

STATION INSTRUCTION

Station Instruction #	SI 303
Title	Travel to UK – ETA Update and eVisa Roll-out
Date of Issue	18 December 2024
Effective start date	FROM 1.1.2025
Effective end date	December 18, 2024
Written by	Justine Everett Immigration Manager
Reviewed by	DS, WH, DS Plus COAG AOCM and WH
	OPR No
	NA

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Reason for Issue

Travel to the UK

Electronic Travel Authorisation

An ETA is an electronic authorisation and will be available for Ground Crew to view on the customers phone or device. The UK Government introduced their Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme for all non-Visa nationals in a phased roll-out which commenced in November 2023 with Qatari nationals then further rolled out to Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) nationals from February 2024.

From 8th January 2025 the ETA scheme will be further rolled out to remaining non-Visa national (e.g. US, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, Japanese etc. for full list see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-get-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>). The list currently excludes EU/EEA and Swiss nationals.

The EU/EEA/Swiss cohort will be rolled out from 2nd April 2025, and more information will be provided prior to go-live.

eVisa from 1.1.2025

From 1st January 2025 some documents that have expired will still be acceptable as proof of immigration status for travel to the UK. This SI outlines the details and reasons for this change.

What is an ETA?

An ETA is an advance permission to travel to the UK for those nationals that do not currently require a Visa for the UK, or do not have UK Immigration status such as residency. Everyone is required to have an ETA including babies, children and adults. An ETA will be valid for 2 years or until the Passport expires, whichever is sooner, and is valid for unlimited journeys to the UK within that period. UK and Irish citizens are exempt from holding an ETA.

What happens if a customer does not have an ETA?

For a period of time, if a customer that requires an ETA, is not in the possession of one, the customer will still be allowed to board and travel – but Ground Crew must advise them this will soon become a requirement which they will have to have to be able to travel in the future.

This SI makes a change to the published Ground Handling Manual (GHM). The SI folder should have this instruction placed in it until its effective end date. GOM, GHP & other parties must ensure effective implementation of this SI at a local level. The accountable staff member at each airport must confirm to their easyJet Manager that the SI has been understood and embedded with all applicable Ground Crew. Local cascade may include some or all of the following:

- a signed read and brief, regular team briefing sessions to ensure Ground Crew understand SI content
- specific training and assurance of content comprehension by Ground Crew
- review of local audit checklists & training material to include any changes

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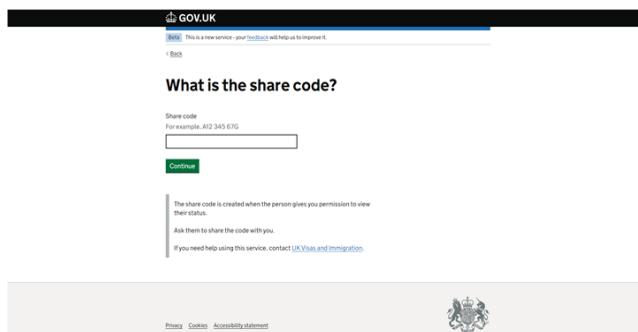
Travel to the UK

eVisa and Digital Documents

From the 1st January 2025 the UK Government is replacing physical evidence of immigration status such as biometric residence permits with digital evidence of immigration status, this is known as an eVisa. If a customer holds a digital eVisa they may no longer have a physical visa or other permission document to inspect.

When asking a customer to see their Visa or other travel permission they may not have one to show, but should be able to provide evidence of a share code for the View and Prove system. Ground Crew can accept the customer if they offer evidence of a Share Code (example page below).

Additionally, as an interim measure Visa, Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) and EU Settlement Scheme Biometric Residence Cards (EUSS BRC's), which expire on, or after, 31st December 2024 can be accepted as evidence of permission to travel to the UK until further notice.



PLEASE NOTE: Information on nationals who require a Visa, and not an ETA for the UK, can be found following this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6745a3f3e7cf64050b80989c/UK_Visa_requirements_November_2024_1.pdf

GHM amendments are as follows

Travel to the UK

Section	Title	Details
1.1.5.3	ID Requirements	<p>Electronic Travel Authorisation</p> <p>An ETA is an advance permission to travel to the UK for those nationals that do not currently require a Visa for the UK, or do not have UK Immigration status such as residency. Everyone is required to have an ETA including babies, children and adults. An ETA will be valid for 2 years or until the Passport expires, whichever is sooner, and is valid for unlimited journeys to the UK within that period. UK and Irish citizens are exempt from holding an ETA.</p> <p>Digital Travel Documents for the UK (eVisa)</p> <p>As an interim measure Visa, biometric residence permits (BRPs) and EU Settlement Scheme biometric residence cards (EUSS BRC's), which expire on or after 31st December 2024 can be accepted as evidence of permission to travel to the UK until further notice.</p>

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