



Application Registration Card (ARC) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an ARC?

An Application Registration Card (or ARC as it is more commonly known) has been in use since 2002 and is the physical, claimed identification card given to every asylum seeker to acknowledge their asylum claim.

2. When is the new ARC being introduced?

The new ARC will be introduced in a phased manner from June 2017. It is expected that all Home Office sites will be able to request the production of ARCs from July 2017 onwards.

3. Why is the new ARC being introduced?

The Home Office is committed to improving the way in which immigration services are delivered, and the current ARC is therefore being replaced. The current ARC is produced from a limited number of Home Office locations using unreliable equipment, making the process time consuming and inefficient.

4. What is the ARC currently used for?

The ARC displays an individual's claimed identity to third party organisations, where it is used for internal and external status checking to establish entitlement to services and the right to work.

5. Is the introduction of ARC linked to changes in the law relating to asylum application registration?

No changes to existing legislation are required in order to introduce the new ARC fulfilment and production process.

6. What are the benefits of the new ARC?

The new ARC process will:

- Encourage a high-quality, ICAO compliant biometric image for all applicants seeking asylum in the UK.
- Ensure card production processes are more sustainable and cost effective.

- Reduce the effort required from colleagues across the business, resulting in a time and cost saving across asylum reception processes.
- Reduce the number of fraudulent cards in circulation as the new card has 47 additional security features.

7. What is the ARC's validity period?

The card has a 2 year validity period which is printed on the face of the card.

8. How does the asylum applicant receive their ARC?

Cards are dispatched by secure postal service and delivered to the correspondence address of the individual within 3 days.

9. Who will be responsible for producing the new ARC?

The processes used to produce an ARC remain largely unchanged. Card printing will be carried out by our commercial partner, DVLA, who will then send to the card to the applicant.

10. Who do I contact should I wish to discuss the new process in greater detail?

Please contact Derek Kay (derek.kay@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) in the first instance.