



Consular district: Ghana, Togo, Benin

To all  
Swiss citizens living in  
Ghana, Togo and Benin

Your reference:  
Your message of:  
Our reference: 142.0-QBI

**Accra, 23.02.2010**

Dear compatriots

In a popular vote held on 17 May 2009, the Swiss people gave their assent to the general introduction of biometric passports. The Federal Government has decided to begin issuing this new form of travel document from 1 March 2010.

Therefore, I would like give you the following information:

- Due to the extremely short time available for developing and installing biometric data-capture equipment, it has not been possible to provide all representations with the necessary facilities. Priority has been given to the representations which issue the largest numbers of passports. This Embassy is not one of them.
- Since 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010, this representation can no longer issue the old types of machine-readable (model 03) and biometric (model 06) passport until the equipment necessary for the capture of biometric data will be installed. However, ID-cards can still be issued.
- The equipment for the new biometric passport will probably be installed between 22 and 26 March 2010. Should you require a biometric passport before end of March, you may get in touch with this representation, indicating which passport office you wish to apply to, in Switzerland or abroad.
- In case of emergency, this Embassy can issue a short-term provisional passport free of charge. Please note, however, that this type of document is not universally recognized. For example, it does not allow you to travel to the USA without a visa.
- Your old machine-readable passport (model 03) and biometric passport (model 06) will remain valid until their expiry date.

Please also note the following important information concerning the new biometric passport:

- Biometric data capture means that all applicants must necessarily attend in person. Minors and applicants in the care of a guardian must be accompanied by their parents or guardian, who will be required to give their consent by signing the application form. Divorced parents must provide proof that they have sole parental authority over the child. In the case of joint custody, both parents must give their consent.

In due course, you will find more detailed information concerning the application procedure on the Embassy's website.

Further information about the new 2010-model biometric passport is available on the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police: [www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch).

Please do not hesitate to contact this Embassy should you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Embassy of Switzerland in Accra

## Fees from 1 March 2010

| Passport   | Swiss francs | Local currency<br>(current exchange<br>rate, please check<br>before application) | Validity |
|--|--------------|--|----------|
| Adult  | 140.00       | GHS 196.00   | 10 years |
| Child under 18   | 60.00        | GHS 84.00  | 5 years  |
| Supplement for<br>combined offer:<br>passport and identity<br>card | 8.00         | GHS 12.00  |          |

| Identity card  | Swiss francs | Local currency | Validity |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| Adult          | 65.00        | GHS 91.00      | 10 years |
| Child under 18 | 30.00        | GHS 42.00      | 5 years  |

| Supplement for dispatch by registered post | Swiss francs | Local currency |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Per document:                              | 8.00         | GHS 12.00      |

| Provisional passport  | Swiss francs | Local currency | Validity             |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Adult and child   | 100.00       | GHS 140.00     | 12 months<br>maximum |
| Supplement for issuing<br>passport outside of the<br>consulate's normal<br>office hours | 50.00        | GHS 70.00      |                      |