

Q&A

Why is the new immigration control system starting?
Answering your questions about the new immigration procedures.

Q. Why do I need to be fingerprinted and photographed at immigration control?

A. By collecting personally identifying data, such as fingerprints and facial photos, of visitors to Japan, we will be able to identify persons considered to pose security risks, such as terrorists, and persons traveling with passports that are not their own. This will help us to prevent terrorist attacks.

Q. What if I am not able to provide a fingerprint from my index finger?

A. If you are not able to provide a fingerprint from your index finger because, for example, that finger is missing from your hand, then you will be required to provide a fingerprint from another finger, according to an order drawn up by the Ministry of Justice. Please inform your immigration control officer of any such difficulties.

Q. What will happen if I do not provide fingerprints or a facial photograph?

A. Your immigration control officer will carefully examine your case, to determine whether or not you fall into one of the exempt categories. If, despite it having been determined that you do not fall into any exempt category, you refuse to submit personally identifying information, you will be denied entry to Japan and ordered to leave.

Q. How will the personal information which I submit at immigration control be stored and protected?

A. The personally identifying information which you provide to us (fingerprints and photographs) is important personal data. As such, we will properly store and protect your data, according to the basic law for the protection of personal data, the Act for the Protection of Personal Information Retained by Administrative Institutions. All necessary measures will be put in place to ensure the safety and security of your data.

For further information please contact:

General Affairs Division, Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8977

Tel: +81 (0)3-3580-4111

URL: <http://www.moj.go.jp/>