New Electronic Passport (SAC)

03.10.14

**The third generation of biometric passports**

Biometric passports of **the third generation** or **Supplemental Access Control - SAC** passports in Bosnia and Herzegovina are being issued as of 1 October 2014.

This implies the latest generation of biometric passports personalized with the latest technology.

Personal data, date and place of birth, as well as the machine-readable zone are laser engraved and biometric data are stored in a contactless chip which is incorporated in the structure of the passport. Biometric data includes acquisition of photographs, fingerprints and a digital signature.

If a person is illiterate or acquisition of a signature is not possible for other objective reasons, the sign XX is written in the space designated for signature. Fingerprints and signature are not taken from children under the age of twelve.

European Union has obliged each of its member states to start issuance of passports with Supplemental Access Control (SAC) as of 1 December 2014. Since BiH is on the Schengen White List, the obligation to implement all of the standards of the European Union has been assumed, therefore, the third generation of biometric passports has been introduced.

On the other hand, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has also recommended moving to the third generation of biometric passports to all ICAO member states.

Apart from the EU member states, BiH is among first countries in the world to introduce such passports, and thus, met the obligations assumed during the process of negotiations for liberalization of visa regime aiming to preserve the benefits of visa free regime. The obligation has been fulfilled two months before the deadline which European Union set for its member states.

**Design of the third generation of biometric passports**

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Booklet containing technical details on the third generation of biometric passport is available [here](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/Brosure/PI_SAC_brosura.pdf).

**The legal framework for issuance of passports**

Passports (civil, official and diplomatic) are issued pursuant to the Law on Travel Documents of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. [4/97](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_putnim_ispravama_bosne_i_hercegovine_4_97_bos.pdf), [1/99](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_izmjeni_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_1_99_bos.pdf),[9/99](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_izmjeni_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_9_99_bos.pdf), [27/00](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/odluka_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_27_00_bos.pdf), [32/00](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/odluka_o_izmjeni_i_dopuni_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_32_00_bos.pdf), [19/01](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_19_01_bos.pdf), [19/01](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_izmjeni_i_dopuni_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_19_01_bos.pdf), [47/04](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_47_04_bos.pdf), [53/07](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/odluka_kojom_se_donosi_zakon_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_53_07_bos.pdf), [15/08](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_usvajanju_zakona_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_15_08_bos.pdf), [33/08](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_33_08_bos.pdf), [39/08](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/ispravka_zakona_o_izmjenama_i_dopunama_zakona_o_putnim_ispravama_bih_39_08_bos.pdf), [60/13](https://www.iddeea.gov.ba/images/stories/PDF/laws/bosanski/zakon%20o%20izmjenama%20i%20dopunama%20zakona%20o%20putnim%20ispravama%20bih_60-13_bos.pdf))

Apart from the Law on Travel Documents, issuance of passports is governed by various decisions, regulations and guidelines available on this website.

Passports for BiH citizens living abroad are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs via diplomatic and consular network.

Issuance of diplomatic passports is carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while service passports are issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

**Deadline for issuance of passports**

There are two possibilities for issuance of BiH passport. It can be issued:

• **subject to regular procedure** - the deadline for issuing passports subject to regular procedure is **30 days**,

• **within a period shorter than envisaged by regular procedure** - if the request for issuance of passport in a period shorter than envisaged is filed with the competent authorities **in BiH**, then the deadline for issuance is **72 hours** or **7 days** if the request is filed with a **Diplomatic and Consular Representation of BiH** abroad.

**Passport price**

If a request for issuance of a passport is filed with **the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina** subject to regular procedure, the price of the passport amounts as follows:

* for **adult** citizens with validity period of 10 years – BAM 50
* for citizens **aged 3-18** with validity period of 5 years – BAM 40
* for citizens **up to 3 years** of age with validity of 3 years – BAM 30

For issuance of the travel documents within the deadline shorter than prescribed, the applicant at the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina is obliged to **pay the price of a travel document issued subject to regular procedure, as well as the charge** for additional costs of the competent issuing authorities caused by the procedure for issuance of travel documents within the deadline shorter than prescribed **in amount of BAM 200.00,** which is to be paid to the banking account of the competent issuing authority.

If a request for issuance of a passport is filed in a **Diplomatic and Consular Representation of BiH** abroad, the price of a passport is set forth by the Price list of consular services in Diplomatic and Consular Representation of BiH abroad.

For issuance of travel documents within the deadline shorter than prescribed, the applicant abroad is obliged to pay **the price for a travel document subject to regular procedure in Diplomatic and Consular Representations of BiH, as well as the additional consular charge** for additional costs caused by the procedure for issuance of travel documents within the deadline shorter than prescribed **in amount of € 250 (euros**).

**Passport validity**

• **Adult** citizens - passport validity period of **10** years,

• Citizens **aged 3 to 18** years - passport validity period of **5** years,

• Citizens of **up to 3 years** of age - passport validity period of **3** years.

**Tips for proper handling of passport**

* Always keep your passport in a safe place.
* Keep it from mechanical damage.
* Avoid any contact with liquid.
* Keep it away from any source of heat.
* Do not bend your passport.
* If you lose your passport please report it to the nearest police station if in BiH or to the diplomatic or consular representation of BiH if you lose your passport abroad.