



## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

## About this guidance

About this guidance
What is an EEA family
permit?
Considering an
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Outcome of application
for an EEA family permit

This is guidance on European Economic Area (EEA) family permits. It tells you what to consider when you assess an application for a family permit.

Under the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, Swiss nationals are included in the definition of EEA nationals. Family members of Swiss nationals have the same free movement rights as family members of EEA nationals.

This guidance is based on the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC. For more information, see related links.

Changes to this guidance - This page tells you what has changed since the previous version of this guidance.

Contact - This page tells you who to contact for more help if your senior caseworker or line manager can't answer your question.

Information owner - This page tells you about this version of the guidance and who owns it.

Safeguard and promote child welfare - This page explains your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and tells you where to find more information.

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**External links** 

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Free Movement of Persons Directive (2004/38/EC)

# **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

# **Changes to this guidance**

About this guidance What is an EEA family	This page lists changes to the 'European Economic Area (EEA) family permethe most recent at the top.	nit' guidance with Related links
permit? Considering an application for an EEA family permit	Date of the change 21 February 2014  Six month review by the modernised guidance team:	See also Contacts
Outcome of application for an EEA family permit	Minor housekeeping and plain English changes throughout.	Information owner  Non-EEA family
	28 August 2013  Six month review by the modernised guidance team:  • What is an EEA family permit?:  • third paragraph has been amended	members - archive
	<ul> <li>Considering an application for an EEA family permit:         <ul> <li>new links added</li> </ul> </li> <li>Direct family members:         <ul> <li>new seventh and eighth paragraphs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	added  Extended family members:  fourth paragraph, first and second bullet points amended  Minor housekeeping changes.	
	For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Non-EEA family members – archive.	

## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

## What is an EEA family permit?

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This section tells you what the European Economic Area (EEA) family permit is and when to issue one.

Under European Community law, EEA and Swiss nationals can enter and live in the UK to exercise free movement rights. Their non-EEA national family members can also join the EEA national sponsor.

A family permit is issued overseas to direct and extended family members of an EEA national who is in, or intends to come to, the UK to exercise free movement rights.

Direct and extended family members of an EEA national may apply for a family permit and this is free of charge.

For more information on the different types of entry clearance that show the permission for travel to the UK, see related link: Entry clearance to the UK.

For more information about the rights of European citizens and their family members to live and work in the UK, see related links:

- Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC
- Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

For more information on free movement rights, see related link: Free movement rights.

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#### Related links

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#### **External links**

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Entry clearance to the UK

# **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

# **Summary of key points**

Summary of key point			
About this guidance	, ,	o note for the European Economic Area (EEA)	In this section
What is an EEA family	family permit.		
permit?			What is an EEA family
Considering an	What regulation governs the issue of EEA	Regulation 12 of the Immigration (EEA)	permit?
application for an EEA	family permits?	Regulations 2006 is the basis for issuing	
family permit		EEA family permits. Successful applicants	External links
Outcome of application		must meet all requirements for a family	
for an EEA family permit		permit.	Free Movement of
Tor an ELA family permit			Persons Directive
		A non EEA national travelling independently	2004/38/EC
		and not joining an EEA national in the UK	
		must meet the normal entry clearance	The Immigration (EEA)
		requirements under the Immigration Rules.	(Amendment)
			Regulations 2009
	Who can apply for an EEA family permit?	The EEA family permit is for non EEA family	
		members of EEA nationals. The Free	The Immigration (EEA)
		Movement of Persons Directive	(Amendment)
		(2004/38/EC) defines direct family members	Regulations 2011
		of an EEA national as their spouse, civil	Image investigation (FFA)
		partner, child under 21 or dependent	Immigration (EEA)
		children over 21 and dependent direct	Regulations 2006
		relatives in the ascending line. Other	Fortuna elegando de the
		dependent family members outside of this	Entry clearance to the
		list and durable partners of an EEA national	<u>UK</u>
		may apply for an EEA family permit as	
		extended family members. EEA family	
		permits can be issued to non EEA family	
		members of a British national who has lived	
		and worked in another EEA member state	
		and is returning to live in the UK.	

