



PRADO

PUBLIC REGISTER OF AUTHENTIC TRAVEL AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS ONLINE

FAQ

Document examination

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Document examination

Who uses forged / counterfeit documents?

Criminals, intending immigrants/refugees, terrorists, ...

Why are forged / counterfeit documents used?

- ▶ to conceal own identity
- ▶ to assume another identity
- ▶ to conceal an adverse immigration or travel history
- ▶ to benefit from the previous holder's status
- ▶ to avoid a visa requirement
- ▶ to avoid an issuing authority, ...

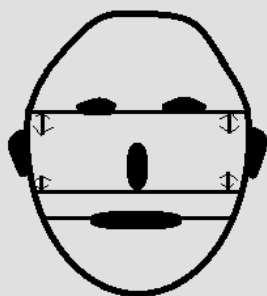
What are some typical methods of falsifying documents?

- ▶ Counterfeiting - the complete reproduction of a document
- ▶ Photograph/image substitution
- ▶ Page substitution - this may include the use of counterfeit pages
- ▶ Alteration of personal details (forgery)
- ▶ Alteration or counterfeiting of stamps or visas
- ▶ Fraudulently obtained stolen blank documents, ...

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What should I examine first?

First check for impersonation - carefully compare the image to the holder.



Also check age (date of birth), height and signature.

Also: date of expiry of the document.

Some of the most important security features of documents, like watermarks, security threads, page and photo integrity, intaglio printing (guilloches / fine line patterns) and optically variable devices can be checked, if you know what they should look like: When checking security features of documents: ➡ **FEEL, LOOK, TILT!**

In case of doubt, refer to the contact point of your home country: For professional guidance on security documents (identity and travel documents), no matter what origin, contact your

➡ **National contact point**

What special equipment do I need?

For a first inspection, no special equipment is required. To check a **watermark**, or a **see-through register**, hold the document against a source of light. Check micro- and miniprint with a magnifying glass.

Check UV features if you have a UV lamp available.

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HOW SHOULD I EXAMINE A DOCUMENT? —

What exactly do you mean by " When checking security features of documents: FEEL, LOOK, TILT "?

When examining a document it is important to know what the document should look like.

PRADO provides images of the most commonly used travel and identity documents and a description of the technical features used. Technical features include watermarks, UV reaction, optically variable devices, optically variable ink and some printing techniques.

These security features can be checked relatively easily - **‘FEEL, LOOK, TILT’**:

- ▶ ➡ Always check for impersonation: carefully compare the photograph in the document with the holder's appearance. In addition, check the age, height and signature.
- ▶ Is the document valid for the purpose for which it is used? Has it expired?
- ▶ If possible, check the validity of the document number: for example here: ➡
- ▶ Look for signs of alterations to the document.
- ▶ Examine the watermark or the see-through register: hold the document page against the light (➡ "transmitted light").
- ▶ ➡ Special printing makes the ink feel raised or thicker. To feel raised intaglio print, run your finger over it or scratch it gently with your fingernail.
- ▶ ➡ Raised (tactile) laser engraving (on a card document, or on a biodata card integrated into a booklet document)
- ▶ ➡ Check microprint, miniprint as well as ➡ photo integration using a magnifying glass.
- ▶ ➡ Check UV features if you have UV light available.
- ▶ Check optically variable features and optically variable ink: tilt the document in order to view it at an oblique angle or under oblique light:
 - ▶ ➡ Latent image
 - ▶ ➡ Oblique light
 - ▶ ➡ OVD (Optically variable device)
 - ▶ ➡ OVI (Optically variable ink)
 - ▶ ➡ Tilting effect
 - ▶ ➡ Variable laser image

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Security documents are by definition designed to be as secure as possible and incorporate features that prevent the unlawful copying or alteration of the document. Identity documents incorporate several security features - the most important of them are described in this database. When examining any document it is important **to first assess the security features contained within it**. Due to the enormous variety of documents in use, checking e.g. a foreign document can be a tricky task.

The colour of the reproduction may not correspond exactly to that of the original - the detection of document fraud can not be based on colour comparison alone.

Further guidance on aspects of identity and travel document abuse can be obtained from your national contact point. In case of any doubt, refer to the contact point of your home country.

[!\[\]\(bd1a142de767a21e5362c595f844a4ff_img.jpg\) National contact point](#)

What should I do if I think that a document might not be genuine?

Consult your manager/security officer. For professional guidance on security documents (identity and travel documents), no matter what origin, contact your

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Consider calling the police, if urgent.

I think there is a security feature missing in the description of a document in the database?

Only the security features considered the most important, are described. Security documents are by definition designed to be as secure as possible and incorporate many features that aim at preventing the unlawful copying or alteration of the document. Identity documents incorporate many security features; only some of them are described in this database.

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