



NOTICE FOR WEB PAGE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF TEMPORARY PASSPORTS

BRITISH EMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

From Friday 30 October 2009 Temporary Passports will no longer be issued at this Embassy

Customers are advised to keep their passports in a safe place at all times and to check the validity. Passports can be renewed up to 9 months in advance; the additional 9 months will be added to the period of validity of their new passport.

Temporary Passports are being withdrawn because the system is no longer viable as a stand alone product, given the low demand worldwide. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) is investing in the development of more sophisticated passport issuing systems and secure travel documents as part of our commitment to the UK Government's National Identity Scheme. Over the next 12 to 18 months we will be introducing a more flexible, but secure Emergency Travel Document enabling customers to travel at short notice to the UK or another country. We will also be introducing measures to enhance the security and integrity of our full validity passport.

The Temporary Passports system will shortly be obsolete – the printers and supply of books are running out. It would require a significant investment to upgrade the system to meet current and future security and quality standards. The new Emergency Travel Document (ETD) will be more secure, flexible and internationally acceptable for entry, exist and transit purposes. This product will be available from Autumn 2009, but a date is yet to be set for its availability at the Embassy in Guatemala.

In the meantime we will continue to issue Emergency Passports for people who need to travel quickly. Please be aware that if you need to travel, on an Emergency Passport via the United States, prior clearance will need to be obtained from the US Immigration Service.

What this means to you?

You must:

- Look after your passport.
- Check its validity. (Passports can be renewed up to 9 months before they expire. The extra time will be added on to the new passport's period of validity.)
- If you do not have a full validity passport, you will need to allow extra time to obtain one.
- If you are a frequent traveller, to countries requiring a visa, please enquire at the counter about purchasing a second passport.*

*These are issued at the discretion of the British Embassy. Applicants must demonstrate that: a) they are entitled to a British passport and b) there is a genuine need to hold a second passport.

Posts can supplement this notice using a modified version of the FAQs provided.