

10. Identity Cards

10.1 Introduction

Protocol Division issues an official identity card to accredited staff and their family members on the basis of the information provided in the "Notification of Arrival" forms submitted to Protocol Division. The identity card, which features a scanned photograph, represents official recognition of the status granted under the VCDR and VCCR. The card carries a brief statement of the level of immunity to which the bearer is entitled.

Identity cards are issued to:

- Diplomats (red);
- Administrative and Technical Staff (red);
- Service Staff (red);
- Career Consular Officers (blue);
- Consular Employees (blue);
- Consular Service Staff (blue);
- Officially recognised family members of the above and their children aged between 2 and 21 years (red or blue);
- Honorary Consuls (orange);
- Members of International Organisations (pink).

Locally engaged staff, Private Domestic Staff and official dependants with New Zealand citizenship/permanent resident status are not issued with identity cards.

10.2 Application Process

Identity cards are processed on receipt of 'Notification of Arrival' forms (MFA 600 and MFA 601) and two passport sized photos.

There is no charge for identity cards.

10.3 Issue of Identity Cards to Non-Resident Accredited Staff

An identity card will be issued to non-resident Heads of Mission (and spouses) and cross-accredited staff (and spouses) if they hold a New Zealand diplomatic visa or consular visa in their passport. Identity cards are not issued to children of cross-accredited staff.

10.4 Loss of Identity Card

The loss of an identity card must be reported to Protocol Division. One replacement card will be issued free of charge. One recent passport photo should accompany these requests.

10.5 Expired Identity Card

If an officer's assignment term extends, the identify card will expire while the holder is still in New Zealand. In such circumstances, a new card will be issued at the same time as the new visa. Application should be by way of a TPN with details of expected date of departure..

10.6 Change of Status

If an officer's designation changes, e.g. from Second Secretary to First Secretary, a new card may be issued. Inquiries should be directed to Protocol Division.

10.7 Use of Identity Card

When meeting and farewelling official visitors at the airport, identity cards cannot be used in place of an airport identity card issued by the Aviation Security Service. Refer to Chapter 24 for details on the airport identity card.

10.8 Return of Identity Card

Identity cards remain the property of the New Zealand Government and should be returned to Protocol Division together with a completed MFA 604 when a diplomat/official has finished their assignment in New Zealand.

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