



New Travel Document Policy

Effective February 25, 2026

Dear Trade Partner,

Effective from 25th February 2026, Aer Lingus will introduce a new aligned travel document policy across all international travel. This means that all customers (including Irish or British nationals) travelling on flights between the Republic of Ireland and the UK (Common Travel Area) will now require a valid passport or Irish passport card. The other forms of photo ID (driver's licence, government issued photo ID, etc) previously accepted will no longer be valid for travel on Common Travel Area routes.

Passengers travelling on domestic services with Aer Lingus Regional, operated by Emerald Airlines, are exempt from this updated travel policy. Domestic services include Belfast-UK and Dublin-Donnegal routes.

This aligns with the travel document requirements across the rest of our network. This will ensure consistency across our network and further improve our operational performance for our customers

Also effective from 25 February 2026, Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will be required by anyone travelling to the UK who is not a British or Irish national and does not hold a valid UK visa or other immigration permission. Certain nationalities will require an eVisa. Customers are strongly advised to check the UK Government website for further information.

Aer Lingus advises customers to check all travel documents in advance of travel to avoid any disruption.

Kind Regards,

Global Sales Support Team



Travel document requirements – FAQs

What documents do I need to travel between the Republic of Ireland and the UK?

What travel documents do I need to fly with Aer Lingus/Aer Lingus Regional between the UK and the Republic of Ireland from 25 February 2026?

From this date, all customers travelling on **Aer Lingus or Aer Lingus Regional flights (including Irish and British nationals)** between Ireland and the UK must present a **valid passport or Irish passport card** at check-in and boarding. This will ensure consistency across our network and further improve our operational performance for our customers.

Other forms of photo ID will no longer be accepted for travel on these routes.

This change does **not** apply to domestic flights:

- Belfast to other parts of the UK
- Dublin to Donegal.

I'm an Irish or British citizen, why do I still need a passport?

While Irish and British nationals don't need a UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), they must still present a **valid passport or Irish passport card** when travelling internationally with Aer Lingus. This will ensure consistency across our network and further improve our operational performance for our customers. Domestic routes such as **Belfast to the UK** and **Dublin to Donegal** are exempt.

What about children and infants?

All customers, including **children and infants**, must have:

Their own passport/Irish passport card as applicable in order to travel on any flight other than domestic UK flight.

Can I still use an EU National ID card on flights to the UK?

No. EU National ID cards **cannot be used for flights to the UK**.

If something goes wrong

If I'm unable to travel due to the new passport requirements, what should I do?

If you're unable to travel because of the of the new passport requirements, please contact us on **(UK) +44 808 189 4472 / (IRE) +353 1 697 1970** for assistance. Our team will review your booking and discuss the options available to you, based on your individual circumstances.

What if I've already travelled between the UK and Ireland without a passport and need to return?

From 25 February 2026, all customers (including Irish and British nationals) travelling on flights between Ireland and the UK (excluding domestic UK flights), must present a **valid passport or Irish passport card** at check-in and boarding.

If you cannot present a passport/Irish passport card, you won't be able to travel. Please contact us on **(UK) +44 808 189 4472 / (IRE) +353 1 697 1970** for assistance. Our team will review your booking and discuss the options available to you, based on your individual circumstances.

Travel between the UK and the Republic of Ireland for non-Irish and non-British nationals:

What is a UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)/eVISA?

A UK ETA and eVISA are **digital permissions to travel** to the UK. An ETA is required by visa-exempt nationals (there are exceptions). An eVISA is required if you are travelling from a country that



requires a visa. Check if you need an ETA or eVISA here [Get an electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\) to visit the UK: When you do not need an ETA - GOV.UK](#)

Who needs an ETA?

You'll need an ETA if:

You're travelling to the UK, and

- You're **not a British or Irish citizen**, and
- You don't already hold a valid UK visa or immigration permission

British and Irish nationals do **not** need an ETA.

When does ETA enforcement begin?

From **25 February 2026**, travellers who require an ETA/eVISA must have it **approved before travel**. You cannot travel while an application is pending.

How long does an ETA take, how long is it valid, and how much does it cost?

- Most applications are approved within minutes (allow up to **3 working days**)
- Valid for **2 years** or until your passport expires
- Costs **£16 per person**, including children and infants

Do transit passengers need an ETA?

You do not need an ETA if you're transiting through a UK airport and you will not pass through border control. For example, you don't need an ETA if you're connecting to another flight at Heathrow and you are transiting **airside only**.

Transatlantic travel

What about connections through Dublin or Shannon to North America?

Nothing changes. