

**High Commission of India  
Lusaka**

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**PASSPORT ADVISORY**

1. In the following cases, Indian citizens are required to apply for re-issuance of their passports:-

**(i) HANDWRITTEN PASSPORTS**

Beginning November 2015, all persons are required to use only Machine Readable Passport or MPRs. Visa or entry into any country will be denied to a person travelling on a non-Machine Readable Passport. This requirement has been mandated by **the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which is phasing out of all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) by 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.**

Since 2001, India has been issuing Machine Readable Passport. However, passports issued before 2001 fall in the category of non-MRPs. As such, all handwritten passports, including those with pasted photographs are considered non-MRPs.

**All Indian nationals holding such passports with validity beyond the 24th November, 2015 are advised to apply for re-issuance of their passports well before November, 2015. This will help you avoid any inconvenience in obtaining valid visa or in your international travel.**

**(ii) PASSPORTS VALID FOR LESS THAN SIX MONTHS**

**Indian nationals holding Passports with an expiry of six months or less should immediately renew their passports.** Please check passports of minors as such passports have a shorter validity period (of only 5 years). The universal practice in vogue now is; **"Once your passport crosses the nine-year mark, it is time to get new passport"**.

**(iii) EXHAUSTION OF VISA PAGES**

Some countries do not accept passports which may have fewer than two pages remaining. **Check your passport to ensure that you have enough visa pages. Note that there is no provision of additional booklets/pages. In case your passport does not have enough pages, you are required to apply for reissuance of your passport. Frequent travellers can opt for a “jumbo” passport containing 64 pages by paying an additional charge.**

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