

Introducing the NEW ePassport



Canadian passports have gotten a high-tech makeover! As of July 1, 2013, all passports issued are ePassports.

ePassport

Canada's new enhanced electronic [ePassport](#) is now available to all Canadians.

An ePassport is also known as a biometric passport. It looks like a traditional passport book, but it contains sophisticated, tried and true technology that makes the passport more secure.

Considered to be the gold standard of travel documents, ePassports contain an electronic chip that enhances the passport's current security features, provides greater protection against tampering and reduces the risk of fraud.

In compliance with the recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization, over 100 countries, including the United States, France and the United Kingdom, are also issuing ePassports.

ePassport Enhanced Security:

The Canadian ePassport looks like a regular passport, but has new security features that make the passport even more tamper-proof.

An [electronic chip](#) embedded in the back cover stores the same personal information that you see on page 2 of the passport (except for the signature), the photo and a digital security feature that proves the passport was issued by the Government of Canada.

When information is first stored on the e-chip in the passport, the e-chip is electronically locked so that your information cannot be tampered with. No additional information about you or your travels will be stored on the e-chip.

At border crossings equipped with ePassport readers, the ePassport is put into a scanner that reads the machine-readable zone, which in turn allows the e-chip to be read as well. The machine also checks

other security features, such as the [country-specific signature](#). Border authorities not equipped with ePassport readers will continue to examine travellers' passports as they do now, looking at other security features such as holographic images.

*Please note that there is **no** requirement to replace your valid non-electronic passport with an ePassport. Canadian passports that do not contain an electronic chip are highly secure and will still be valid until they expire.*

For more information about the ePassport, visit:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/passport/help/epassport.asp>