



Notification Number: 1996/89/F

## Order relating to the affixing of passport photographs to French identity and travel documents.

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### Message

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ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY  
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ATT. MR. J. NULTY  
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ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON  
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ATT. MS. TOLONEN  
EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY  
EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION  
ATT. MS. MEADEN  
TELEX 002  
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (96) D/50459/2



DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC  
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001  
NOTIFICATION 96/0089/F

- 3B1 : 9600459.EN

**1. Structured Information Line**

TLX 002 IND- 96 0089 F-- EN ----- 960319 --- ---

**2. Member State**

France

**3. Department Responsible**

Secrétariat général du comité interministériel pour les  
questions de coopération économique européenne  
2 boulevard Diderot - 75012 Paris

Délégué interministériel aux normes,  
22 rue Monge - 75005 Paris.

**3. Originating Department**

Ministère de l'intérieur  
Direction des libertés publiques et des affaires juridiques  
Sous-direction des étrangers et de la circulation  
transfrontière  
1 bis place des Saussaies - 75008 Paris.

**4. Notification Number**

96/0089/F

**5. Title**

Order relating to the affixing of passport photographs to  
French identity and travel documents.

**6. Products Concerned**

Passport photographs.

**7. Notification Under Another Act**

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**8. Main Content**

The draft text concerns the affixing of silver or other types  
of passport photographs to French identity and travel  
documents (passport, national identity card, etc.) which are  
accepted by the administrative authority. The purpose of the  
draft text is to oblige the suppliers of photographic  
equipment to provide proof that the passport photographs  
which they produce are reliable in terms of security and  
quality. For this to be the case, their equipment must  
satisfy the technical specifications defined in the annex to  
the draft text and checked by an approved laboratory (the



National Test Laboratory has been chosen in France) as well as standard AFNOR NF2 12-010 (May 1990) on the quality of passport photographs.

In terms of procedure, the Minister of the Interior shall provide authorization on the basis of the proposal of the approved laboratory. Visible proof of authorization shall be shown on the passport photograph (on the front or back) by the "PHOTO QUAL." mark which shall be understandable in the main languages of the European Union and which shall enable the departments responsible for receiving applications for documents to recognise whether a photograph can or cannot be accepted.

Finally it should be specified that photographers and manufacturers of photo booths must ensure that the equipment they use is approved, check that the paper they hold contains the words mentioned above and inform the public of this by means of a specific sign.

#### **9. Brief Statement of Grounds**

In terms of security, passport photographs which are affixed to identity and travel documents must be reliable and provide total guarantee, particularly from the point of view of the stability of the image in time, or more still its resistance to heat and humidity.

This objective is essential at a time when new technologies are progressively appearing on the passport photograph market. Moreover, it appears that thermic video-photos printed by thermic sublimation did not offer the same guarantees as passport photographs developed using an argentic process and could not, in the interests of the user himself, be affixed to official documents.

Reference was therefore made in October 1992 to the case of people who complained to their prefecture about the fading of their picture on "thermic" photographs which had been affixed several months earlier on their national identity cards. In concrete terms, apart from the trouble which can result when passing through customs, the persons concerned must request that their papers be changed and once again pay for the fiscal stamp. It is equally clear that a lack of image stability in photographs of this type can only lead to an increase in the temptation to falsify and counterfeit documents.

#### **10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts**

Reference documents:

- 1) Texts relating to French identity and travel documents



- Decree of the National Convention of 7 December 1792 (concerning passports)
- Traffic Law (concerning driving licences)
- Amended order no. 45-26-58 of 2 November 1945 regulating the conditions of entry and residence for foreigners in France (residence permits for foreigners)
- Amended Decree no. 46-1574 of 30 June 1946 concerning the conditions of entry and residence for foreigners (residence permits for abroad)
- Amended Decree no. 91-1397 of 22 October 1955 establishing the national identity card
- Decree no. 91-1305 of 24 December 1991 (document relating to the movement of young people from abroad)
- Decree no. 54-1055 of 14 October 1954 leading to the publication of the Geneva Convention of 21 July 1951 on the status of refugees (travel document for refugees)
- Decree no. 60-1066 of 4 October 1960 leading to the publication of the New York Convention of 28 September 1954 on the status of stateless persons (travel document for stateless persons)

2) Texts of a technical nature

- standard AFNOR NFZ 12-010 relating to the quality of passport photographs, approved by the decision of the Director General of AFNOR of 20 April 1990 and taking effect from 20 May 1990.
- series standard NF EN 45000
- standard ISO 10602 (February 1995, NF Z 43-307) "photography - black and white treated gelatino-argentic film - Specifications for stability".
- standard ISO 10977 (February 1993) - "photography - treated colour films and photographic paper - Methods of measuring image stability".

**11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

No

**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

D. WILLIAMSON  
COMEUR  
NNNN



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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