

Commission communication in pursuance of Council Regulation (EC) No 574/1999 of 12 March 1999 determining the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders of the Member States ⁽¹⁾

(2000/C 272/09)

(Update and revision of information published 13 May 1999 (Official Journal C 133, page 19 pursuant to Articles 2 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 574/1999) — Information provided by the Member States as of 1 August 2000)

A.1. Inventory of visa regimes applied to countries not featured on the common list annexed to Council Regulation (EC) No 574/1999 ^(*)

Third countries	BNL (**)	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Antigua and Barbuda	V	V	V	V (b)	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
Australia						V (d)				V			
Bahamas	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V (a)	V			
Barbados	V	V	V	V	V	V		V (c)	V (a)	V			
Belize	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
Bolivia		V					V			V			
Bosnia-Herzegovina	V	V	V	V (b)	V	V	V	V	V (a)	V	V	V	V
Botswana	V	V	V	V	V	V		V (c)	V	V			
Brazil				V (b)		V (d)							
Brunei				V		V (d)			V	V	V		
Colombia	V	V		V		V	V			V	V	V	V
Croatia	(g)	V (h)									V	V	V
Dominica	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V (c)	V	V	V		
Ecuador							V						V
El Salvador										V			
Estonia	(g)												
Grenada	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V			
Guatemala										V			
Honduras									V	V			
Israel						V (d)							
Jamaica	V (g)		V (e)	V	V	V		V		V			
Kenya	V	V	V (e)	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Kiribati	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
Latvia	(g)	(h)											
Lesotho	V	V	V	V	V	V		V (c)	V	V			
Lithuania	(g)												
Malawi	V (g)	V	V (e)	V	V	V		V	V	V			
Malaysia						V (d)				V			
Marshall Islands	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
Micronesia	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
Namibia	V	V	V (e)	V	V	V	V	V	V	V			
Nauru	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V	V	V	
Nicaragua									V	V			

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 72, 18.3.1999, p. 2.

Third countries	BNL (**)	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Northern Marianas	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
Panama										V			
Paraguay										V (f)			
Poland				V (b)									
Seychelles	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V (a)	V			
Slovak Republic		V (h)					V						V
Solomon Islands	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
South Africa	V	V	V (e)	V (b)	V	V		V	V (a)	V (f)	V	V	
St Kitts and Nevis	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
St Lucia	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
St Vincent and Grenadines	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V			
Swaziland	V	V	V	V	V	V		V (c)	V	V			
Tonga	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V	V	V	
Trinidad and Tobago	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V (a)	V			
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau)	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
Tuvalu	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
United States of America				V (b)	V (i)	V (d)							
Vanuatu	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
Vatican State			(e)										V
Venezuela				V		V (d)				V (f)	V		
Western Samoa	V	V	V	V	V	V		V (c)	V	V	V	V	
Zimbabwe	V	V	V	V (b)	V	V		V	V	V	V		

(*) 'V' whose nationals are subject to visa requirements by one or more Member States (Article 2 (1)).

(**) Note: In application of the Convention of 20 April 1960, and in particular Article 3, the countries of the Benelux have a harmonised policy in relation to short stay visas for third countries.

