

# UK Borders and Immigration System

## UPT ETA Engagement Event Pleasure Craft

Future Borders & Immigration System (FBIS)  
October 2024



# Agenda

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# Universal Permission to Travel



# Permission to Travel

To strengthen the UK's borders, those travelling to the UK (except British and Irish citizens) must seek permission to travel in advance.

The type of permission will depend on the person's own circumstances

## NO CHANGE

**British & Irish citizens** will not need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Their passport will be evidence of their permission, if travelling from outside the Common Travel Area.

## TRANSITION TO DIGITAL ONLY PRODUCTS

**Visa nationals** and those already **granted permission to enter or remain** will not need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Their entry clearance, biometric residence document, other physical document or **eVisa** will be evidence of their permission.

## NEW

Those who **do not need a visa**, entry clearance or other specified immigration status will need an ETA to travel to the UK.

The **ETA** will be evidence of their permission.

Advance passenger information (API) will be submitted to the Home Office via the Submit a Pleasure Craft Report (sPCR) web service by the skipper, operator or agent. The Home Office will confirm whether the individual has a permission to travel to the UK.

# Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETA)



# What is an ETA?

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Apply online for  
an Electronic Travel  
Authorisation (ETA)



**ETA**  
APPLICATION

Enter details

To watch our  
'What is an ETA'  
video on YouTube,  
please click  
[here](#)

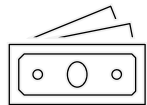
# What is Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)?



An ETA is advance permission to travel to, or transit through the UK, for those **who do not currently need to obtain a visa, or do not have a UK immigration status.**



An ETA will be valid for **2 years or until the passport expires, whichever is sooner** and for **multiple journeys** to the UK within that period.



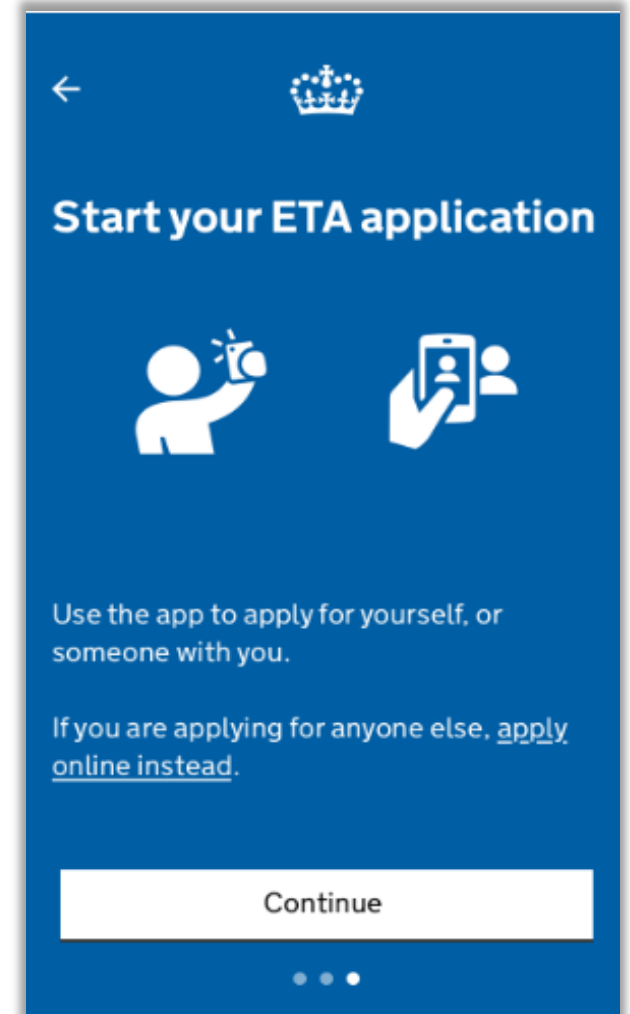
**The cost of an ETA will be £10 per application.**



The application process will be quick and light-touch via your mobile phone. Most applicants will receive a response within three working days, with many receiving a result sooner.



If successful, an ETA - **digital permission to travel** - will be granted.



# Visa and non-visa nationals

What does a 'visa national' mean?

A visa national means this person requires a visa to come to the UK, for any purpose.

What does a 'non-visa national' mean?

A non-visa national means this person does not require a visa to visit the UK, but will need an ETA once they are launched, if they don't already hold an entry clearance.



