

Features of the eAufenthaltstitel



The technical aspects of the card as such are identical to those of the new ID card for German nationals.

- The feature 'online ID card' serves as electronic proof of identity as required for the use of online services. The chip's security features restrict access to the personal data to service providers holding a corresponding authorization certificate.
- The verification of age or place of residence informs online service providers e. g. whether the card holder is of a certain age.
- The feature "alias access" (comparable to a pseudonym) provides access e. g. to internet chatrooms or forums without transmitting personal data.
- The eAufenthaltstitel is laid out for the use as Qualified Electronic Signature (QES) which is equivalent to a personal signature.

Photograph

The photograph will also be stored on the chip. This photograph must be

- recent
- centered on the face and unveiled
- show the individual with open eyes

Exceptions from this rule may apply for medical reasons.

Head coverings that do not cover the face are admissible on religious grounds.

Fingerprints

Two fingerprints must be stored on the chip for all third-country nationals over the age of six. Exceptions are possible in special circumstances.



Additional provisions (special conditions)

Any additional provisions that apply must be stored on the chip. Whenever these provisions change there is no need for a new eAufenthaltstitel to be issued.



Reverse side of the eAufenthaltstitel



Important note

You must apply for your new electronic residence permit at the Foreigners Authority in person between four to six weeks before your current residence permit expires. Your local Foreigners Authority will be happy to provide you with further information on the application procedure.

Online ID feature

Individuals above the age of 16 can use the online ID feature. The use is voluntary and the feature can be enabled or disabled by the Foreigners Authorities on request at any time.

In combination with their secret code (PIN) users can electronically prove their identity with all internet services or vending machines requiring such proof, e. g. online shops, insurance companies, banks or social networks.



PIN letter

The Federal Printing Press will send a PIN letter to anyone who applied for an eAufenthaltstitel. The letter includes the confidential codes PIN, PUK and a blocking code word.

The Foreigners Authorities will provide further information on the use of PIN, PUK and blocking code word.

Electronic signature

It is easy to sign applications or contracts online with the signature feature which replaces the personal written signature with a signature certificate. The card holder must buy the certificate and load it onto the eAufenthaltstitel chip. In addition a card reader with keyboard and display is required.

The electronic signature can only be used when the online ID feature is enabled.

Loss or theft

When the card's **online ID feature is enabled** it should be blocked immediately via the blocking hotline when the card is lost or stolen. The Foreigners Authorities can also block the card.



Important note:

The responsible Foreigners Authority must always be informed, even if the online ID feature has been blocked by the blocking hotline!

If the **electronic signature feature** is enabled also the signature service provider must be informed of any loss or theft, because only the provider can block this feature.

Before 1 September 2011 all residence documents (residence permit, settlement permit, permanent residence EC) were attached to the travel document as a sticker, but since then it is issued as a separate document with electronic features.

Important note

A contactless chip is integrated into the electronic residence document (eAufenthaltstitel). The holder's personal data, biometric characteristics (photograph and two finger prints) and any additional provisions (special conditions) are stored on this chip that also has various additional electronic features.

The eAufenthaltstitel was introduced to implement the European rules for a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals. Accordingly a separate document must be issued for each individual (including infants and children).



Under EU Regulations (EC no. 1030/2002 and 380/2008) all Member States of the European Union must issue a uniform residence permit including biometric features.

Validity of the eAufenthaltstitel

The eAufenthaltstitel validity depends on the type of permit and the Foreigners Authority's decisions under residence law. Further the validity of permanent residence permits depends on the validity of the passport or document in lieu of passport.



The use of the card is limited to a maximum of ten years, after this period a new eAufenthaltstitel must be issued.

Validity of the former residence documents

Residence documents (sticker in the travel document) that have not expired will remain valid until their expiry, but no longer than 31 August 2021.

Blocking hotline: 01801 33 33 33

3,9 Ct./min. from German fixed line phones, mobile phones max. 42 Ct./min.

General informations

- » Check the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees at www.bamf.de/eaufenthaltstitel for further details. The website includes an information video and a leaflet entitled "All you need to know about the electronic residence permit (eAT)" for download.
- » The local Foreigners Authority will be happy to provide further information.



The electronic residence permit



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