

Why is it changing

- ID cards are amongst **the least secure travel documents** and they are often used by organised crime groups. Phasing these out will help to deter those who would abuse the system.
- The end of free movement on 31 December 2020 means EU, EEA and Swiss citizens **now follow the same rules for entering the UK** as travellers from the rest of the world.
- The removal of ID cards will **strengthen our borders and pave the way for a future digitised border**, delivering a more streamlined and seamless customer experience for travellers entering the UK.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will no longer be able to use an ID card to enter the UK unless they are exempt.

Only the following EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens will be exempt from this change:

- ✓ who have received settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)
- ✓ who have made an application to the EUSS but have not yet received a decision on their application
- ✓ have an [EU Settlement Scheme family permit](#)
- ✓ who are an [S2 Healthcare Visitor](#)
- ✓ with a frontier worker [permit](#)
- ✓ who are Swiss nationals and have a [Swiss Service Provider](#) from Switzerland visa

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens in the groups above can still use their ID cards to travel to the UK at least until 31 December 2025. They'll also be able to use them after that date, if the cards meet the security standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

This will also not apply to Gibraltar ID cards issued to British citizens or to passport cards issued to Irish citizens, they will continue to be accepted for travel to the UK.

- This change will come into effect from 1 October 2021.
- Between now and then, travellers using ID cards to enter the UK may be reminded that they will no longer be able to use them in future.
- We encourage all EU, EEA and Swiss travellers to use a passport where possible. This allows them to use e-Gates; the quickest and most efficient method of crossing the border.

Supporting you with this change

- It is vital **all passengers are properly documented** for travel to the UK.
- Anyone travelling to the UK on an ID card is liable to be **refused entry at the border, unless they are exempt.**
- To support you in providing essential guidance about this change to your network, **we have developed a suite of assets you may use to help stakeholders prepare** and understand their responsibilities.
- The following section of **this pack outlines key messages and provides communication products** for use on channels including social media, via email updates and e-newsletters.
- **Your help and support in communicating this guidance is crucial.** We want travellers to be prepared for this change and we hope this pack makes it as easy as possible for you to share updates with your audience and stakeholders.