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**Ireland – Introduction of  
Passport Cards for Travel  
within EU, EEA**

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## flash Alert

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A new passport card for Irish nationals is to be made available for travel within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) from the end of September 2015.<sup>1</sup>

### Why This Matters

This change is a significant move by the Irish government to facilitate the mobility of Irish citizens within the EEA.

The move has potentially beneficial consequences for Ireland and its citizens, as it allows ease of movement for travellers (whether for business or pleasure), heightens security around Ireland-EU/EEA cross-border travel, and provides convenience for all those eligible to apply. In particular, the passport card creates an alternative “avenue” of mobility for individuals who encounter challenges with the sometimes lengthy administration process involved in the event of a lost/stolen passport, or in the event that a passport book is held by an embassy on a visa application.

### Key Advantages Associated with New Passport Card

#### Security

The security division of the Irish police has been enlisted to help foster the incorporation of appropriate security features in the new passport card. The card will have an embedded hologram photo on a strip on the reverse of the card, which will be the first instance of such an innovation on travel documents. These features are intended to provide added security for the cardholders.

#### Convenience

The passport card aims to promote convenience. The card is wallet size, and is designed with the needs of frequent travellers in mind. The applications are to be made online; alternatively, they may be done using a mobile application (“app”), so as to help avoid the lengthy processing times associated with applications for passport books. Payment for the card may only be made with debit/credit cards.

The passport card facilitates travel within the EU and the EEA in the event that passports are made unavailable; for example, if they are being held by embassies during a visa application.

### Details about Passport Card

- Individuals must be 18 years old or over in order to obtain a passport card.
- Individuals must hold a valid passport book in order to be eligible to apply for a passport card.

- The cost of the passport card will be €35, with an additional €5 postage fee if the applicant resides outside Ireland.
- The details submitted for use on the passport card must exactly match those on an individual's passport book.
- The passport card has a maximum validity of five years (or the remaining validity period of an individual's passport book).
- The mobile app allows applicants to use a photograph taken on their mobile device, which may then be used as the identification photo on the passport card, subject to compliance with international standards for passport photographs.

*Footnote:*

1 Additional information regarding this change can be found on the following Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Web page:

<https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/top-passport-questions/new-passport-card/> .

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*For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional\* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Ireland:*

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\* *KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services.*

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