

## **Frequently asked questions about the new version of the Republic of China (Taiwan) e-passport**

### **Q1. When may nationals begin applying for the new version of the e-passport?**

**A:** The new version of the e-passport will be issued starting on January 11, 2021. Applications will be accepted from that date.

### **Q2. May overseas nationals apply for the new version of the e-passport?**

**A:** Yes. Starting from January 11, 2021, applications for a new version of the e-passport will be accepted both domestically and at Republic of China (Taiwan) overseas missions. Existing rules covering required documents and procedures will continue to be in force. Overseas nationals are welcome to apply.

### **Q3. May all nationals apply for the new version of the e-passport? Will an application for the e-passport be accepted if the passport of previous version still has remaining validity of more than a year? May the passport of previous version still be used if the holder chooses not to renew the new version?**

**A:** According to the Passport Act, nationals may apply for passport reissuance if their current passport is not of the latest design. Therefore, after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has begun issuing the new version of the e-passport, national possessing a passport may and is welcome to apply at his/her own expense to renew it for a new version, regardless of the validity of his/her current passport. There is no need for concern for a national possessing a valid passport who does not wish to

apply for the new version immediately, he or she may continue to use it through its date of expiration. A limited quantity of commemorative gifts will be available to those who submit completed passport applications on January 11 to the Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA) in Taipei or MOFA's Central, Southern, Eastern, or Southwestern Taiwan Offices.

**Q4. Should I arrive early on January 11, 2021, to have a better chance of obtaining no. 1 new e-passport?**

**A:** Applications submitted to the Bureau of Consular Affairs or MOFA's Central, Southern, Eastern, or Southwestern Taiwan Offices before noon on January 11 will all be entered into a computerized drawing, with applicants having an equal chance to obtain a new passport with a number ending in 001 to 100. The winners will be announced on the afternoon of January 11 on the MOFA website.

**Q5. What documents must be provided when applying for a new version of the e-passport? What is the application process? How many working days will it take to receive the new passport? May applications be made at a Household Registration Office?**

**A:** The regulations currently in place concerning required documents, the application process, and required working days for different application categories—i.e., first-time application, renewal, and replacement—will also apply to applications for the new version. Details may be found on BOCA's webpage links (including regulations on how first-time applicants may apply at a Household Registration Office) as follows:

- Nationals with household registration applying in Taiwan for an ordinary passport (including first-time applicants and renewals):

<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-18-5797-d2b15-1.html>

- Applying for replacement of a valid lost or stolen passport:  
<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-22-18-faf88-1.html>
- Passport application fees and expedited service fees in Taiwan:  
<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-17-5799-50cbc-1.html>

**Q6. What is the application fee for a new version of the e-passport?**

**A:** The fee for a new version of the e-passport will remain unchanged at NT\$1,300. For more information, please visit the following link on the BOCA website:

- Passport application fees and expedited service fees in Taiwan:  
<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-17-5799-50cbc-1.html>

**Q7. Will using the new version of the e-passport create difficulties in going through immigration overseas, particularly if one is part of a group whose members have different versions of the passport? If difficulties are encountered, what can be done?**

**A:**

1. Only minor changes have been made to the cover of the new version of the e-passport, and none have been made to the machine-readable portions or the biometric chip. Therefore, foreign immigration and customs authorities should have no trouble establishing the bearer's identity. As per standard international practice, Taiwan has sent samples of the new version of the e-passport to foreign governments and their border control and immigration authorities. Under normal circumstances, there should be no difficulties with immigration for a group carrying a mix of new and previous versions of the R.O.C. passport.

2. R.O.C. overseas missions maintain close contact with border control personnel and airlines of host countries. If difficulties are encountered, citizens can seek the assistance of relevant R.O.C. overseas missions via emergency contact numbers.

**Q8. Will it still be possible to apply for the previous version of passport after the new version of the e-passport is issued on January 11, 2021?**

**A:** Once the new version of the e-passport is issued, the previous version of passport will no longer be issued.