Bundesamt
für Migration
und Flüchtlinge

The electronic residence permit (eAT)

At a glance

- Introduction 1st September 2011
- Replaces the previous adhesive label
- Standardisation of residence permits for residents of non-member states throughout Europe
- Credit card format
- Contact-free chip inside the card
- Protection from misuse via digital photograph and fingerprints, thus enabling clear allocation of the residence permit and its holder
- Electronic identification function for transactions on the internet and at machines
- Prepared for the electronic signature for legally binding signing of digital documents

The conventional residence permit (adhesive label), the residence card and permanent residence card and replacement ID in paper form will be replaced by an electronic residence permit (eAT) in credit card format as of 1st September 2011.

The electronic residence permit is equipped with a contact-free chip inside the card on which biometric features (photograph and two fingerprints), ancillary conditions (special requirements) and personal data are saved. In addition, the chip is capable of using as electronic identity document and qualified electronic signature.

All EU member states are required to introduce the electronic residence permit. This is based on EU Regulations (EC) No. 1030/2002 and (EC) No. 380/2008. The goal is to standardise the residence permits of the European Union, strengthen the bond between the document and the document's holder and prevent misuse through the use of biometric data. All residents of non-member states (including infants and children) shall be issued their own electronic residence permits.

NOTE

The previous residence permit in passports and passport replacement documents shall remain valid until no later than 30th April 2021.

All information and transmissions are protected by internationally recognised and established encoding methods. A certificate of authorisation establishes who is allowed to access individual-related data. The holders can be confident that only authorised offices shall be granted access.

Biometric features

The photograph is saved on the body of the card **and** on the chip. Two fingerprints will also be saved on the chip for all residents of non-member states ages 6 and up.

For that reason, it is necessary to appear in person for the application.

Only official bodies (such as the police or aliens authorities) are authorised to access the photograph and fingerprints.

Ancillary conditions (special requirements)

Ancillary conditions are saved on the chip **and** on a unique supplementary sheet which comes with the electronic residence permit.

The notice "SEE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET" is applied to the body of the card. If the ancillary conditions are changed, a new supplementary sheet shall be compiled and the data on the chip shall be changed.

Only official bodies are permitted to access the ancillary conditions.

Online identification function

Suppliers from the fields of economics and administration (such as banks or official authorities) will be able to offer electronic services in which the holder identifies himself or herself electronically using the electronic residence permit. This simplifies the process of logging into internet portals, filling out forms and verifying one's age on the internet or at machines.

Only suppliers who possess state authorisation shall receive access to the holder's data. In addition, the holder must confirm the transfer of his or her personal data with a six-digit pin number.

The service providers are not able to read the biometric features when using the online identification function.

Signature function

The electronic residence permit can also save a certificate for the qualified electronic signature. This provides electronic residence permit holders with the option of signing legally effective digital documents as desired.

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