Further information

- (a) **Austria:** For Bosnia-Herzegovina: holders of diplomatic passports are exempt. For Bahamas, Barbados, Seychelles, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago: holders of diplomatic passports or official duty passports are exempt.
- (b) **Greece:** Requires sea crew from Brazil and Poland to be in possession of visas. For Bosnia-Herzegovina: holders of diplomatic passports are exempt. For Antigua and Barbuda, South Africa and Zimbabwe: holders of diplomatic passports or official duty passports are exempt. For United States of America: holders of diplomatic passports are subject to the visa requirement.
- (c) **Italy:** For Barbados, Botswana, Dominica, Lesotho, Samoa and Swaziland; holders of diplomatic passports or official duty passports are exempt for a maximum of 90 days.
- (d) **France:** For Israel, holders of diplomatic and official duty passports, and sea and air crew on duty, are subject to the visa requirement. This requirement also applies to the following categories of US nationals:
- holders of diplomatic passports or officials on mission,
 - students following a course of study in France,
 - journalists on mission,
 - sea and air crew on duty,
 - persons exercising an economic activity in France (including scientists and artists).
- For Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Malaysia and Venezuela, nationals are subject to the visa requirement in order to carry out a professional activity.
- (e) **Germany:** In accordance with § 4 Abs. 1 Nr. 3 *Durchführungsverordnung zum Ausländergesetz* (Regulations implementing the Aliens Law), holders of Vatican passports, irrespective of their nationality, are exempt from fulfilling the requirements for residence for a period of 90 days. For Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa holders of diplomatic passports are exempt from the visa requirement.
- (f) **Portugal:** For Paraguay: holders of diplomatic and official duty passports are subject to the visa requirement. For South Africa: holders of diplomatic and official duty passports are exempt. For Venezuela, holders of official duty passports are subject to the visa requirement.
- (g) **Benelux:** For Jamaica and Malawi, holders of diplomatic or official duty passports are exempt. For Croatia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania pending the ratification and implementation of the agreement for exemption to the visa requirement, the visa exemption is already applied in the following way:
- Belgium: an administrative measure,
 - Netherlands: provisional entrance into force of the agreement for the exemption to the visa requirement,
 - Luxembourg: a unilateral measure.
- (h) **Denmark:** For Croatia, holders of diplomatic or official duty passports are exempt. For Latvia: exemption also applies to holders of Latvian Aliens passports. For Slovak Republic, holders of diplomatic or official duty passports are exempt.
- (i) **Spain:** For the United States of America, holders of diplomatic or official duty passports on official missions or official visits are subject to the visa requirement. The visa is not necessary when the entrance is in application of the Hispanic-North American Convention of 1 May 1988.

A.2. Inventory of countries whose nationals are exempted from the visa requirement by all Member States

Note: This information is not specifically required by the Regulation.

Andorra	Malta (j)
Argentina	Mexico (j)
Canada (j)	Monaco
Chile (j)	New Zealand
Costa Rica	Norway
Czech Republic	San Marino
Cyprus (j)	Singapore (j)
Hungary	Slovenia
Iceland	South Korea (j)
Japan (j)	Switzerland
Liechtenstein	Uruguay

(j) **France:** For Cyprus, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Singapore and South Korea, nationals are subject to the visa requirement to carry out a professional activity. For Chile, holders of diplomatic and official duty passports are subject to the visa requirement. For Canada, professional trainees are subject to the visa requirement.

Germany: For South Korea, holders of diplomatic and official duty passports are subject to the visa requirement.

A.3. List of dependant territories of the Member States whose nationals are subject to the visa requirement by one or more Member States

Territories	BNL	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<i>Territories under United Kingdom administration</i>													
Anguilla			V		V (k)	V (k)			V		V		
Bermudas		V (k)	V	V	V (k)	V (k)			V		V		
Cayman Islands			V		V (k)	V (k)			V		V		
Montserrat		V	V	V	V (k)	V (k)			V		V		
St Helena		V	V	V	V (k)	V (k)			V		V		
Turks and Caicos Islands			V		V (k)	V (k)			V		V		
Virgin Islands			V		V (k)	V (k)			V		V		

(k) **Denmark, Spain and France:** Except for holders of British Dependent Territories Citizen passports.

A.4. Specific situation pertaining to territorial entities in China ⁽¹⁾

	BNL	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	V (l)	V	V	V (l)	V	V		V (l)	V	V	V	V (l)	
Macao Special Administrative Region	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V (m)	V	V	V

(1) OJ L 72, 18.3.1999, p. 5, Annex to Council Regulation (EC) No 574/1999:

'In respect of China, this does not include holders of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport. Article 2 applies: Member States may decide whether to maintain or review their visa requirements in respect of such persons.' From 23 December 1999, the same situation applies to Macao.

(l) **Benelux, Greece, Italy and Sweden** grant visa free access to the holders of British National (Overseas) passports.

(m) **Portugal** exempts holders of Portuguese aliens passports.

B. Territorial entities and authorities which are not recognised (Article 2(3))

The nationals of territorial entities and authorities which are not recognized as States by any Member State are subject to the visa requirement by all Member States.