You can check if an individual requires a visa at: [UK visa requirements \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#)



# Who will need an ETA?



## Who will need an ETA?

### Eligible Non-Visa nationals

Infants and children

Tourism or visiting family and friends

Business trips or studying as a visitor (for up to 6 months)

Transiting through the UK

T5 Creatives

**European Nationals will be eligible in 2025**



## Who will not need an ETA?

**Visa nationals.** They will continue to require a visa for travel and entry to the UK.

Those with permission to live, work or study in the UK

British or Irish Passport Holders (including dual nationals)

Non-visa national residents of Ireland will not require an ETA to travel to the UK on a journey being undertaken within the Common Travel Area (CTA). (They will need an ETA to travel to the UK from outside the CTA).

Exempt individuals such as Diplomats will still be exempt, this is not changing.

Rules around Contract Seafarers will remain the same.

# What does not change:

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- Your **existing obligations under the Section 40 of the UK Immigration & Asylum Act 1999**.
- You will still need to make **face to document checks**, to ensure the person presenting the passport is the rightful holder and the document appears genuine and is valid.
- All **visa nationals will still require visas**, valid physical visas will continue to be checked in the usual way. The Home Office will continue the roll out of e-visas throughout 2024-2025.
- Non-visa nationals who already hold a visit visa (i.e. a 10-year visit visa which is still valid) will not require an ETA as the visa is their permission.



# UK ETA Scheme: Rollout to date

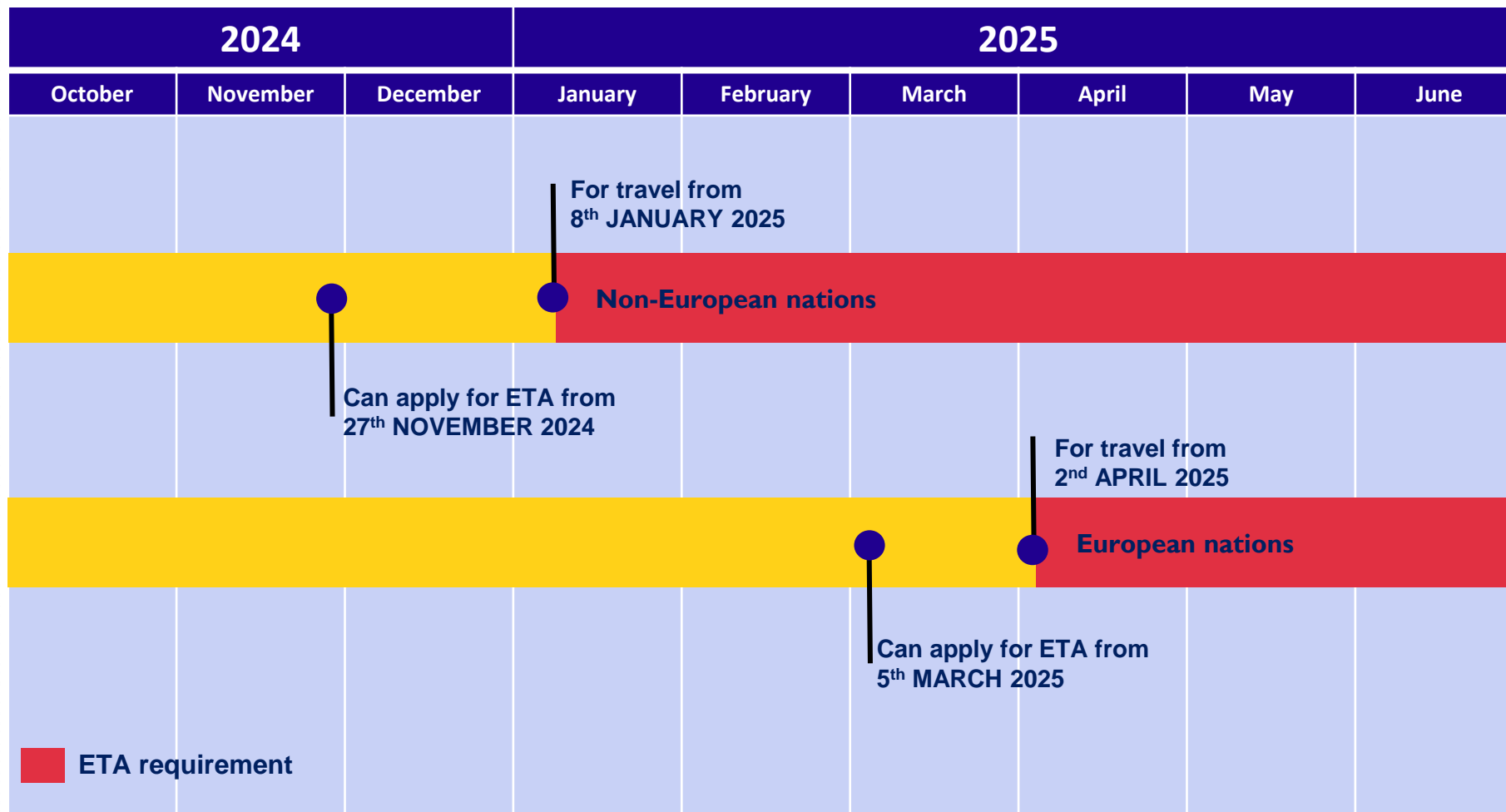
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- The **UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme launched in October 2023**, when applications opened for Qatari nationals.
- In February 2024, visitors from the remaining GCC States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates) were the next nationalities onboarded onto the scheme.
- Eligible non-Europeans can apply in advance from 27 November 2024 and will need an ETA to travel from 8 January 2025.
- Eligible Europeans can apply from 5 March 2025 and will need an ETA to travel from 2 April 2025.