Who can issue EEA family permits?	Any Pritich ambaccy, high commission or	
Willo carrissue EEA family permits?	Any British embassy, high commission or consulate abroad designated by the Foreign	
	& Commonwealth Office as an issuing post	
	can issue EEA family permits. An applicant	
	does not have to travel to their country of	
	origin to apply.	
	A non EEA national family member of an	
	EEA national should apply for an EEA family	
	permit before coming to the UK.	
	Although it is proforable thou obtain and	
	Although it is preferable they obtain one pre-entry to make possible their travel, an	
	EEA family permit is not mandatory.	
	Regulation 11(4) of the Immigration (EEA)	
	Regulations 2006 allows a person to provide	
	other proof of their right to enter the UK, if	
	they do not have an EEA family permit,	
	residence card or permanent residence card.	
Is there a charge for issuing an EEA family	No. EEA family permits are issued free of	
permit?	charge. The permit is valid for six months	
pormite	from the date of issue and can be used for	
	multiple entries within that time.	
For more information, see related links:		
Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004		
The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Reg		
The immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Reg	guiations 2011	
Entry clearance to the UK     Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006		
Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006.		

## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

## Considering an application for an EEA family permit

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This section tells you who can get a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit and the rules which they must meet to be issued with the permit.

The EEA family permit system is administered by Visa services. However, you may be asked to consider an application for an EEA family permit in the following circumstances:

- Referred cases the entry clearance officer (ECO) has referred the case for a decision on the application, because there are wider policy issues involved.
- Deferred cases the ECO has deferred the case for advice or for further information to be obtained. You must remember in a deferred case the responsibility for the final decision rests with the ECO.

Under European Community law, applications for EEA family permits must be treated as a priority case. See related links:

- Direct family members
- Extended family members.

Under regulation 19(1) of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, an applicant for an EEA family permit and their EEA national family member can be excluded from the UK on the grounds of public policy, security or health. For more information on this, see related links:

- 08 Enforcement action taken against EEA nationals and family members
- Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC
- Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Immigration (EEA) Amendment) Regulations 2012.

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Extended family members

#### **Downloads**

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### **External links**

Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC

The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment)
Regulations 2009

The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment)
Regulations 2011

Immigration (EEA)
Regulations 2006

This guidance is based on the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Free movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC

The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

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## **Direct family members**

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This page tells you the rules an applicant must meet to qualify for a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit as a direct family member of an EEA national.

Immediate family members of EEA nationals or their spouse or civil partner can apply for an EEA family permit as a direct family member. A non-EEA national who is the spouse (except for marriages of convenience) or civil partner of an EEA national who exercises, or intends to exercise, free movement rights in the UK is classed as a direct family member.

Children under the age of 21 who apply as the direct family member of the EEA national or their spouse or civil partner, do not need to show dependency to qualify for a family permit.

Evidence of dependency is required for children over the age of 21, and for parents and grandparents of either an EEA national, their spouse or civil partner to allow them to be considered as direct family members.

For more information on direct family members, refer to regulation 7 of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006. See related link: Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006.

When you assess an application from a direct family member, you must be satisfied the applicant:

- holds a valid passport
- provides enough documentary evidence, such as marriage or birth certificates or other evidence which shows they qualify for an EEA family permit.

If the EEA national is already in the UK exercising free movement rights, then evidence of this must be provided.

However, if the EEA national is yet to arrive in the UK, or is residing in the UK within the initial three month period of residence, there is no requirement for the EEA national to

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provide evidence they will, in future, exercise free movement rights.

To qualify for an EEA family permit, the EEA national must:

- live in the UK in line with the regulations, or
- intend to travel to the UK and live in line with the regulations within six months.

The applicant must be joining or accompanying the EEA national.

For more information, see related links:

- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

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### **Extended family members**

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This page tells you the rules an applicant must meet to be issued with a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit as an extended family member of an EEA national.

