



ETA & eVisa Reference Guide	
Date of issue	March 2025
Applicable to	GM Skippers, operators and agents
Subject	UK ETA & eVisa requirements

What?

- The UK Government is committed to strengthening the UK's borders by ensuring everyone travelling to the UK (except British and Irish citizens) has advance permission to travel – our Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) requirement.
- Supporting the digital vision, the Home Office is moving from physical immigration documents to digital-only immigration products.
- Phasing out physical visas and immigration permissions and introducing eVisas and ETAs.

Aim?

- To streamline travel processes.
- To improve border security.
- To introduce innovative technology.
- To ensure smoother journeys for all individuals travelling to the UK.

Who?

- All individuals entering the UK (except British and Irish citizens) will need advance permission.

How?

- Visa nationals and those already granted permission to enter or remain should obtain an **eVisa** (These individuals may also have physical proof which they can use as evidence for travel).
- Individuals who do not need a visa, entry clearance or other specified immigration status will need an **ETA** to travel to the UK and they should obtain this before they travel.

eVisa

- **What it is:** An online record of immigration permission, in place of a physical document (e.g., visa vignette or Biometric Residence Permit or Biometric Residence Card).



- **Who needs it:** To view the list of nationalities requiring entry clearance prior to travel to the UK please follow the link: Visa national list – Guidance: [UK visa requirements \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#)
- **Permission to travel check:** A “Valid Permission to Travel” response will be returned via sPCR on journeys to the UK for individuals who hold a valid entry clearance.
- **Physical Proof:** Individuals with valid visas or physical documents can still use these as evidence for travel.
- **Digital proof:** Individuals must create a UKVI account to access their eVisa, and carriers can check eVisa permissions using the “View and Prove” service. This involves the passenger generating a share code and providing this to the carrier to conduct a secure, online check at: <https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status>
- **Individuals with newly issued passports:** must update their passport details in their UKVI account using the ‘Update My Details’ service.

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

- **What it is:** A digital permission to travel to the UK, valid for two years or until the passport expires (whichever is sooner). It allows multiple entries during the validity period.
- **Who needs it:** Eligible nationals traveling to the UK if they don't already hold an entry clearance (see eVisa for further information regarding entry clearance)
- **Permission to travel check:** A “Valid Permission to Travel” response will be returned via sPCR on journeys to the UK for individuals who hold a valid ETA.

When?

	Non-European nations	European nations
ETA application window:	Opened on 27 th November 2024	Opened on 5 th March 2025
Required for Travel from:	8 th January 2025	2 nd April 2025



ETA pre-enforcement period

During the phased rollout of ETAs and the subsequent pre-enforcement period, **visitors from countries whose citizens currently do not require a visa for short-term visits will still be permitted to travel to the UK even if they do not hold an ETA and must not be refused carriage on this basis.**

Skippers, operators and agents will **not** be liable for a penalty charge related to ETA checks (permission to travel), and **individuals will not be refused at the border solely for failure to hold an ETA.**

Passport/Travel Documents: Please note that you must continue to check that all individuals have a valid, genuine, passport or travel document and that they are the rightful holder.

Support and Assistance: The UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub is a **24/7 support function** within the Home Office. It is available to all carriers including skippers, operators and agents to answer all carrier queries related to an individual's permission to travel to the UK: ▪ +44 300 369 0610 ▪ +44 204 619 6020.

For more information regarding ETA and eVisa, please refer to the sPCR Knowledge Hub and other useful links below.

<u>sPCR Knowledge Hub</u>	<u>Apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation</u>	<u>UK Visa Requirements</u>	<u>Check someone's immigration status: use their sharecode</u>
https://homeoffice.brandworkz.com/bms/albums/?albumShare=4AA2709F	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-visa-requirements-list-for-carriers	https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status
			