# Further ETA scheme rollout:

From Autumn 2024, we will expand the ETA scheme to the remaining non-visa nationals who do not currently need a visa to come to the UK for up to 6 months.



## Non-European nations

Applications open:  
**27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

For travel from:  
**8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

## European nations

Applications open:  
**5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

For travel from:  
**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

\*List of nationalities and when they can apply: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-get-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

# Roll-out Phasing

## Phase 1

Nov 23\*  
Feb 24

Qatar\*  
Saudi Arabia  
Oman  
Bahrain  
Kuwait  
UAE

## Phase 2 Non-European nations

Apply from 27 November 2024  
Use from 8 January 2025

### Africa

Botswana  
Mauritius  
Seychelles

### Americas

Antigua & Barbuda  
Argentina  
Barbados  
Belize  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Mexico  
Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay  
Peru  
St Kitts & Nevis  
St Lucia  
St Vincent & Grenadines  
The Bahamas  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Uruguay  
USA

### Asia

Brunei  
Hong Kong (SAR)  
Israel  
Japan  
Macao (SAR)  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Singapore  
South Korea  
Taiwan

### Oceania

Australia  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Federated States of  
Micronesia  
Nauru  
New Zealand  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tonga  
Tuvalu

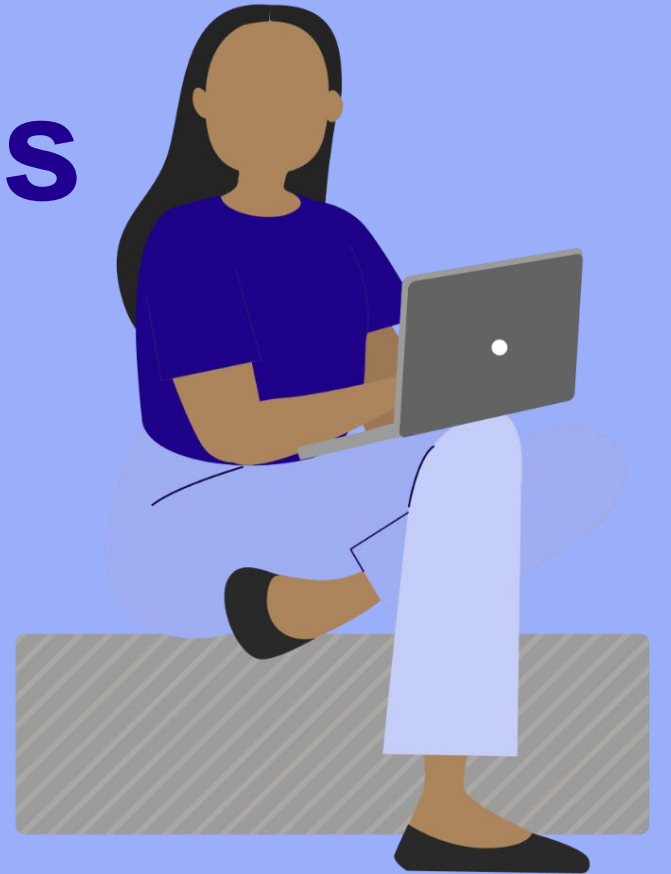
## Phase 3 - European nations

Apply from 5th March 2025  
Use from 2nd April 2025

### EU/EEA & Swiss



Andorra  
Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czechia  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Monaco  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
San Marino  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Vatican City

# UPT Response Messages



# Current UPT Response Messages

Currently there are two responses which skippers, operators, and agents will receive via sPCR to help conduct pre-departure checks.

