

**Item 1 & 2: Compliance status: Does the Immigration Department consider the current HKSAR Electronic Passport to be fully compliant with ICAO Doc 9303, Part 4, with respect to the inclusion and placement of the holder's signature (Field 18, Zone IV)? If so, please identify the specific provision(s) of Doc 9303 that the Department relies upon to support this position and;**

**Design rationale: What was the rationale or circumstances behind the decision to not place the holder's on the data page, the reverse of the data page, or the page adjacent to the data page? Please provide any records, minutes of meetings, internal memoranda, policy papers, or correspondence relating to this design decision, including any consideration of ICAO Doc 9303 requirements during the design process for any version of the HKSAR Electronic Passport.**

The HKSAR passport is compliant with the standard of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The HKSAR passport is an electronic passport embedded with a contactless chip which stores the holder's facial image and personal data. The mandatory data elements in accordance with the Logical Data Structure, such as a duplication of the Machine Readable Zone data and holder's facial image, are stored in the contactless chip with all entered data secured with a digital signature in compliant with the standard of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (i.e. Doc 9303).

**Item 3: ICAO notifications: Has the Immigration Department, the Government of the HKSAR, or the Government of the People's Republic of China (on behalf of the HKSAR) ever received any notification, communication, audit finding, or inquiry from ICAO (including from the ICAO Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group, the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents, or any other ICAO body) regarding the HKSAR passport's compliance with the signature placement requirements of Doc 9303, Part 4? If so, please provide copies of such communications and the Department's responses.**

The Immigration Department did not receive any notification, communication, audit finding or inquiry from ICAO regarding to the HKSAR passport's compliance with the signature placement requirements of Doc 9303, Part 4.

**Item 4: Traveller impact: Does the Immigration Department hold any records, reports, complaints, or statistics regarding cases in which HKSAR passport holders have encountered difficulties at foreign border control points, airline check-in, or other travel-related processes due to the absence of a signature on or adjacent to the data page of the HKSAR passport? If so, please provide such records or, at minimum, aggregate statistics on the number and nature of such cases.**

The Immigration Department did not receive any complaint regarding cases in which HKSAR passport holders have encountered difficulties at foreign border control points, airline check-in, or other travel-related processes due to the absence of a signature on or adjacent to the data page of the HKSAR passport.

Regarding to the records, reports and statistics related to the subject matter, after careful consideration of the application, we are not prepared to provide the information requested for the reason set out in paragraph 2.9(d) of the Code on Access to Information, which states “Information which could only be made available by unreasonable diversion of a department’s resources”.

If you are not satisfied with the above reply, you may ask the Department to review the decision by writing to the Director of Immigration. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint to The Ombudsman, whose address is-

30/F, China Merchants Tower  
Shun Tak Centre  
168-200 Connaught Road Central  
Hong Kong  
Telephone : 2629 0555  
Fax : 2882 8149