UK VISA REQUIREMENTS

ALL nationals of the countries and territories listed below in red (underlined) need visas to enter or transit the UK. ALL nationals of the countries and territories listed below in black need visas to enter the UK landside. ALL visa nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

Airside Transient (where available):

Airside transient passengers are those who do not arrive at or depart from the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

Transit without visa (TWOV)
(i) if the passenger holds a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or
(ii) if the passenger has a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa).

Landside Transient:
Landside transient passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter/exit their country (eg, to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible).

Transit without visa (TWOV)
All visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:
(i) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
(ii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

Nationalities of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:
(a) Turkey
(b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
(c) New Zealand
(d) USA issued after 24 April 1998; or a valid USA-155 Temporary Immigrant visa (a wet ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form I-551/555 (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
(v) a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
(vi) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
(vii) a valid Schengen Approval Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or
(viii) a valid airline ticket from the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate that they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa

NB: E-visa residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border.

UK permanent residents
If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

If a visa national has a ‘certificate of entitlement to the right of abode’ label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents
If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-refugee or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit without a visa.

Visa
A seaman travelling on a duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO108 or ILO185 (having previously ratified ILO108): Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, People’s Republic of, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Cyprus, Cyprus, Northwestern, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, (iv) Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Myanmar, Morocco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, People’s Republic of China, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa. Service passport holders may transit without a visa. Holders of a public affairs passport may not transit without a visa. Service and public affairs passport holders do not require a visa if travelling with a service passport. A public affairs passport will be accepted by a service passport holder or a public affairs passport holder on an official visit to the UK.
4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa.
5. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit. Holders of ordinary passports may require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
6. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biometric page are exempt from the visa requirement.
7. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
8. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.

Iocked MA3: CARRIERS LIAISON SECTION, HOME OFFICE TEL: +44 20 3014 8282 [FAX 8221] CarriersLiaisonaction@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk The information on this poster was correct: December 2015