UPT Response Status	
<p><b>VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL</b></p> 	<p>This confirms that the individual has a valid immigration permission and can board if they have a valid passport or travel document and that the passport or travel document presented is genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder.</p>
<p><b>NEED DOCUMENT CHECKS</b></p> 	<p>This means that you must check if this individual has a valid passport or travel document. For <u>visa nationals</u> you must also check for a valid immigration or exemption document. Follow this link to check <a href="#">UK visa requirements (accessible version) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>You should conduct a manual check for an immigration permission by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Checking for a valid physical immigration document (such as a visa vignette or stamp etc.)</li></ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- By using a sharecode which the individual can request from their UKVI account. Follow this link to access the service <a href="https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status">https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status</a></li></ul> <p><b>If the individual has no exemption or proof of physical or digital permission, you may contact the Home Office for advice by calling the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub 0300 369 0610</b></p>

# Demo Permission to Travel Checks Page

This demo page shows the responses that are shown to help skippers, operators and agents conduct their checks.

## Permission to travel checks

**!** If a person who sails with you does not have permission to travel to the UK, you may be liable for a penalty.

If a person's permission to travel changes, we may contact you.

For urgent queries, [contact the Border Force team](#) in the region you'll be arriving at.

### 1 person needs document checks

You must check if this individual has a valid passport or travel document.

For visa nationals follow this link to check [UK visa requirements \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) you must also check for a valid immigration or exemption document by

- Checking for a valid physical document (such as a visa or exemption document)

Or

- Using a sharecode provided by the individual. Follow this link to access the service <https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status>
- If you require further advice you may contact the Border Force Carrier Support Hub [0300 369 0610](tel:03003690610).

For more information on checking passports and travel documents click here [Guidance on examining identity documents \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Name	Nationality
------	-------------

Check User	Japan
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### 2 people have permission to travel

This is confirmation that these individuals have a valid immigration permission, and no other immigration checks are required.

You must still check that these individuals have a valid passport or travel document that is acceptable in the UK. Read the Gov.UK [Guidance on examining identity documents \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Name	Nationality
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Adha Kali	Dominica
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Max Kali	Greenland
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[Save and continue](#) [Save and come back later](#)

[▶ Need help?](#)

## Help and information

[New: permission to travel checks](#)

[Check the visa nationals list \(opens in new tab\)](#)

[Find out more about visas and immigration \(opens in new tab\)](#)



# DO NOT BOARD

There may be individuals whose travel to the UK must be prevented, these are individuals in scope of the Authority to Carry Scheme 2023. In order to prevent travel, the skipper, operator or agent will receive a **telephone call and an email** from the **National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC)** informing them that they do not have authority to carry a specific individual to the UK.

The on-screen response message will remain the same, however the skipper, operator or agent must act on the advice and instructions given by the NBTC and they must not carry the individual to the UK.

**2 people need document checks**

These people can board when you have verified their documents.

Check if they have:

- a valid passport or travel document that is acceptable in the UK
- a valid visa or exemption document if they are from a country on the [visa nationals list \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Read the GOV.UK guidance on [examining identity documents \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Name	Nationality
Luna Lovegood	United Kingdom
kelly Brimal	Cuba

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**2 people have permission to travel**

You must still check if these people have a valid passport or travel document that is acceptable in the UK.

Read the GOV.UK guidance on [examining identity documents \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Name	Nationality
Jimmy Choo	Qatar
John Doe	Jordan

## IMPORTANT:

Skippers, operators and agents are expected to follow the on-screen permission to travel instructions unless they receive a call from the National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) advising them not to board the individual.

Follow this link for further information [Authority to Carry Scheme 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/authority-to-carry-scheme-2023)

**\*Please note that a 'DO NOT BOARD' instruction is a rare occurrence\***

# UPT Response Messages

This table shows the existing UPT responses and the upcoming responses that will be added to the sPCR web user service in due course. Before those responses are added full details will be provided to support skippers, operators, and agents ahead of the change.

Sector	Existing/ Upcoming	FBIS CODE	UPT Response	Brief Description
Board	Existing	0A	VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	The Home Office can find a valid permission to travel for the individual
Check	Upcoming	0B	NO RECORD OF VALID PERMISSION TO TRAVEL	A manual check is needed to determine whether the individual has an immigration permission
	Existing	0Z	NEED DOCUMENT CHECKS	A manual check is needed to determine whether the individual has an immigration permission if they require one
	Upcoming	0P	PERMISSION DECISION PENDING	A manual check is needed to determine whether the individual has an immigration permission
No Board	Manual Contact	1Z	AUTHORITY TO CARRY REFUSED. DO NOT BOARD.	Currently this message is communicated directly via a phone call and email from Border Force
Error	Upcoming	0T	SYSTEM TIME OUT	A system error has occurred, and further instruction will be provided to explain how to proceed
	Existing	4Z	INSUFFICIENT DATA	A system error has occurred, and further instruction will be provided to explain how to proceed

# Passenger and Crew Handling Guidance



# Requirements

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Once ETA is enforced, all passengers, except British and Irish nationals, will require an immigration permission to travel to the UK.