Relatives of an EEA national who exercises, or intends to exercise, free movement rights in the UK who are not direct family members may qualify as an extended family member.

Non EEA national extended family members of EEA nationals do not have an automatic right of entry into the UK. To qualify, an applicant must show they meet the conditions of regulation 8 of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 (the regulations). The EEA national family member must live in the UK in line with the regulations or intend to travel to the UK and live in line with the regulations within six months and the applicant must join or accompany them.

An applicant must show they are a relative of an EEA national, their spouse or civil partner, and:

- were residing in a country other than the UK
- are dependent on the EEA national or is a member of their household
- are accompanying or joining the EEA national in the UK, and continues to be dependent on the EEA national or a member of the EEA national's household
- need strict personal care, because of serious health grounds, which must be provided by the EEA national, spouse or their civil partner:
  - o for example, if the applicant is totally dependent on their EEA national family member or their spouse or civil partner for basic everyday care such as helping with personal hygiene, or preparing meals
- meet the requirements in the Immigration Rules (other than those relating to entry clearance) for indefinite leave to enter or remain as a dependent relative of the EEA national:
  - o were the EEA national someone living and settled in the UK, or
  - o are a partner of the EEA national, but not a spouse or civil partner, and in a durable

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Immigration (EEA)
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relationship with the EEA national.

For more information on how to assess if a partnership is durable, see related link: 05 Residence card applications.

When you assess an application from an extended family member, you must be satisfied the applicant:

- holds a valid passport or national identity card
- provides enough documentary evidence such as birth certificates or other evidence which confirms how they are related to their EEA national family member who is exercising free movement rights in the UK.

For guidance on establishing dependency see related link: 05 Residence card applications.

### **Unmarried partners**

Under regulation 8 (5) of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, a non EEA national who is an unmarried partner of an EEA national can qualify as an extended family member if they show their relationship is durable. There are no specific rules set as a definitive way to prove a relationship is durable. It is up to the applicant to provide evidence to demonstrate this.

For example, you may ask an applicant to provide evidence to show the couple have been living together in a relationship similar to marriage for at least two years and intend to continue living together permanently. You should expect any previous marriages or relationships similar to marriage have ended and the couple are not blood relatives. In making a decision, you must consider each case on its own merits.

If the conditions above are met, you must be satisfied the applicant is a durable partner falling within regulation 8(5). You must consider all the facts and circumstances, as there may be cases where even though one or more of these points are not met you are still satisfied they are in a durable relationship.

For help with a specific case, speak to your line manager or a senior caseworker.

For more information, see related links:

• Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006

• The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

• The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.



## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

## Outcome of application for an EEA family permit

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This section tells you information you will need when you have made a decision about an application for a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit.

For more information, see related links:

- Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC
- Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

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# **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

# Issue an EEA family permit

issue an EEA ramily p	Dermit	
About this guidance What is an EEA family permit?	This page tells you how to issue a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit to a successful applicant.	In this section  Refusing an EEA family
Considering an application for an EEA family permit	You must issue successful applicants with a category D vignette in their passport or travel document. The endorsement must say if the person will travel with or join the EEA family member.	Revoking an EEA family
Outcome of application for an EEA family permit	The two choices for wording to use on an endorsement are:	Pight of appeal
	FAMILY MEMBER (specify as appropriate) OF AN EEA NATIONAL WHO WILL BE TRAVELLING WITH THEIR EEA FAMILY MEMBER IN THE UK	External links
	Or  FAMILY MEMBER (specify as appropriate) OF AN EEA NATIONAL WHO WILL	Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC
	BE <u>JOINING</u> THEIR EEA FAMILY MEMBER IN THE UK	Immigration (EEA)
	An EEA family permit is valid for six months from the date of issue for multiple entries to the UK during that period.	Regulations 2006  The Immigration (EEA)
	For more information, see related links:  • Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC	(Amendment) Regulations 2009
	<ul> <li>The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009</li> <li>The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.</li> </ul>	The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment)
		Regulations 2011

## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

## Refusing an EEA family permit

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This page tells you how to notify an applicant their application for a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit was not successful.

