



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Introduction of the Singapore Biometric Passport - Revisions To Exit Control Measures**

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The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority will launch the Singapore Biometric Passport on 15 August 2006 to replace the current Singapore Passport (non-biometric). As part of its security features, Singapore Biometric Passports will adopt a 'write-once' standard, where personal data and passport details written on the integrated chip upon issue cannot be updated or amended. The Singapore Biometric Passport is non-extendable. A new biometric passport will have to be issued upon expiry.

A continuation of the policy to limit the passport validity of young NS-liable males aged between 11 to enlistment would translate to greater inconvenience and higher costs for such males and their families, as they will have to pay for a new passport upon expiry. To avoid this inconvenience and cost, MINDEF has decided to remove passport controls for these NS-liable males and allow them to be issued with passports of full validity. According to the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, on average, 100,000 pre-enlistee passport holders have their passports extended annually. With the issuance of passports of full validity, pre-enlistee passport holders will no longer need to renew their passports once every 2 years or 1 year.

Exit control measures however continue to be relevant and necessary to deter potential NS defaulters and serve as a strong psychological reminder of their NS obligation. MINDEF has therefore decided to extend exit permit requirements, which currently affect only males aged 16½ to enlistment, to males aged 13 to below 16½.

To avoid inconveniencing those who make short overseas trips during vacations, an exit permit will only be required for overseas trips of 3 months or longer. Those who require exit permits of 2 years or longer will be required to furnish a bond. This bonding requirement is

similar to the current arrangement where a bond is required if the NS-liable male requires a passport validity of longer than 2 years. There will be no change to the exit permit and bonding requirements for NS-liable males aged 16½ to enlistment.

Pre-enlistees who have any queries about the new policies can contact the NS Portal Customer Service Centre at Tel: 1800-3676767 (1800-eNSNSNS) or email: [contact@ns.sg](mailto:contact@ns.sg). They can also refer to the NS portal ([www.ns.sg](http://www.ns.sg)) for more information.

A summary of the present and revised exit control measures for NS-liable males is given in the following table:

<b>NS-liable Males</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Revised</b>
<b>Aged 11 to &lt;13</b>		
<b>Passport Validity</b>	2 years	Full (5 years)
<b>Exit Permit</b>	Not required	Not required
<b>Bond*</b>	Yes, if a passport validity of longer than 2 years is required	No
<b>Aged 13 to &lt; 16½</b>		
<b>Passport Validity</b>	2 years	Full (5 years)
<b>Exit Permit</b>	Not required	Required for overseas trips of 3 months or longer
<b>Bond*</b>	Yes, if a passport validity of longer than 2 years is required	Yes, if an exit permit of 2 years or longer is required
<b>Aged 16½ to enlistment</b>		
<b>Passport Validity</b>	1 year	Full (5 years)

<b>Exit Permit</b>	Required for overseas trips of 3 months or longer	No Change. Required for overseas trips of 3 months or longer
<b>Bond*</b>	Yes, if exit permit is required	No Change. Yes, if exit permit is required

\* The bond quantum is S\$75,000 or 50% of the combined annual gross income of both parents for the preceding year, whichever is higher.

**Factsheet:**

FAQs on Revisions of Exit Control Measures Governing Pre-Enlistees  
(MINDEF\_20060725003.pdf)

National Archives of Singapore