



16. Update on the Australian Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) and Conditions of Use

Update on the ETA

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is improving and updating the information and help available to applicants and users of the Electronic Travel Authority System (ETAS). This includes a new ETA information leaflet outlining the ETA conditions of use as well as updated online information and user manuals.

What is an ETA?

The ETA is an electronically stored authority to travel to Australia for a short stay. It removes the need for a visa label or stamp in a passport. There is no evidence placed in an ETA holder's passport.

What types of ETAs are there?

There are 3 different types of ETAs:
ETA (Visitor) (subclass 976);
ETA (Business Entrant – Short Validity) (subclass 977); or
ETA (Business Entrant – Long Validity) (subclass 956).

ETA (Visitor)

This ETA is designed for people who are outside Australia and want to visit Australia for holidays, tourism, recreation, and informal studies or training for up to 3 months.

ETA (Business Entrant)

These ETAs are designed for business people who are outside Australia and want to visit Australia for short-term business purposes, including attending educational or business related meetings, seminars, conventions, conferences or networking, informal studies or training. Short-term work is only permitted in strictly limited circumstances.

What conditions apply to the ETA?

There are some conditions associated with the ETA. Applicants:

- must not engage in any studies or training for more than 3 months;
- ETA holders are no longer required to pass a chest x-ray examination even if they intend to study in a classroom environment for a period greater than 4 weeks.
- must be free from tuberculosis at the time of travel to, and entry into, Australia;
- must not have any criminal convictions, for which the sentence or sentences (whether served or not) are for a total period of 12 months duration or more, at the time of travel to, and entry into, Australia;
- must comply with any work condition on their ETA.

Note: ETA holders may not be permitted to enter Australia unless they are in good health and have no criminal convictions.

Can I work on an ETA?

If a client holds an ETA (Visitor) they must not work whilst in Australia.

If they hold an ETA (Business Entrant) they must not engage in work in Australia that might otherwise be carried out by an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident.

While work is generally not allowed ETA holders may be allowed to engage in limited work if it is highly specialised and non ongoing (generally less than 21 days). People seeking paid employment in Australia should apply for the Business (Long Stay) visa (subclass 457), or other appropriate class of visa.

How long is an ETA valid for?

ETA holders are only allowed to stay in Australia for a maximum of 3 months on each arrival.

If they hold an ETA (Visitor) or an ETA (Business Entrant – Short Validity) their ETA will generally be valid for multiple visits to Australia for 12 months from the date of issue.

If they hold an ETA (Business Entrant – Long Validity), their ETA will generally be valid for multiple visits to Australia for the life of their passport.

Where can an ETA be issued from?

ETAs are available through most airlines and travel agents. Alternatively, an ETA (Visitor) and ETA (Business Entrant – Short Validity) can be obtained online at:

<http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>

ETAs are also available from DIAC Embassies and Consulates.

DIAC advises that clients should apply for an ETA at least 2 weeks before their proposed date of travel.

Further Information

Further information on ETAs, including more in depth information on the conditions of each ETA subclass along with eligibility and obligations that should be met by ETA holders can be found on the DIAC's website at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/index.htm>

Updated ETA leaflet

The ETA information leaflet, provides important information for ETA holders about the conditions relating to their ETA. Travel agents and airlines should provide this leaflet to all ETA applicants. An electronic version of the leaflet is available online at:

www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1147.pdf

Updated information on DIAC website

The DIAC website has also been updated including online tutorials and the latest version of the ETAS User Manual. This information is available online at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/eta/manual/index.htm>

Further information?

Further information on Australian's Immigration requirements can be found on line at:

www.immi.gov.au

Contacts

For further information contact DIAC by email at: Eta.system@immi.gov.au

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