You must issue unsuccessful applicants a letter which says why you have refused their application.

The suggested wordings to include in a letter are as follows:

Reason	Suggested wording
Insufficient evidence that	'You have applied for a European Economic Area (EEA)
EEA national is in, or will be	family permit for admission to the UK as the family member
travelling to UK	of an EEA national. Your application has not been
	successful because I am not satisfied that the EEA national
	of whom you are a family member is in, or will be travelling
	to the UK'.
Insufficient evidence to	You have applied for a European Economic Area (EEA)
support applicant's claim to	family permit for admission to the UK as the family member
be a family member of an	of an EEA national. Your application has not been
EEA national	successful because you have not produced enough
	documentary evidence of this. I am not satisfied that you
	are a family member of an EEA national as claimed'.
land find and a colonia and	(Var. have applied for a Francisco Francisco April (FFA)
Insufficient evidence of	You have applied for a European Economic Area (EEA)
financial dependency on the	family permit for admission to the UK as the family member
EEA national	of an EEA national. To qualify, you must show that you are
	financially dependent on your EEA national family member.
	Your application has not been successful because I am not
	satisfied that you are dependent as claimed'.
Insufficient evidence that	(Vou have applied for a European Economic Area (EEA)
mounicient evidence that	'You have applied for a European Economic Area (EEA)

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Free Movement of Persons Directive

Immigration (EEA)
Regulations 2006

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The Immigration (EEA)

permit

permit

Issue an EEA family

Revoking an EEA family

EEA national would be deterred from coming to in the UK if not accomplished family member	o live of an EEA national under regulation 12 of the Immigration	
Insufficient evidence th EEA national (who is in UK) is a qualified perso	the family permit for admission to the UK as the family member	
Insufficient evidence the marriage is genuine (marriage of convenient)	family permit for admission to the UK as the spouse of an	
The Immigration (E		

## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

# Revoking an EEA family permit

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This page tells you when you can revoke a European Economic Area (EEA) family permit or refuse a person entry to the UK.

You can revoke an EEA family permit or refuse a person who presents one on entry into the UK if the:

- action is justified on grounds of public policy, security or health, or
- applicant is no longer a family member of an EEA national with a right to live in the UK under the Immigration (EEA) regulations 2006 or is not going to accompany or join that EEA national.

For more information on decisions taken on public policy, security and health grounds, see regulation 21 of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006. See related link.

For more information, see related links:

- Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

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**Immigration Rules** 

Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC

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## Right of appeal

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This page tells you about appeal rights for an unsuccessful European Economic Area (EEA) family permit application.

An unsuccessful applicant for an EEA family permit has an out of country right of appeal against this decision.

There is no right of appeal under regulation 26(2) and (3) of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 if they did not provide evidence of either the EEA national family member's nationality or how they are related.

For more information on out of country appeals, see regulation 27(1c) of the Immigration (EEA) regulations 2006 regulations, see related link: Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006.

For more information, see related links:

- Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC
- The Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
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This page explains who to contact for more help with a specific case in the European Economic Area (EEA) family permits category.

If you have read the relevant regulations and this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your senior caseworker or your line manager.

If the question cannot be answered at that level, you may email the European operational policy team in box for guidance on the policy. See related link.

Changes to this guidance can only be made by the modernised guidance team (MGT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the European operational policy team, who will ask the MGT to update the guidance, if appropriate.

The MGT will accept feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the link: Email: Modernised guidance team.

### **Related links**

Changes to this guidance

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## **European Economic Area (EEA) family permit**

### Information owner

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This page tells you about this version of the 'European Economic Area (EEA) family permit' document and who owns it.

Version	7.0
Valid from date	21 February 2014
Policy owner	European operational policy team
Cleared by director	Eddy Montgomery
Director's role	Director of Operations - North West Region
Clearance date	17 August 2011
This version approved for publication by	Richard Short
Approver's role	Grade 7, modernised guidance team
Approval date	19 February 2014

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### Related links

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