



ePassports and Biometrics



**United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Passport Services**



- ❖ Information is presented to provide a more comprehensive picture of ePassport issuance and the use of biometrics in border management.
- ❖ This Product is derived from open source research gathered from publicly available mediums and by interviews.
- ❖ Information is based on the best available data from all sources.
- ❖ Information is subject to change.

The matrix identifies:

- ❖ countries issuing ePassports (provided in a world view and by region);
- ❖ biometrics used with the ePassports;
- ❖ **estimated annual issuance for Issuing Authority;**
- ❖ estimated number of ePassports issued to date;
- ❖ **validity period for document (Adult);**
- ❖ estimated number of ePassports in circulation;
- ❖ issuing authorities participating in the ICAO PKD;
- ❖ countries reading chip data at borders or airports;
- ❖ countries using automated border control systems supported by the use of ePassports; and
- ❖ countries using biometrics as a border management tool.

ePassports and Biometrics – A World View

- ❖ **101** Issuing Authorities issue ePassports;
- ❖ **47** IAs only use the Face as the biometric;
- ❖ **10** of these IAs intend to use the finger as a secondary biometric in the future;
- ❖ **54** countries currently use the face and finger as the stored biometrics;
- ❖ **No (0)** country stores the Iris image as a secondary biometric in the ePassport;
- ❖ **34** Issuing Authorities participate in the ICAO PKD;
- ❖ **23** countries use an ABC system using the ePassport as the token; and
- ❖ **57** countries use biometrics (Face, Finger or Iris) at primary.



- A number of countries do issue ePassports but they do not comply with ICAO specifications so their issuance figures have not been counted.
- Several countries have indicated they will be issuing ePassports in the future but have not been counted.

Estimated Number of ePassports issued to date:

489,522,100

*The 34 Issuing Authorities participating in the ICAO PKD issued **74.04%** of this figure.*

Estimated Number of ePassports in circulation:

483,929,100

*Africa (issued) **10,195,000** (circulation) **10,195,000***

*East Asia and Pacific (issued) **114,300,000** (circulation) **112,860,000***

*Europe and Eurasia (issued) **212,462,000** (circulation) **209,199,000***

*Near East (issued) **6,920,000** (circulation) **6,920,000***

*South and Central Asia (issued) **50,500,000** (circulation) **50,470,000***

*Western Hemisphere (issued) **95,145,100** (circulation) **94,285,1000***

Assistance is needed:

❖ It is requested that you review the matrix and report all corrections, additions, deletions, or modifications.

❖ Specific areas of interest:

- useful websites for data collection;
- starting dates for ePassport programs;
- annual issuance;
- validity periods; and
- reading ePassports at POEs (are they checking the digital signature?).

Your help is appreciated.

Please send information to:

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