visits or transit. All visitors to the UK should be aware that the information on this page will be kept on an official visit to the UK.

If in doubt please telephone one of the numbers below for advice:

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