



Home Office

B5JSSK - Processing nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States (B5JSSK)

Version 1.0



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About this guidance

This guidance tells Border Force Officers how to process nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States through the UK border.



Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then  for the latest advice on finding support.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can 

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **1.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **07 May 2019**

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Introduction

This page tells you what changes are being made to the way in which nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States (collectively referred to as B5JSSK) are processed when seeking entry to the UK.

From the go-live date:

- visitors
- entry clearance/Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) holders
- those with indefinite leave to enter/remain

from these countries will be eligible to use ePassport gates where they are available, provided they have a chipped passport, are aged 18 or over (or, if accompanied by an adult, between 12 and 17), and are not one of the [four exceptions to eligibility](#).

The decision to allow ePassport gates access to all B5JSSK nationals was taken following a detailed risk assessment.

In line with this, a wider range of changes to how nationals from these countries are processed are being introduced at all ports so that a uniform approach is applied at both the PCP and ePassport gates:

- these nationals will be able to use the blue (previously UK/EEA) PCP at all ports which operate more than one queue
 - those granted entry as visitors will no longer have their passport endorsed.
 - leave to Enter as a visitor will be granted orally at the PCP
 - Entry Clearance holders will no longer have their vignette endorsed on arrival
- [REDACTED]
- these nationals will no longer be required to fill out a landing card on arrival

From the “go-live” date this guidance will apply to the processing of eligible nationals of these countries at all ports and any previously issued guidance which contradicts the measures outlined here is to be disapplied for these nationals. Existing guidance will be triaged and updated as the change is bedded in.

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B5JSSK nationals not eligible to use ePassport gates

Whilst all B5JSSK nationals will be able to use the current UK/EEA queue, there are some specific cohorts of arrivals who will not be eligible to use ePassport gates. These are:

- Tier 5 creative and sporting concession Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) holders
- Short Term Students (STS)
- individuals coming to take part in Permitted Paid Engagements
- individuals coming to join their EEA family member in the UK

This is because the above categories either require a specific grant of leave from a Border Force Officer or, in the case of EEA family members, may need to be examined to ensure that they have a right of admission under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016. Where a specific grant of leave is required, that leave will come with terms of entry which will then be endorsed in the individual's passport. Therefore, anyone falling into these categories will still be required to see a Border Force Officer upon each arrival at the PCP.

 Should a passenger pass through the ePassport gates, realise their mistake and then present back to the PCP, officers should follow the guidance on [leave which was obtained by non-eligible cohorts using an ePassport gate](#)

The test as to whether a person qualifies for leave in each of these categories remains unchanged.

B5JSSK nationals arriving in the UK as either GA, GM or a passenger on a cruise ship who do not have access to ePassport gates should be processed in line with the [General Aviation \(GA\), General Maritime \(GM\), and Cruise Ships section](#).

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The Controls

This page tells you which queues should be used by the B5JSSK cohort when arriving at port.

As part of a series of wider changes to the border, the Primary Control Point (PCP) arrangements have also been modified in all ports which operate more than one queue.

These ports previously had a non-EEA, or “orange” PCP and a UK/EEA/Swiss (plus Registered Traveller Scheme(RTS)), or “blue” PCP. They have now been modified as below. If you are at a port which has a single queue for arriving passengers, then there will be no change to queueing arrangements but members of the B5JSSK cohort should be dealt with in accordance with this guidance.

The orange (PCP) lane (Previously “Rest of the world”)

This queue (“All Other Passports”) will continue to contain:

- all visa nationals; and,
- non B5JSSK non-visa nationals.

These passengers will continue to be subject to the same examinations as now. This change does not impact on the processes for dealing with these passengers.

The blue (PCP) lane (previously “EU/EEA”)

UK/EEA/Swiss passengers and RTS members will continue to use the blue (PCP) lane as they currently do now but will be joined by those B5JSSK nationals who are either ineligible or unable to use ePassport gates. In ports without ePassport gates, **all** arriving B5JSSK nationals should be processed in the blue lane.

The ePassport gates lane (in relevant ports)

B5JSSK nationals will join UK, EEA/Swiss nationals and RTS members in being eligible to use the ePassport gates, provided they are travelling on a chipped passport, do not require a specific form of leave to enter to be granted by an Officer, are not exercising rights as family members of EEA nationals, and are either aged over 18, or aged 12-17 and accompanied by an adult. Children under 12, and unaccompanied children aged 12-17 will not be eligible to use ePassport gates, as per the existing rules.

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Endorsing passports and granting leave orally

Endorsing passports

From the go-live date, the manner in which some B5JSSK nationals are granted leave to enter will change.

