

Singapore: Launch of the Long Term Pass Card on 1 July 2009

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Plans to issue all foreign pass holders with the new biometric Long Term Pass (LTP) card were first announced by the Singapore Immigration authorities in July 2008. This formed part of a wider initiative to enhance national security and bring foreign passes closer in line with the Identity Cards held by Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents.

From 1 July 2009, the LTP card will be issued to all Ministry of Manpower (MOM) categories of passes* including Employment Pass, Dependant's Pass and Long Term Visit Pass.

Key features of the LTP card

The new card format will display the photo image and fingerprint biometrics of all cardholders aged 15 and above, and replaces the previous dual system of a stamp endorsement in the holder's travel documents and paper-laminated green 'FIN' card.

In addition to the increased security features designed to reduce forgery or fraudulent use of passes, the LTP card is intended to facilitate expedited and automated immigration clearance at major checkpoints in Singapore through faster verification of personal particulars by the end of 2009.

Personal attendance at the Employment Pass Services Centre

The biometric features of the new card require mandatory personal attendance at the new 'Employment Pass Services Centre' (EPSC) to complete the registration process, photo imaging and fingerprint formalities.

All pass holders will be required to attend at the EPSC. However, only individuals aged 15 and above will be mandatorily required to complete the fingerprinting formalities. Fingerprinting will be optional for children aged between six and 14, and not required for those aged five years and below.

Personal attendance at the EPSC is only required following in-principle approval of the application and completion by the employer or sponsor of the new 'e-Issuance' procedures. An e-Appointment should be made via the MOM website to attend at the EPSC. Group bookings of up to six people are also available to enable a family to attend together.

When reporting to the EPSC, individuals must bring with them the supporting documents requested by the MOM. An appointed officer will review and verify the documents provided and register the fingerprints and photo imaging. The MOM targets that the approximate duration for a single appointment will be 15 minutes (30 minutes for a group booking).

The LTP card would be ready for collection approximately four working days after completion of the above formalities. Personal attendance is not required to facilitate collection.

Conversion of existing passes to the LTP card format

Current holders of an Employment Pass or related pass will only be required to undertake the biometric formalities at the time of the renewal of their existing pass. The full transition of all existing green FIN cards to the new LTP card format may therefore take place over a period of approximately two years.

* Also includes Personalised Employment Pass, Entre Pass, Training Employment Pass and Work Holiday Pass.

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This guide is intended as a brief overview only – please contact us for further information and advice.

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