



SANTA SEDE SAINT-SIEGE HOLY SEE
STATO DELLA CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

PASSAPORTO PASSEPORT PASSPORT



Holy see and Vatican City State Passports

The Holy See and Vatican City State are two sovereign subjects of international law – identified by the same ICAO code: VAT. Both entities are presided over by the Supreme Pontiff, respectively by means of:

- *The Secretariat of State, which is competent for diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the international community;*
- *The Governorate of Vatican City State, which supervises the territory of Vatican City according to the sovereign wishes of the Pope.*

Both entities are charged also with issuing their own passports.

The HOLY SEE issues:

- *two models of E-passports: diplomatic (PD) and service (PO - PS).*
- *one model of MRTD: temporary service passport (PT)*

The VATICAN CITY STATE issues ordinary passports (PP - PV).

All MRTD issued in the Vatican can be read optically and conform with current norms established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO DOC 9303).

Following the latest ICAO standards and recommended practices, all newly issued passports, starting from 18 December 2025 will feature a two-character passport type code on the data page, as follows:

Passport type	Old Code	New Code	Remarks
Ordinary passport	PV	PP	UPDATE
Service passport	PS	PO	UPDATE
Diplomatic passport	PD	PD	Remains the same
Temporary service passport	PT	PT	Remains the same

*The new passports – **ordinary and service** – feature the most up-to-date chip access standards (PACE only) and the polycarbonate data page features minor security upgrades, as described in the following pages.*

Questions regarding Vatican passports and the security measures they utilize may be referred to:
Secretariat of State – Protocol Office

fax +39.06. 6984.8656 - E-mail: uffprot@sds.va - web page: <http://epass.vatican.va/>



ICAO Data Page

Polycarbonate, DOC 9303 standard compliant, on page 2, which extends to the right endpaper and is affixed to the cover containing the microchip (*IPZS patent*). Embossing (*relief*): atop, in three lines, "Santa Sede - Stato della Città del Vaticano". Emblem of the Holy See - in invisible yellow UV-fluorescent and a backdrop security ink in blue UV-fluorescent



Other Security Features

Stitching: white and gold thread (*plus yellow UV-fluorescent*).

Printing: Offset printing in additional colours (*including invisible blue iris UV-fluorescent*).

Emblem of the Holy See: printed in invisible yellow UV fluorescent on every page, encircled by the words "Santa Sede - Stato della Città del Vaticano".



Endpapers:

- **Right endpaper** - offset printed on polycarbonate substrate, with a raised embossing made of microprint.

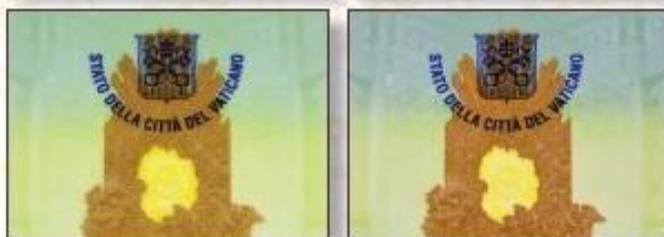
- **Left cover page:** offset and intaglio printing (with a third colour) representing Saint Peter's Basilica and the perimeter of Vatican City State; with a microprint (*words "Santa Sede - Stato della Città del Vaticano"*).



Microprint security thread ("Santa Sede - Stato della Città del Vaticano") in invisible yellow UV-fluorescent on one side; on the other side, alternating in yellow and blue, with a background in invisible UV-fluorescent ink.

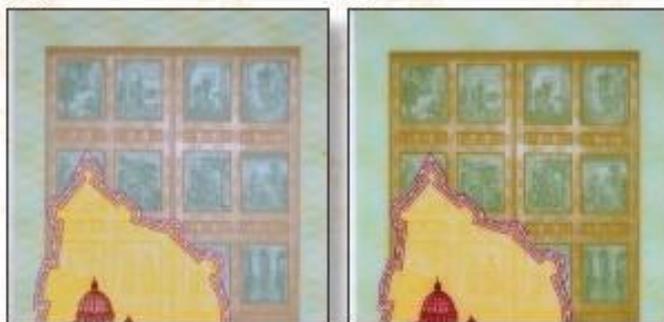
OVI (optically variable ink): decorative element, beneath the page number on the pages for Visas, printed with OVI security ink gold/green.

Numbering: laser engraving-tactile on the polycarbonate ICAO page; from the third page to the inside of the back cover, the same numeration printed on the bottom, by laser perforation with holes of decreasing diameter.



New

Old



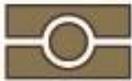
New

Old

Polycarbonate offset technique improvement on service and ordinary passports (front page and right endpaper).

New passports on the left.

FAC - SIMILE INSIDE



Holy see - service passport 2025

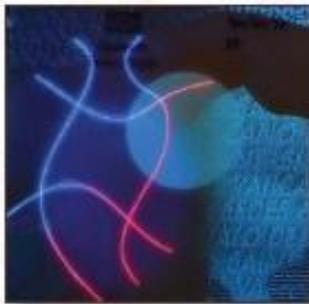
Starting 18 December 2025, the newly issued service passports will have type code PO, instead of PS. The polycarbonate foil (front page, data page and endpaper) features an improved printing technique (see photos).

Password Authenticated Connection Establishment – PACE protocol is implemented.

The service passports previously issued remain valid until expiration date.

Format: 50 pages, 88 mm x 125 mm,

Cover: brown waterproof cloth - hot foil gold stamping. Emblem of the Holy See offset - invisible yellow UV-fluorescent ink.



New



Old

The area of the photo includes threads containing invisible red and blue fluorescent "UV light" megafibers. A hologram interlayer of the Holy See emblem is found above and to the right of the photograph. Atop, in three lines, is a relief embossing: "Santa Sede - Stato della Città del Vaticano".



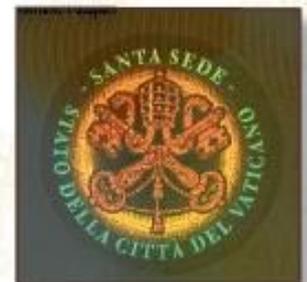
The high resolution monochrome photograph is imprinted using laser engraving, with the holder's data recorded in microprint at the bottom of the photo.



See-through register of the emblem of the Holy See, in blue - on internal pages.



Servizio/Service



The passports utilize a paper with invisible yellow, green, and blue fluorescent "Tinydots"; detectable under "UV" light. The emblem of the Holy See is reproduced in invisible yellow fluorescent detectable under "UV" light.