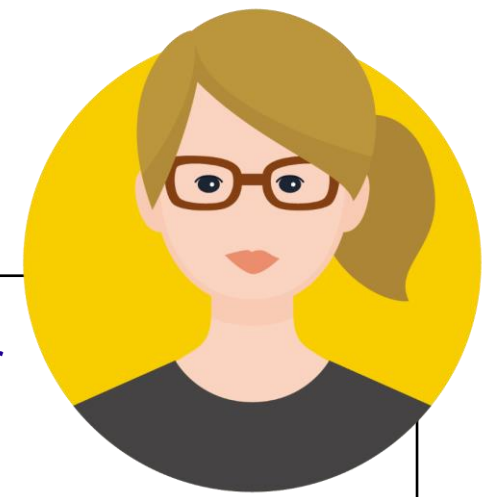
This means:

**Visa nationals** travelling to the UK will require a visa/valid immigration permission, or exemption as they do now.

**Non visa nationals** who do not already hold a visa, other valid immigration permission, or exemption, will be required to have a valid ETA if they are travelling to the UK regardless of whether they intend to leave the vessel.

# Dual nationals

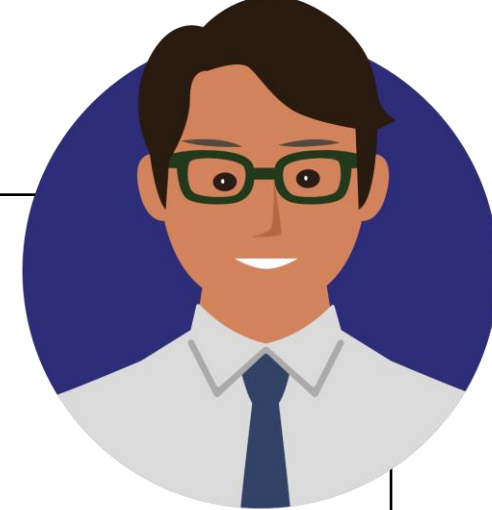
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- Dual nationals must travel on the passport which they used to apply for their ETA, as their ETA will be linked to their passport.
- British and Irish citizens who are also dual nationals do not require an ETA.
- British Citizens who are also dual nationals should prove their permission to travel by holding a British passport or other passport containing a Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode. If a passenger holds a valid genuine British passport or another passport containing a genuine Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode, this may be accepted as permission to travel.
- Irish citizens who are also dual nationals should prove their permission to travel by holding an Irish passport or passport card. If a passenger holds a valid genuine Irish passport or passport card, this may be accepted as permission to travel.
- In all cases, carriers should continue to ensure that any British or Irish documents held by passengers are genuine and held by the rightful holder.

# Crew

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Crew will continue to be covered by different sets of legislation depending on their nationality, circumstances/purpose of travel and documentation:

## **Crew travelling in and outbound to and from the UK**

Crew members working in and out bound to the UK on a vessel are usually covered by section 8(1) of the 1971 Immigration Act which means they do not need permission to travel.

This means:

**Visa national** crew members who qualify under Section 8(1) of the Immigration Act will be exempt from the visa requirement because they are part of the crew.

**Non-visa national** crew members who qualify under Section 8(1) of the Immigration Act will be exempt from the ETA requirement because they are part of the crew.

Crew API will be submitted in the same way as it is now, and skippers, operators, and agents remain liable for ensuring that individuals have the correct permissions in accordance with section 8(1) of IA 1971.

[Sailing a pleasure craft that is arriving in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

# Remaining ETA Rollout Application Window – Key dates & changes

Key Dates	What will change for passengers	What this means for skippers, operators and agents
<b>From 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	ETA applications will open for eligible <b>non-European nations</b> .	If passengers does not hold an ETA during this period (27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025) they can still travel to the UK.
<b>From 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 until the end of implementation period before ETA is enforced (Date TBC)</b>	<p>Eligible <b>non-European nations</b> will require an ETA to travel to the UK.</p> <p>Passengers must apply for an ETA before travelling to the UK. If the outcome of their ETA application has not been decided before their departure date, they can still travel to the UK pending a decision.</p>	<p>As with all non-visa nationals, skippers, operators and agents will not be liable for a penalty charge related to permission to travel checks. However, they must continue to check and satisfy themselves that the passenger's travel document is genuine and that they are the rightful holder.</p> <p>During the phased roll-out of ETA, passengers will not be refused at the border, nor should they be refused boarding if they do not hold an ETA. However, if skippers, operators and agents encounter a passenger who is concerned they do not have an ETA before travel, they should encourage them to apply before their departure and can still carry them pending a decision.</p>

