

# What to look out for

A guide to the identity card's security features.

Home Office  
**Identity &  
Passport Service**

## How this guide can help

The identity card is being rolled out to British, EU and European Economic Area (EEA) citizens across the UK from 2009. As more people sign up for it, you'll see it being used for identification and proof of age. Potential employees may also present their card to prove their eligibility to work.

This guide shows you what the identity card looks like, and highlights the security features you need to check to ensure the card in front of you is genuine.

**The identity card is a highly secure document. Once you've checked the security features and the photo on the card, you can be confident that the holder is who they say they are.**

## There are three different types of identity card

All three are valid forms of identification. Two of them are launching in 2009:

### The identity card for British citizens

This is lilac and salmon in colour. The holder's nationality is featured, as this card can be used as a passport within the EU/EEA and Switzerland.



### The identification card for EU or European Economic Area citizens living in the UK

This is turquoise and green in colour and does not contain the holder's nationality. This card can be used for identification purposes only.



If you have any questions about the two identity cards above, please visit our website at: [www.ips.gov.uk/identity](http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity)

### Identity card for Foreign Nationals

This is blue and pink in colour. Launched in 2008, this compulsory card is for non-EEA foreign nationals living in the UK.



A separate guide to checking the security features of the identity card for foreign nationals is available to download at the UK Border Agency website: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)



## How to contact us

For more information about the identity card,  
please visit our website at:

**[www.ips.gov.uk/identity](http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity)**

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For information on identity cards for foreign  
nationals please visit:

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**Don't accept a card you suspect is fraudulent  
but call the police straightaway.**