

## **Embassy of India**

**Berne**

### **Extension of timeline for handwritten travel documents (PIO cards) beyond 31.12.2023**

It is informed that Bureau of Immigration (BoI), Government of India will continue to accept handwritten travel document / PIO Cards as valid travel documents along with valid foreign passport till **December 31, 2023**. This extension of the timeline is subject to the condition that if in the meantime any deadline is notified by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) thereby making PIO cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain appropriate visa from the Embassy. **It is therefore requested that all PIO cardholders should apply for conversion of PIO card to OCI card at the earliest.**

Please visit Embassy's website [www.indembassybern.gov.in](http://www.indembassybern.gov.in) (Consular Services) for further details.

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## **PIO Card Alert**

PIO Scheme has been withdrawn and merged with the OCI scheme. The last date for replacing PIO cards with OCI cards on gratis basis was 31.12.2017. Replacement of PIO cards with OCI cards will attract a fee of CHF 93.- and CHF 3.- with immediate effect.

The process of conversion of PIO cards to OCI cards takes about 6-8 weeks. It may be noted that from October, 2018 International Civil Aviation Organization will accept only machine readable travel documents. The existing PIO cards, which are hand written, will, therefore, become invalid travel documents. Hence, it will be necessary for PIO cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO cards before October, 2018 to avoid any inconvenience.

Please visit Embassy's website [www.indembassybern.gov](http://www.indembassybern.gov), in(Consular Services) for further details.

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The process of conversion of PIO cards to OCI cards takes about 3-4 weeks. It may be noted that from October, 2018 International Civil Aviation Organization will accept only machine readable travel documents. The existing PIO cards, which are hand written, will, therefore, become invalid travel documents. Hence, it will be necessary for PIO cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO cards before October, 2018 to avoid any inconvenience.

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## General Instructions

PIO Card scheme has been withdrawn by the Government of India (GOI) vide Gazette Notification No.25024/9/2014F.I dated 09.01.2015. In this context, GOI has issued a new Gazette Notification No.26011/01/2014IC.I dated 09.01.2015 stating that all Person of Indian Origin (PIO) cards issued till 09.01.2015 are to be converted into Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards. Henceforth, applicants holding PIO Cards may apply for OCI cards online on website <https://passport.gov.in/oci/welcome> - **OCI Registration (in lieu of valid PIO-Card)**

Please upload a latest photograph and signature and the following documents (**self-attested**)

1. Swiss/Foreign Passport under Current Passport.
- 2.) PIO card (front and back page details) under PIO card.
  - a) Fees for OCI card should be paid in Embassy's UBS bank account number 235-939899.01P (**IBAN: CH82 0023 5235 9398 9901 P**). **CHF 93.-** (all applicants)
  - b) Consular surcharge of **CHF 3.-** (all applicants) is to be paid in Embassy's UBS bank account number 235-939899.02K (**IBAN: CH39 0023 5235 9398 9902 K**).

Please visit Embassy's website [www.indembassybern.gov.in](http://www.indembassybern.gov.in) (Consular Services – OCI Cards) for further details.