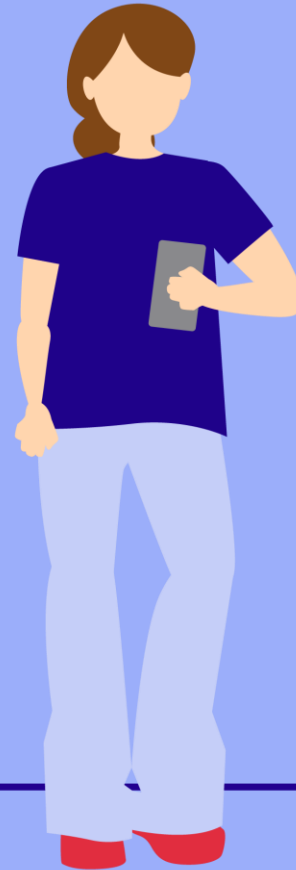
# Passenger Handling Scenarios

Nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates moved to non-visa national status and require an ETA.

Passenger Scenario		
During the Application Window (27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025)		
1	An eligible non-European passenger who already holds a UK visa or immigration status.	Valid Permission to Travel
2	An eligible non-European passenger has applied and is granted an ETA. They attempt to travel to the UK prior to 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 with an ETA, they do not hold a valid visa or other UK immigration status.	Valid Permission to Travel
From 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 until the end of implementation period before ETA is enforced (Date TBC)		
3	An eligible non-European passenger is concerned as they have only just realised they need an ETA to travel to the UK, and the ship is due to depart imminently.	Valid Permission to Travel
4	An eligible non-European passenger holds a valid UK visa or Biometric Resident's Permit. The passenger will not require an ETA, as the valid visa or Biometric Resident's Permit is their permission.	Valid Permission to Travel



# eVisa Overview



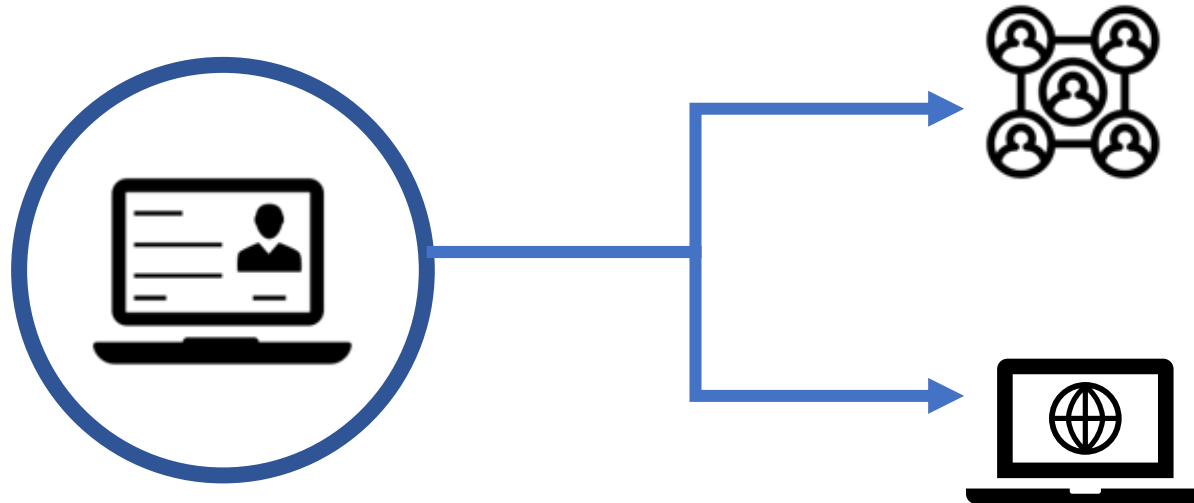
# eVisa Overview



- UK Government is developing a border and immigration system that is “digital by default”
- Physical immigration documents such as biometric residence permits (BRPs) and visa vignette stickers are being phased out and replaced with eVisas – an electronic record including a person’s immigration conditions.
- eVisas can be viewed, checked, and shared online or via interfaces that allow rapid, high-volume confirmation of people’s immigration status and associated permissions.
- Our aim is to move to a purely digital solution for BRP holders by the end of 2024 and for vignette only products later in 2025.

# What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is an online record of a customer's immigration status and the conditions of their permission to enter or stay in the UK. Customers will need to create a UKVI account to be able to access their eVisa. This eVisa **removes the requirement for physical documents** such as Visa vignettes (physical visa sticker in passport), or the Biometric Residence Permits (BRP).