B5JSSK nationals in the following categories will **no longer** receive an endorsement in their passport on arrival at any port:

- those granted entry as visitors
- Entry Clearance holders

However, other endorsements (e.g. Code 3 stamp, elect to embark or refusal stamp) can still be used if necessary in line with relevant guidance.

This change is being introduced as the ePassport gates used in the United Kingdom cannot endorse passports. In order to provide a consistent approach, no matter which port the individual enters the UK by, the practice of stamping visitors' and entry clearance holders' passports will cease.

Time limited leave to enter via a code 3 stamp can continue for B5JSSK nationals, however this should be exceptional and will need to be issued in line with the published guidance on issuing [leave outside the rules](#).

Should a B5JSSK visitor or entry clearance holder ask for their passport to be endorsed, their request should be refused and advised that it is not Government policy to do so.

Four specific categories of B5JSSK arrivals **will continue** to receive endorsements in their passports. These are:

- Tier 5 creative and sporting concession Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) holders
- Short Term Students
- individuals coming to take part in Permitted Paid Engagements
- individuals who are coming to join their EEA family member in the UK

The four sets of arrivals who will continue to receive endorsements require a specific grant of leave at the Border, and therefore will not be able to use the ePassport gates. Therefore, the endorsement is being retained across all ports to indicate the separate form of leave they hold. If they do use a gate in error, see: [leave which was obtained by non-eligible cohorts using an ePassport gate](#).

Granting Leave orally

Alongside the removal of in the requirement to endorse B5JSSK visitors' passports, changes are being made to the manner in which leave is granted to these individuals. **When granting a B5JSSK national leave to enter as a visitor, you will need to verbally state:**

“You can enter as a visitor”

This serves to make the individual aware of the category in which they have been granted leave to enter. In order to inform passengers of their conditions of entry as visitors, signs will be placed behind the PCP stating the conditions for entry and links to the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website where further information will be available. If passengers have questions about conditions of entry they should be directed towards the signage.

For those Border Force officers acting as crossing officers or clearing B5JSSK passengers shoreside, portable signage will be provided to enable the conditions of entry to be communicated along with the same phrase.

For those Border Force officers clearing General Aviation and General Maritime arrivals away from fixed infrastructure, a longer phrase which makes the arrivals aware of the conditions of entry will need to be stated:

“You can enter as a visitor for 6 months, you cannot work, and you cannot access public funds.”

This change will not affect the practise of [remote clearance](#).

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Initial Interviews and Operating Mandate checks for B5JSSK nationals

What checks should you conduct at the PCP?

You must carry out all the checks set out in the mandatory [checks framework](#) [REDACTED]

Initial Interviews for B5JSSK nationals

Officers' powers when examining B5JSSK nationals to test whether they qualify for entry remain unchanged. However, officers should be mindful when conducting initial interviews that the decision to allow B5JSSK to use ePassport Gates was taken on the basis of a detailed risk assessment and that, if they had used the ePassport Gate, they would not have been questioned at all.

If you consider that a person is of particular concern you can investigate further.

Officers might be concerned because, for example, [REDACTED] nationality, identity, or forgery concerns. You might also have Section 55/safeguarding or wider concerns based on your vulnerability/threat assessment. You might also not believe the person immediately qualifies for entry under the Immigration Rules and/or you suspect them of a customs offence.

Should you decide that further investigation is required, you should conduct whatever further checks are necessary to reach a decision in line with relevant [guidance](#).

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[Redacted]

As part of the B5JSSK ePassport gates expansion, Visa, Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) and Entry Clearance (EC) holders will be eligible to use ePassport gates. The ePassport gates used in the United Kingdom cannot take a passenger's fingerprints

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Conditions of leave

This page tells you what leave B5JSSK nationals will receive when entering the United Kingdom

A B5JSSK national seeking entry as a visitor who successfully uses an ePassport gate will automatically have leave in a standard visitor category unless they are already in possession of Entry Clearance. As at the PCP, signage will be installed at the ePassport gates to make those B5JSSK nationals using them aware that if they do not hold an Entry Clearance, they will have been granted leave to enter as a visitor, and what conditions are attached to that leave.

Entry Clearance holders will already have been advised of their conditions of stay and these conditions will continue to apply unless they are specifically revoked. Others who already have leave, for example, B5JSSK nationals who are residing in the UK, will continue to enjoy their existing leave on entry unless this is specifically revoked. In all instances it is for a passenger to satisfy themselves of their conditions of leave and to abide by these conditions

The exceptions detailed above who require leave to be granted at the border will require specific conditions and therefore they will require a specific endorsement in their passport.

Should they require further advice, passengers should be directed to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), where the conditions of entry for visitors are set out.

