



Immigration Service Q&A

Latest Policies on the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card

Q: What is the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card?

A: The Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card is a legal identification document that allows the holder to reside in China legally. Holders may use them when handling financial, educational, medical, transportation, accommodation, communication, work, tax and social insurance, property registration, litigation, and other affairs that require proof of personal identity. Specifically, the holders can:

1. Enter and exit China multiple times with the card and a valid passport, without the need for additional visa procedures.
2. Purchase tickets and travel by plane, train, ship, and other means of transportation within the Chinese Mainland with the card.
3. Complete check-in procedures at Chinese Mainland hotels with the card.

4. Use the card as legal identity certification when handling financial services such as banking, insurance, securities, and futures, as well as handling communication, taxation, property registration, litigation, and other matters requiring legal identification.
5. Use the card as valid identification when registering an account on major applications, as well as public service and administrative apps, such as the National Government Service Platform, Railway 12306, Traffic Management 12123, and Personal Income Tax.

For expats in China, the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Cards have the same validity as valid foreign passports for identity certification.

Q: When will the new version of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Cards be issued and put into use?

A: They will be officially issued and put into use on December 1, 2023. Foreigners who have been approved for permanent residence after December 1 will be issued the new

version. After the new ID card is activated, the holder can handle personal affairs such as transportation, daily consumption, and finance online with this card.

Q: What are the changes in the new version of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card?

A: There are several upgrades:

1. Chip storage technology has been adjusted to optimize the storage of information, and more advanced anti-counterfeiting technology has been adopted to enhance personal information protection and data security.
2. The ID number has been adjusted from 15 to 18 digits, consisting of the foreigner identification code, nationality code, and residential region code. Each holder has a unique ID number, which remains unchanged for life.
3. The layout has been optimized, and the information displayed is more complete. A newly created Great Wall design pattern has been incorporated. A five-star motif reflecting China's national flag has been added, therefore this card can be commonly referred to as the "Five-Star Card."

Q: What are the conditions for applying for the new version of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card? Where to apply?

A: Applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. Foreign applicants should meet basic conditions such as compliance with Chinese laws and physical health requirements, and should not have disqualifying criminal records.
2. Eligible categories of applicants include investors who meet certain standards, highly skilled professionals, applicants who satisfy China's specific needs, and individuals who have made significant contributions to China or meet the conditions for family

reunion. Depending on the residence of the applicant, in cities that have districts under their administrations, applications can be submitted to the entry and exit management agencies of the city public security organs; for municipalities directly under the Central Government (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Chongqing), applications can be submitted to the entry and exit management agencies of the city public security bureau, sub-bureau, or county bureau. Applications will be reviewed by the entry and exit management agencies of the public security departments and bureaus of various provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities depending on the applicant's residence. The ultimate approval authority is the National Immigration Administration (NIA).

Potential applicants can find relevant regulations on the official website of the NIA, or by calling the 12367 Service Hotline, or by consulting the local entry and exit management agencies.

Q: After the new version is released, can the current edition of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card continue to be used?

A: The current version of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card can still be used during its period of validity to handle relevant affairs as normal. Holders of the current version can also apply for a new version if they wish. The new version of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card will retain the holder's old identity number to ensure a smooth connection. If the holder needs to renew the ID card, depending on where their permanent residence is, they can apply for a new version at the entry and exit management agencies of the city-level public security organ, or the public security bureau, sub-bureau, or county bureau in municipalities.



Online Government Services of NIA

Q: What online channels does the NIA have for government services?

A: The NIA provides online services through its official website, mobile application, “NIA 12367 (移民局12367),” and “NIA 12367” mini-programs on WeChat and Alipay.

Q: What convenience services does the Government Service Platform of NIA provide for foreigners?

A: The platform offers the following services:

1. Applicants can make an appointment online to apply for visa documents.

Foreign applicants can make an appointment online to apply for visa extension, renewal, reissue, and residence permits. They can choose an offline certificate processing location and time to save queuing time and improve service efficiency.

2. Applicants can check the progress of their visa application online. Foreign applicants can check the progress of their visa extension, renewal, reissue, and residence permit application online.

3. Applicants can check visa certificate information online. Foreign applicants can check their visa extension, renewal, reissue, and residence permit information online.

4. Permanent residents can check their permanent residence ID information online. Foreign nationals who reside permanently in China can access their Foreign Permanent Resident ID Card information online.

5. Permanent residents can make inquiries about passport information online. Foreign nationals who reside permanently in China can query their passport information online. The query results can be used to generate electronic documents with electronic signatures from the NIA, enabling verification of the Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card and passport details in areas like finance, taxation, social security, and telecommunications.

6. Applicants can search online for certification agency information. Foreign applicants can check online for detailed information about public security entry and exit certificate processing halls across the country that handle foreign visa and residence permit business, including office addresses, office hours, and phone numbers.

7. Applicants can seek guidance online. Foreign applicants can check for detailed guidelines on visa extension, renewal, reissue, and residence permit applications for information such as necessary application materials and requirements, processing procedures, and fees.

8. Applicants can seek online assistance services on behalf of relatives or friends. This online assistance service is provided for foreigners who find it difficult to operate mobile applications in China, such as the elderly and children, and need assistance from others when handling affairs online. Chinese and foreign users can be added as affairs handlers for those who need assistance in making application appointments, progress queries, information queries, and other matters.



Preferential Port Visa Policies for Foreign Business Personnel

Q: What port visa facilities does the NIA provide for foreigners who come to China for business and trade?

A: Preferential policies regarding port visas are as follows:

1. Maximized convenience is provided for foreign businesspeople to help them apply for port visas and multiple entry visas for China. Foreigners who come to China for business negotiations, trade, equipment installation and maintenance, exhibitions,

investment, and entrepreneurship can, if they do not have enough time to apply for a visa to China overseas, apply for port visa entry by presenting an enterprise invitation letter and supporting documents. To cater to the needs of those making multiple round-trips for business affairs, a valid trade visa for multiple entries within three years can be issued upon entry.

2. Foreigners can retain their passports when applying for residence permits. Foreigners applying for a residence permit may retain the original passport after verifying their passport following regulations, making it convenient for foreigners to handle affairs requiring their passport during the period of application.

The information above is from the official website of the National Immigration Administration. For the latest information, please visit the NIA's official website, or call the China Immigration Service Hotline (12367).

政策信息来源国家移民管理局政府网站，最新政策可持续关注国家移民管理局政府网站或拨打12367服务热线。

