

How To Apply For A Hong Kong Identity Card



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REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTRATION FOR AN IDENTITY CARD

Under the Registration of Persons Ordinance, all residents in Hong Kong who are aged 11 and over are required to register for an identity card, except those who are exempted or excluded. Facilities are provided by the Registration of Persons Office of the Immigration Department.



Everyone who enters and is permitted to stay in Hong Kong for more than 180 days must apply to register within 30 days of arrival.

ADULT (AGE 18 OR ABOVE)

Everyone aged 18 years and above should register for an identity card. Juveniles holding identity cards issued to them between the ages of 11 and 17 are also required to apply in person for a new identity card within 30 days after their 18th birthday, failing which they shall be guilty of an offense and liable to a fine of HK\$10,000 and one year's imprisonment.

This is actively enforced. Police have the right to see your ID card on demand and stop well over two million people a year on the streets for that purpose, including non-Chinese.

A combination of the following documents are required:

- △ *proof of identity such as passport/travel documents/recent school documents with certified photograph (eg student handbook or school record card);*
- △ *birth certificate with a photocopy;*
- △ *naturalization or registration certificate issued in Hong Kong with a photocopy;*
- △ *previous identity card or juvenile identity card;*
- △ *proof of legal residence in Hong Kong.*

Laminated or tampered-with supporting documents without authorization are not accepted.

At the time of registration, the applicant will be photographed and thumb-printed. He or she will be given an official acknowledgment of registration, which will bear the identity card number and dates when it will be ready for collection.

FEES

There is no charge for identity cards issued to new arrivals and persons reaching the age of 11 or 18 and for Consular Corps Identity Cards for consuls, consular staff and their wives and dependents.

- 2 The fee is HK\$335 for replacement of a card which requires alteration and for replacement of a card which has been lost, destroyed, damaged or defaced.

See website: www.immd.gov.hk/html/home.htm Tel: 2824 6111 Fax: 2877 7711

HKSAR IDENTITY CARD PROJECT

The Hong Kong government is spending approximately HK\$2.99 billion to replace its existing identity (ID) card system with a multifunctional, electronic smart card system.

A feasibility study recommended the following:

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- △ *The new ID card should use secure base material for card production, and should utilize laser engraving technology with a combination of physical card security features;*
 - △ *The new card should capture the card-holder's facial image and two thumbprints;*
 - △ *A new computer system should have up-to-date supporting infrastructure, network design and equipment;*
 - △ *The old ID card application records should be converted into digital images to facilitate online retrieval of records;*
 - △ *A region-wide ID card replacement exercise should be conducted;*
 - △ *Apart from containing basic information such as the card holder's name, age and fingerprint image, the new ID card could also serve as a driver's license, library card and digital certificate.*
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Starting from mid-2003 the card, with a 10-year lifespan, has been introduced in phases; a process of card replacement by age groups which continued until March 31 2007. All new issues are already the "smart cards".

Meanwhile, old identity cards are being invalidated: all identity cards issued before January 23, 2003 will be declared invalid by batches in accordance with the "first apply, first invalidated" principle through the issue of Registration of Persons (Invalidation of Identity Cards) Order.