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Landing Cards

The Government has announced that, as part of this change, B5JSSK nationals will no longer be required to present a landing card on arrival to the UK regardless of whether they plan or are eligible to use an ePassport Gate. If a B5JSSK national presents a landing card you should inform the passenger that a landing card is no longer required. If the passenger does not wish to retain the card themselves, you can securely destroy it subject to local arrangements.

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ePassport gate use



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Referral Officers

As a Referral Officer, you will now be processing B5JSSK passengers as well as UK, EEA, Swiss and RTS members. **You will need to treat B5JSSK nationals differently** from other ePassport gate users as, although eligible to use the ePassport gates, **they do not have rights of admission** (unless as family members of EEA nationals). [REDACTED]

You will be dealing with nationals who may be unfamiliar with the operation of ePassport gates, may be less frequent travellers to the UK, may have greater language barriers than current EEA/Swiss travellers. This may lead to increased processing times which could likely impact upon the management of the queue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As a Referral Officer, you should also ensure that you complete the full set of checks appropriate to the individual in front of you, as set out in in the [Operating Mandate](#).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Roving Officers

As a Roving Officer, your core responsibility is to provide safeguarding functions, including discharging obligations in line with Section 55 of the [Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009](#) (welfare of children). This will remain the case after the expansion of ePassport gate eligibility to include B5JSSK nationals.

You should also monitor behavioural indicators and body language of arriving passengers, in line with the [Border Force operating mandate](#), to identify passengers of any age approaching the ePassport gates who may merit further examination.

Further information is provided in the [Roving Officer guidance](#).

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Monitoring Officers

As the Monitoring Officer, you will challenge an arriving passenger whenever necessary. You must be vigilant to ensure that inadmissible passengers do not gain admission through the gates by posing as an eligible British, European Economic Area (EEA), Swiss, B5JSSK national, or as a Member of the Registered Traveller service (RTS).

You will continue to discharge the same responsibilities as on the manual control. This includes protecting vulnerable people from harm, customs related responsibilities, [redacted] and complying with arrangements for the duty of care to children under [section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009](#).

Interim RTS Notifications ('Pop-ups')

Due to technical changes made as a result of the B5JSSK changes, as a Monitoring Officer, for a brief period you may see "pop-ups" for some B5JSSK RTS members.

Pop-ups relating to RTS members are a short-term measure whilst technical changes are made to software and will require Monitoring Officers to make a decision on whether to allow a passenger to proceed. They only apply to RTS members from B5JSSK countries. Staff will be advised when pop-ups have been removed from the system. Until then, this guidance should be followed.

Where a person is an RTS member but is also now eligible to use the ePassport gates as a result of the B5JSSK ePassport gates expansion, they will be the subject of a positive entry, marked by a green tick. [redacted]

[redacted picture]

[Redacted picture]



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Varying leave which was obtained by non-eligible cohorts using an ePassport gate

Those B5JSSK nationals who use the ePassport gates and do not hold Entry Clearances will be granted six months leave to enter as a visitor, subject to the standard conditions. As a result, where a person has erroneously entered as a visitor, and detects their error after having passed through the gates, you will need to consider whether to vary that leave.



Varying of leave obtained in error by other categories

If a B5JSSK national who needs leave to enter as one of the other exceptions uses the ePassport gates in error and realises their mistake before proceeding landside, you should consider varying their leave in order to allow them to carry out the activities they have planned. In doing so you will be acting on behalf of the Secretary of State. The following process should be followed:

- 1) The passenger should be re-examined by a BFO at the PCP under paragraph 2 of schedule 2 of the 1971 act.
- 2) You should consider whether they qualify for entry in the alternative category.
- 3) If they do qualify, you should vary their leave under section 3(3)(a) of the Immigration Act 1971 by acting on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 4) You can evidence the variation by endorsing the passport with the endorsement of the category they are being landed as, per Rule 31 of the

Immigration Rules, ensuring that it is accompanied by a handwritten endorsement stating: “***Varied from visitor leave on behalf of the Secretary of State.***”

Where the duration of leave is reduced from six months (in the case of Permitted Paid Engagements and Tier 5 CoS holders) this variation is a curtailment and is being done in line with V9.10 of Appendix V to the Immigration Rules.

If a B5JSSK national does not realise their error until after they have proceeded landside, they should be advised to contact their educational institution or sponsor who will have to contact the Home Office direct.

If an individual is seeking admission as a family member of an [EEA national](#) they will not have obtained leave to enter the UK by using the ePassport gates. You may therefore process these individuals as normal and do not have to vary or curtail any leave.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The practice of notifying Leave to Enter as a visitor to cruise ship passengers via the Annex B letter will continue, regardless of nationalities onboard.

Please see the following section of this guidance for further information when dealing with [B5JSSK nationals who see an Officer](#)

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