



BMU FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions – Reinstatement of BMU Code

Q: What is changing?

A: The Country Authority Code in Bermuda variant series C e-Passports will be changing from GBR to BMU. This code is shown under the heading 'Code' on the biographic page of a passport and in the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ).

Q: Why is the code changing from GBR to BMU?

A: There have been some difficulties reported from holders of Bermuda variant passports with a GBR code when travelling to the United States from a country other than Bermuda. This is due to some airlines mistakenly interpreting the GBR code to mean the holder is a citizen of the United Kingdom, which would require an ESTA or visa to travel to the United States.

Q: What date will the BMU code be printed from?

A: The BMU code will be printed from 30th April 2024. Any Bermuda variant passports printed before this date will have the GBR code applied.

Q: How long will my current GBR code Bermuda variant passport be valid for?

A: Your passport will continue to be valid up until its expiry date. You should check the entry requirements for the country you are travelling to.

Q: Can I travel to the USA on my current GBR code Bermuda variant passport?

A: Yes, as long as your passport is still valid and you meet the entry requirements, a Bermuda variant passport with the GBR code will continue to be valid for travel to the USA.

For full details or if you need further advice, see the latest information on the US Embassy page – [Exempt from visa requirements Bermuda Canada \(usembassy.gov\)](https://usembassy.gov)

Q: Should I get an ESTA in my current GBR code Bermuda variant passport?

A: You cannot apply for an ESTA using a Bermuda variant passport.

Q: When should I submit my Bermuda variant passport for renewal?

A: We advise that you should plan to renew your passport as usual. You must renew your passport before you

can travel if either:

- your passport has expired
- you do not have enough time left on it

How much time you need on your passport depends on the country you're visiting. You should check the entry requirements of the country you want to travel to.

Q: How do I apply for a BMU code passport?

A: If you qualify for a Bermuda variant passport you will need to visit the department of immigration website: [Immigration | Government of Bermuda \(www.gov.bm\)](http://www.gov.bm)

Q: Will I be charged if I want to replace my Bermuda passport with a GBR code to get a new Bermuda variant passport with the BMU code?

A: Yes, you would need to apply for a renewal of your passport. The normal fees will apply for any new BMU code passport applications.

Q: How long is it likely to take to get my new BMU code passport issued?

A: This will depend on demand. At present, the waiting time for a Bermuda variant passport is 20-weeks.

Q: How long would a new BMU code passport be valid for?

A: The passport with a BMU code will be usually valid for ten years from the date of issue (five years for children under 16 years); unless a restricted validity passport is issued.

Q: What is the application process for a new BMU code passport?

A: The application process is the same as that which you would have used to obtain your current GBR code Bermuda variant passport.

Q: Will all countries recognise the new BMU code passport?

A: Yes. Appropriate notices will be sent out through the international community, including the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) system, to ensure immigration authorities including carriers globally are aware of the changes.

Q: Will I be able to use e-gates with my new BMU code passport?

A: Yes. The new BMU Code passports are equipped with a chip that holds the passport's data and enables the use of e-gates. This is dependent on other criteria being met which will include the entry requirements for the country you are entering.

Q: If I apply for a standard British Passport through HM Passport Office will I receive the BMU code?

A: No. If you are a Bermudian but apply directly to HM Passport Office you will continue receive a standard British passport and the code applied will be GBR. Customers who qualify for a Bermuda variant passport should apply via the Government of Bermuda Department of Immigration to receive the BMU code.