



RALON

CARRIER ALERT 05/15

Dependents of EEA (European Economic Area) Nationals Travelling to the United Kingdom.

From 6 April 2015 non-EEA family members of EEA nationals in possession of a residence card* issued by an EEA Member State under Article 10 or Article 20 of the EU Directive 2004/38/EC (the “Free Movement Directive”) and who are visa nationals, will be exempt from the requirement to obtain a United Kingdom EEA family permit for travel to the UK - if they are accompanying their EEA relative or joining their EEA relative in the UK.

Residence Cards issued by EEA Member States will be acceptable for travel to the UK where they are:

1. Valid
2. Genuine
3. Feature the wording “Residence Card of a Family Member of a Union Citizen” **or** “Permanent Residence Card of a Family Member of a Union Citizen” - which is clearly stated and can be easily understood
4. Presented with a valid and genuine national passport

*Residence Cards are **NOT** the same as (biometric) Residence Permits. A residence card is issued under free movement law and should contain the wording in (3.) above (‘family member of a Union citizen’) – a residence permit does not.

Residence cards (**NOT** residence permits) are issued to non-EEA family members of EEA nationals living in a Member State other than that of which they are a national

For example:

A non-EEA spouse of a German national living in Germany will hold a Residence Permit issued under German domestic law. Therefore a United Kingdom EEA Family Permit IS required for travel and entry to the UK.

A non-EEA spouse of a German national living and working in France will hold a Residence Card issued under EU law. Therefore a United Kingdom issued EEA Family Permit IS NOT required for travel to the UK.

Transit: Visa nationals who hold valid, genuine Residence Cards may transit in the UK if accompanying their EEA relative through or joining them in the UK.

Carriers may be liable for charges where a passenger is conveyed to the UK Border and is subsequently refused admission because the document is invalid, fraudulent, or is not a Residence Card of a Family Member of a Union Citizen issued under Article 10 or 20.

For further information contact your regional UK Immigration Liaison Manager, Border Force at the port of entry or the Carriers Liaison Section by email at CarriersLiaisonSection@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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