An eVisa is formed of  
2 key parts

**Digital Status** – This is held against a customer's profile on our Person Centric Data Platform. Reflecting the most up to date and accurate activity e.g. a grant of leave, refusal of leave or submission of a new application.

**A UKVI Account** – a secure login, enabling the customer to prove their immigration status, their right to work and right to rent digitally.

# Checking immigration permissions

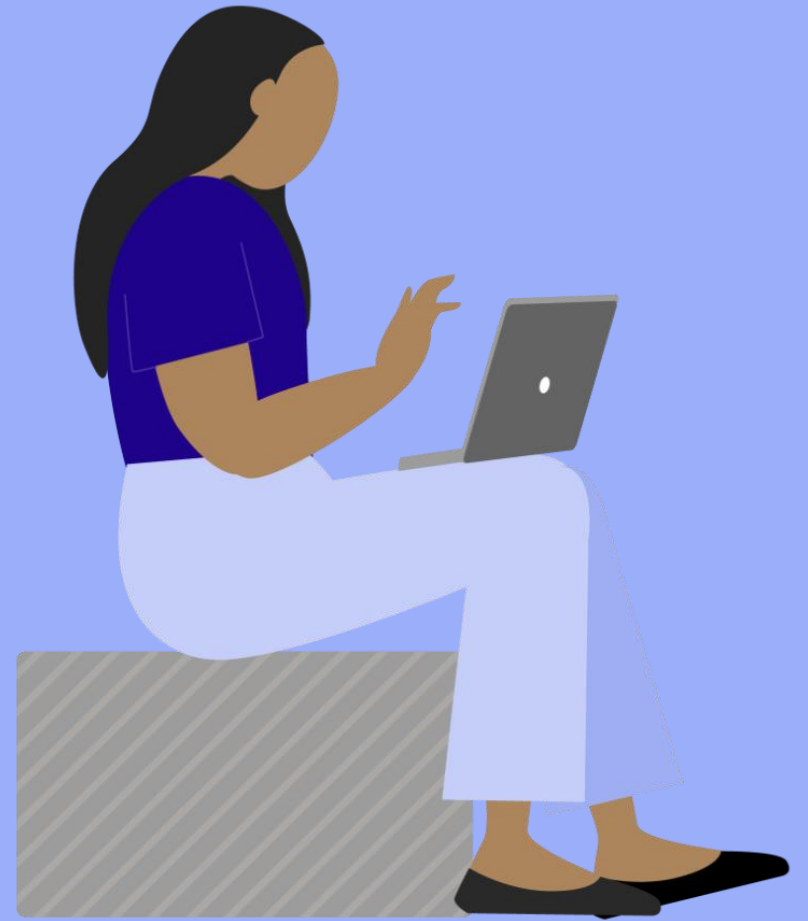
- Visa nationals should receive a Valid Permission to Travel response if they have an eVisa which is linked to the passport or travel document they are travelling on.
- When the Need document checks response is returned for a visa national the following steps should be followed to establish:
  - **If the passenger has a valid immigration permission or exemption**
  - **If the passenger is travelling on the travel document linked to their UK Visas & Immigration account**

<b>Permission</b> - Ask the passenger if they have an exemption or valid UK immigration permission	<b>No</b>	<b>No permission</b> – Direct passenger to GOV.UK
	<b>No</b>	<b>Exempt</b> - Check exemption documents
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Ask About Passport/Travel Docs</b> – ask the passenger if they are travelling on the passport or travel doc linked to their permission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>If no</b>, passenger can log into their UKVI account and update their details.</li><li>• <b>If yes</b>, skippers, operators and agents can conduct a manual check:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Check for a valid physical document</li><li>○ Check the passenger’s immigration status on Gov.UK using the Share Code function</li><li>○ Call Carrier Support Hub for advice</li></ul></li></ul>

