

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1072
Land:	Iran
Kilde:	Nationalt ID-Center
Titel:	Iran: Issuance procedures for Iranian passports in Iran and abroad
Udgivet:	12. december 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	11. april 2024



12 December 2023

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Iran: Issuance procedures for Iranian passports in Iran and abroad

Introduction

The following note describes the issuance procedures of the Iranian passport both in Iran and at Iranian diplomatic representations.

The note is based on information obtained during fact finding-missions to Tehran in September-October 2018 and March 2022 and open source information.

The Iranian passport

Three versions of the Iranian passport have been produced since 1993.¹ Key features of the two latest versions, the 2002 version B and the 2014 version C, will be described in the following.



Image 1: Specimen of the 2002 version/version B (Edison TD).

¹ Landinfo, 5 January 2021, p. 26.



Image 2: Specimen of the 2014 version/version C (PRADO).

In both versions, the personalised information and the facial image are printed in inkjet. For both versions, passports issued to adults (over 18 years) are valid for five years. The design of each biographical data page is different, including the design of UV-reactive ink. Version B contains a security thread in the biographical data page, whereas it has been omitted in Version C. Version B contains 40 pages, whereas version C contains only 32 pages.

Iranian passports include the following biographical information:

- holder's name
- holder's signature
- gender
- date and place of birth
- national identity number
- country of residence
- father's name
- name and position of the issuing authority
- passport type
- passport number
- country code
- place of issue
- date of issue and
- date of expiry.²

Passports issued in Iran will have “*IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORT POLICE*” written as place of issue.

² DFAT, April 2020, p. 72.

Issuance in Iran

Ordinary passports are issued by the Immigration and Passport Police in Iran, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for issuing diplomatic passports.³ Since February 2011, all Iranian passports contain biometric data.⁴

In order to get a passport issued, citizens above 18 years of age must present their birth registration (Shenasnameh) and their national ID card (Kart-e Melli).⁵ According to the UK Home Office, applicants must also submit three passport photos taken within three months prior to the date of application.⁶ DFAT states that applicants must submit the original Shenasnameh as well as photocopies of all pages containing an ID-photograph, original and photocopy of their residence permit and three passport photos taken within three months prior to submission of the application.⁷ Applications for a passport are submitted at police stations and are typically processed within 10-15 days.⁸

In addition, children below 18 years must obtain the permission of the father or closest male relative in order to get a passport issued. Unmarried women above the age of 18 years are not required to get permission from the father to obtain a passport. Married women must present the husband's permission in order to have a passport issued.⁹

However, the wife does not need the approval of the husband to have a passport issued and travel, if:

- the woman's right to travel without the company of her husband is stipulated in the marriage contract as a condition for the marriage, she can obtain a passport and use it to travel without the approval of the husband.
- the husband is stationed abroad.
- the husband is non-Iranian.¹⁰

Issuance at Iranian representations abroad

Iranian representations abroad can handle first-time issuance, re-issuance and renewal of passports.

In case the applicant is abroad and has lost his or her passport and applies for re-issuance at the Iranian embassy in the country of residence, the applicant is required to bring a police report, the birth registration (Shenasnameh) and the national ID card (Kart-e Melli).¹¹

³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tehran, March 2022.

⁴ UK Home Office, 1 September 2018, p. 57.

⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tehran, March 2022.

⁶ UK Home Office, 1 September 2018, p. 57.

⁷ DFAT, April 2020, p. 72.

⁸ DFAT, April 2020, p. 72.

⁹ Landinfo, 5 January 2021, p. 29

¹⁰ Representatives of the Iranian government, Tehran, September 2018.

¹¹ Representatives of the Iranian government, Tehran, September 2018.

In countries with a big Iranian diaspora, the Iranian embassies can personalise the passports on site, whereas the smaller embassies will receive the passports from Iran with the personalisation done in Iran. Passports issued abroad will have the city of the issuing embassy stated as place of issue.¹²

¹² Representatives of the Iranian government, Tehran, September 2018.

References

Oral sources

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