	BNL	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Palestinian Authority	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V

C. Situation of stateless persons and recognised refugees and the visa requirement for first entry into the territory (Article 2 paragraph 2)

Member States	Stateless persons ⁽¹⁾	Recognized refugees ⁽²⁾	Comments
Benelux	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Denmark (i)	Visa mandatory (ii)	Visa mandatory	
Germany (iii)	Visa mandatory, except for persons issued with travel documents by a country whose nationals are not required to possess visas	Visa mandatory, except for persons issued with travel documents by a country whose nationals are not required to possess visas.	Travel documents valid for at least four months required. This exemption does not apply to persons who have entered illegally or have been deported for illegal residence
Greece ⁽³⁾	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Spain	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
France ⁽³⁾	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Ireland	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Italy	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Austria ⁽³⁾	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Portugal	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Finland (i)	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	
Sweden (i)	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory (iv)	
United Kingdom	Visa mandatory	Visa mandatory	

Explanatory notes

(1) Within the meaning of the New York Convention of 28 September 1954 relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (to which not all Member States are contracting parties) a visa is not required for entry to the territory of those Member States which apply the Schengen Agreements or for circulation within this space for a period of 90 days for the holder of a travel document which is issued in accordance with the 1954 Convention, provided that the person also has a residence permit issued by one of the Member States applying those agreements.

(2) Within the meaning of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol of 31 January 1967 relating to the Status of Refugees.

(3) With the exception of Austria, Greece and France, the Member States apply, on a reciprocal basis, the European Agreement on the abolition of visas for refugees, done at Strasbourg on 20 April 1959. Article 1 of this Agreement is worded as follows:

1. Refugees lawfully resident in the territory of a Contracting Party shall be exempt, under the terms of this Agreement and subject to reciprocity, from the obligation to obtain visas for entering or leaving the territory of another Party by any frontier, provided that:

- they hold a valid travel document issued in accordance with the Convention on the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 or the Agreement relating to the issue of a travel document to refugees of 15 October 1946, by the authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are lawfully resident;
- their visit is of not more than three months' duration.

2. A visa may be required for a stay of longer than three months or for the purpose of taking up gainful employment in the territory of another Contracting Party.
France, which is a Contracting Party to this Agreement, has suspended its application pursuant to Article 7 thereof, with effect from 16 September 1986.

(i) Applies to the whole of the territory covered by Article 1(2) of the Nordic Convention of 12 July 1957 relating to the abolition of passport controls, including Iceland, Norway and the Faeroes; exemption from visa requirement for stateless persons holding travel documents issued by Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway which entitle the persons concerned to return to their territory.

(ii) 90-day exemption for holders of the Certificate of Status 'For Stateless Alien' issued by the US military authorities in Germany.

(iii) Stateless persons and refugees who are in the country lawfully and are not the subject of a deportation order are exempt from the visa requirement for a three-month period, on condition that do not exercise an economic activity, in so far as their passports have been (a) issued by the authorities of one of the countries or territories listed below, and (b) entitle the holder to return and are still valid for at least 4 months.

List of countries concerned:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia (including the Cocos, Norfolk and Christmas Islands), Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France (including French Guiana, Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, New Caledonia, Reunion, St Pierre and Miquelon), Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Republic), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands (including the Netherlands Antilles), New Zealand (including the Cook, Niue and Tokelau Islands), Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal (including Macao), San Marino, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), United States of America (including the Virgin Islands, Samoa, Guam and Puerto Rico), Uruguay, Venezuela.

(iv) A visa is mandatory for Sweden except for persons issued with travel documents by a country that has acceded to the Agreement on the abolition of visas for refugees, done at Strasbourg on 20 April 1959, and applies that Agreement in relation to Sweden.

D. Categories of nationals of third countries on the common list who are exempt from the visa requirement within the meaning of Article 4(1) of the Regulation

I. GENERAL COMMENTS:

Article 4(1) refers to the following categories:

- 1 = holders of diplomatic passports
- 2 = holders of official duty passports and other official passports
- 3 = civilian air and sea crew, etc.
- 4 = flight crew and attendants on emergency or rescue flights and other helpers in the event of disaster or accident
- 5 = other

For the categories referred to in 1, 2 and 3 the Member States have entered into international commitments which provide for general or specific exemption from the visa requirement. Examples of these agreements include the Vienna Convention of 18 April 1961 on Diplomatic Relations, or relating to transport, the Chicago Convention of 7 December 1944 on International Civil Aviation, and particularly its Annex 9 or the International Labour Organization's Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 (No 108).

Under point 5, it should be noted that there is an exemption for third country school children resident in a Member State of the union travelling as part of a school trip in accordance with the joint action 94/795/JHA (OJ L 327, of 19.12.1994) with the exception of Portugal.

II. SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

The information given below is more specific to the Member States, and varies depending on the agreements they have signed with the third countries concerned with a view to dispensing with the visa requirement for the categories of nationals of third countries listed under Article 4(1) of the Regulation.