# Passenger Permission Summary

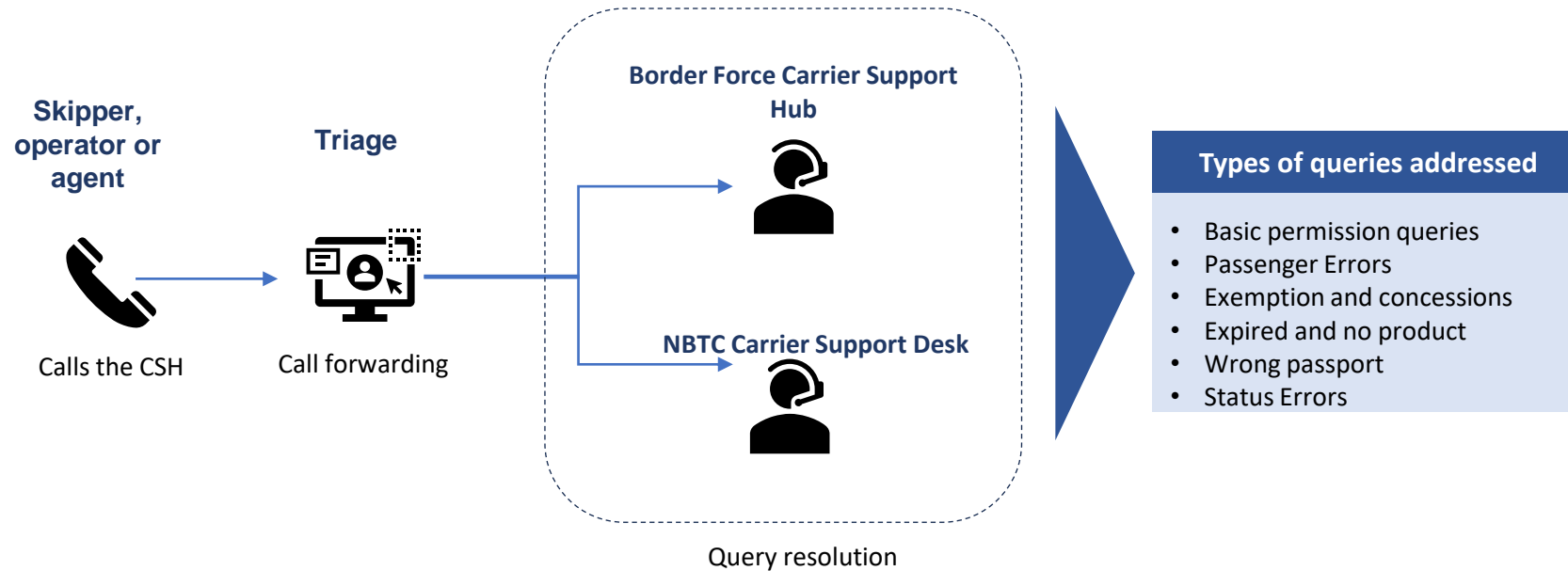
Passenger Type	UK UPT Requirements (Journeys to the UK)	What this means for skippers, operators and agents
<b>British and Irish Citizens</b>	Their passport is their permission	No change (they can board if they have a valid passport or travel document, if the passport or travel document presented is genuine and valid, and that the person is the rightful holder).
<b>Visa Nationals</b>	As now all visa nationals will require a visa/valid immigration permission, or exemption.	As above passport/ travel document checks must be satisfied as well as immigration permission checks. As we transition to digital only products, passengers may have digital only products which can be checked using share code if required.
<b>Non-Visa Nationals eligible to apply for an ETA</b> <b>+</b> <b>All other Non-Visa Nationals (Including European Nationals eligible from 2025)</b>	As the ETA rollout continues, non-visa nationals who require an ETA should obtain one before travelling to the UK.	<p>As above passport/ travel document checks must be satisfied. If these passengers have a valid ETA, a positive UPT response should be returned. Until ETA is enforced skippers, operators and agents should familiarise themselves with the new requirements during the ETA rollout period.</p> <p>During the phased roll-out of ETA, passengers will not be refused at the border, nor should they be refused boarding if they do not hold an ETA. However, if skippers, operators and agents encounter a passenger who does not have an ETA before travel, they should encourage them to apply before their departure and allow them to board.</p>

# Carrier Support



# UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub

If skippers, operator or agents require advice, the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub is a **24/7 support function** within the Home Office, to answer all queries related to a passenger's permission to travel to the UK.



If you require advice about a passenger's permission to travel, please call:

**0300 369 0610 or +44 204 619 6020 from outside the UK**

# Future Engagement





# Future Engagement

Updated sPCR Information Pack

Future engagement on ETA & UPT codes



# Thank You

**For all sPCR queries including feedback:  
SPCR@homeoffice.gov.uk**

# Glossary

Abbreviation	Term
API	Advance Passenger Information
ATC	Authority to Carry
BRP/C	Biometric Residence Permit/ Cards
BN(O)	British National (Overseas)
CLS	Carriers Liability Scheme
CL	Carriers Liability
CTA	Common Travel Area
ETA	Electronic Travel Authorisation
EVW	Electronic Visa Waiver
eVisa	Electronic Visa
FBIS	Future Border & Immigration System
NBTC	National Border Targeting Centre
sPCR	Submit a Pleasure Craft Report
UKVI	UK Visas and Immigration
UPT	Universal Permission to Travel