



Ad-Hoc Query on blank passports

Requested by NL EMN NCP on 16 February 2011

Compilation produced on 2 May 2011

Responses from [Austria](#), [Estonia](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Malta](#), [Netherlands](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#) plus [Norway](#) (16 in Total)

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1. Background Information

The Netherlands do not accept a foreign national passport which is sent by mail to the holder or a family member. In the Netherlands this passport is called a blank passport. In many cases this passport has not been applied for in person.

As in this case there has been no confirmation of the identity at the application or the issue of the foreign national passport, the Netherlands does not accept this passport as a recognized passport.

Nb. Blank passports are considered blank when no identification of the holder has taken place and the passport has been sent to the holder. For example: new Nigerian biometric passports are sent to the holder but no identification of the holder had taken place at the application. Old Nigerian passports are sent to the holder but no identification had taken place at the application and are therefore considered blank passports.

1. Do you know blank passports?
- 1a. If yes, do you accept this passport?

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2. Do you require that the individual's identity is established or confirmed by the authorities of the country of nationality when the foreign national applies for the passport?
3. Do you require that the individual's identity is established or confirmed when the passport is issued?

2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination? ²	1. Do you know blank passports? 1a. If yes, do you accept this passport? 2. Do you require that the individual's identity is established or confirmed by the authorities of the country of nationality when the foreign national applies for the passport? 3. Do you require that the individual's identity is established or confirmed when the passport is issued?
	Austria	Yes	No, in Austria such passports are not known in the settlement and residence procedure.
	Belgium	Yes	
	Bulgaria	Yes	
	Cyprus	Yes	
	Czech Republic	Yes	Since there is no requirement as to common approach to application and issuance of travel documents, passports that were sent or delivered to the holder are generally accepted. If a foreign national residing lawfully in the Czech Republic reports to the authorities that he/she has got new passport, the officer to whom he/she reports is obliged to confirm identity of the foreign national by checking his/her photo and personal data with those featured into Foreigners' Information System.
	Denmark	Yes	
	Estonia	Yes	There is no concept of blank passports in Estonia.
	Finland	Yes	1. Yes. 1a. Yes, case by case, based on risk assessment and nationally approved on EU Table of travel documents. 2. Yes, case by case. 3. Yes.

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			Alien's act 301/2004 § 13-15 http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2004/en20040301.pdf
	France	Yes	<p>1. No, in France we do not use the term "blank passports". Consulates of France abroad accept passports issued by foreign authorities. These travel documents are recognized or not, according to criteria established by the Central Directorate of Border Police (DCPAF in French) and must meet certain security requirements and challenges of falsification. Consulates can not know if the passport was delivered personally or sent by mail to the applicant.</p> <p>2-3. France does not examine the way a foreigner obtained his passport abroad, neither the application nor the issuance. On the French territory, the issuance of a travel document is subject to the personal appearance of the applicants who must give his fingerprints, submit a digital photograph and sign his passport.</p>
	Germany	Yes	
	Greece	Yes	Greece recognizes only passports and travel documents which are included in the "Table of travel documents entitling the holder to cross the external borders and which may be endorsed with a visa" (based on the E.U. Council document 5705/10 VISA 25 COMIX 80/01.02.2010-Part I and E.U. Council/ General Secretariat document 7789/10-VISA 91-COMIX 229/17-06-2010-Parts II and III).
	Hungary	Yes	<p>During the procedure, we accept the so called "blank passport", which is sent by mail to the third-country national from his/her family member or friend. In this case the passport has not been controlled at the border by the authorities, so there are no stamps/visas etc. in it, consequently it is blank, except for the page containing the personal data.</p> <p>If there is doubt about the validity of the passport, the competent department calls for a forensic document expert to verify the validity of the document.</p> <p>Please note that from 15th February 2010 Hungary does not accept laminated Nigerian blank passports as the Nigerian Embassy of Hungary has made a declaration stating that they do not recognise laminated Nigerian passports to be valid.</p>
	Ireland	Yes	
	Italy	Yes	
	Latvia	Yes	Latvia does not have a concept of "blank passports". We accept any passport that corresponds to the official and recognized format and do not analyze the procedure under which this passport has been issued.
	Lithuania	Yes	1. Yes.

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			1a. Yes, if the document is valid and there are no evidence it is falsified. 2. Do not check. 3. No.
	Luxembourg	Yes	
	Malta	Yes	1. We do not use this term for the cases described. 2. Once it is the country of nationality that is issuing the passport we do not make any reservations. 3. The answer is similar to the previous question. Once the passport is being issued by the country of nationality we assume that the authorities of this country would have carried out all the required checks as may be established by their own national law and procedures.
	Netherlands	Yes	The Netherlands do not accept a foreign national passport which is sent by mail to the holder or a family member. In the Netherlands this passport is called a blank passport. In many cases this passport has not been applied for in person. As in this case there has been no confirmation of the identity at the application or the issue of the foreign national passport, the Netherlands do not accept this passport as a recognized passport.
	Poland	Yes	
	Portugal	Yes	1. No. In fact PT assumes only blank passports as blank stolen passports. 2. Yes 3. Yes
	Romania	Yes	
	Slovak Republic	Yes	The Slovak Republic does not know or use the term „blank passports“ and does not have any experiences with blank passports at all. The Slovak Republic does not examine the way in which a foreigner obtained a passport, in this case by mail, in person or through his/her family member. The Slovak Republic examines only the authenticity of the travel documents.
	Slovenia	Yes	
	Spain	Yes	1-Spain accepts foreign national passports issued by relevant authorities. 2 and 3- In those cases where doubts arise about identities,. Spain screens the identities through the relevant authorities of the country.
	Sweden	Yes	1. Yes 1a. The process of issue is not part of the requirements for recognizing a third country travel document under national legislation and hence this process is not always known to the Swedish authorities. Furthermore, if a specific travel document is recognized as such in Sweden it is generally also regarded sufficient to confirm the holder's identity. Hence, the answer to this question is a qualified "yes". 2. No

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			3. No
	United Kingdom	Yes	
	Norway	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norway does encounter 'blank passports', but they are not recognized as valid. The Norwegian legislation requires that the holder must have appeared in person at an office of the competent issuing authority. 2. It is a requirement that a passport is issued by a national competent authority. This may be a consular representation in the country of residence. 3. Yes, the passport holder's identity should be confirmed. For countries without adequate national registers, identity established beyond a reasonable doubt will be accepted.