Benelux:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports or official duty passports: Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey
- Holders of diplomatic passports: Romania, Senegal and Chad
 - Holders of United Nations passes
 - Holders of a NATO Mission Order
- 3:** — Exemption for civilian air and sea crew
- Special conditions for the internal navigation of the Rhine

Denmark:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports: Bulgaria, Romania
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: India, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, and Turkey
 - Holders of United Nations or EU passes
 - Holders of a NATO Mission Order
- 3:** — Exemption for civilian air and sea crew

Germany:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports: Bulgaria, India, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Romania and Tunisia
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Chad, Ghana, Philippines, Thailand and Turkey. These are exempt for a maximum of 90 days (on condition that they do not exercise an economic activity)
- 3:** — Exemption for civilian air and sea crew
- Special conditions for the internal navigation of the Rhine and Danube
- 4:** — Flight crew and attendants on emergency or rescue flights and other helpers in the event of disaster or accident

Greece:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Albania, Bulgaria, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia, Turkey and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) (Montenegro and Serbia)
- Holders of diplomatic passports: Romania

Spain:

- 1 and 2:** — For Bulgaria, Morocco, Romania and Tunisia: exemption for holders of diplomatic passports for a maximum of 90 days
- For the Philippines and Turkey: exemption for holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports for a maximum of 90 days
- 3:** — Exemption for civilian air and sea crew

France:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports, official duty or special passports: Turkey
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Côte d'Ivoire
- Holders of diplomatic passports: Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Gabon, Morocco, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia
- 3:** — Exemption for civilian air crew within the meaning of Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention of 7 December 1944 on International Civil Aviation
- Exemption for civilian sea crew holding certificates Convention No 108 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) of 13 May 1958, in accordance with the International Convention of 9 May 1965
- 5:** — Holders of French residence documents (with the exception of documents issued by New Caledonia, Wallis and Fortuna, French Polynesia, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), or by Monaco

Ireland:

- 3:** — Exemption for civilian air and sea crew members

Italy:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports: Peru
- Holders of diplomatic passports: Albania, Romania; exempted for a maximum of 90 days
- Holders of official duty passports: Peru; exempted for a maximum of 90 days
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Mauritania, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey (also exempt for holders of special passports)
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports exempted for a maximum of 90 days: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Gambia, Guyana, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Niger, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) (Montenegro and Serbia)
- 3:** — Exemption for civilian aircrew holding licences and certificates according to annexes 1 to 9 of the Chicago Convention of 7 December 1944 on International Air Transport

Austria:

- 1 and 2:** — Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Côte d'Ivoire, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, Turkey
- Holders of diplomatic passports: Romania, Bulgaria and FYROM
- Holders of United Nations passes
- Persons benefiting from privileges and immunities holding special identity cards
- Customs and immigration officials working in co-operation with the Austrian authorities
- Members of Implementation Force (IFOR) and Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in transit

- 3: — For Bulgaria: exemption for sea crew (Danube)
- 4: — Flight crew and attendants on emergency or rescue flights and other helpers in the event of disaster or accident
- 5: — Sports teams in transit, political guests
- Train crews in transit

Portugal:

- 1 and 2: — Holders of diplomatic passports: Bulgaria, Romania
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Angola, Cape Verde, Morocco, Mozambique, Sao Tomé and Principe and Tunisia
- 3: — Exemption for civilian sea crew holding certificates issued by signatories to Convention No 108 of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and for civilian air crew holding licences and certificates within the meaning of Annexes 1 to 9 of the Chicago Convention of 7 December 1944 on International Civil Aviation

Finland:

- 1 and 2: — Holders of diplomatic passports: Bulgaria
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Turkey

Sweden:

- 1 and 2: — Holders of diplomatic passports: Bulgaria
- Holders of diplomatic passports and official duty passports: Philippines, Thailand and Turkey
- Holders of United Nations passes or of European Union passes travelling on official business

United Kingdom:

- 1 and 2: — Accredited members of diplomatic missions in London and their families (unless the person was recruited locally while in the United Kingdom and is not a diplomatic agent). In the case of nationals from countries who are subject to a visa requirement a gratis exempt visa should be obtained prior to travel to facilitate entry into the United Kingdom
 - Persons exempted by the Secretary of State (in effect, persons employed by international organizations)
 - Members of the Home (Armed) Forces, and members of Commonwealth or NATO forces serving in the United Kingdom or attending training courses
 - 3: — Exemption for civilian air and sea crew members who are arriving in or departing from the United Kingdom as crew members
 - 5: — Persons with the right of abode in the United Kingdom
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