

1.1.1 Identity Validation and Verification

Uniformly, test centre supervisors were required confirm the photographic identity of the applicant before the test could commence. The required identity was:

- A UK driving licence photo card.
- A valid passport.
- A photograph signed by a third party, (no requirement was apparent as to who this third party should be).

The only assurance that there is in the identity is the resemblance of the image to the applicant and the skill of the test supervisor in assessing this.

There is very little available to the assessor to corroborate the identity evidence. There is no identity value in the signed photograph.

The means of identifying candidates was considered weak since the only means of confirming identity was based on the skill of the staff recognizing a document with a photograph as genuine. This might give rise to a dispute at the centre when the test supervisor challenges the validity of the presented identification.

The option of presenting a signed photograph as a means of identification does not provide any confidence in the genuine identity of the individual, since anybody can sign the photograph.

It is critical to the Life in the UK and gaining UK Citizenship programme that there is a high degree of integrity. It is essential that the person sitting the test is correctly identified as the person seeking citizenship.

- A signed photograph as means of proof of identity should not be acceptable; this could be replaced by an item such as an asylum seekers photo identity card or a council tax payment book which corroborates the other credentials. [Post assessment note, during the meeting at which this report was reviewed and accepted by IND, it was stated by IND that the processes supporting this means of identification were undergoing revision.].
- More rigorous identity checks should be considered:
 - Face matches valid Passport or UK photo driving licence
 - Signature corresponds to Passport or UK driving licence
 - Valid address
 - Confirmation of activity using that identity at that address, e.g. council tax bill, fixed utilities bill.

(These are consistent with typical bank requirements for a loan application)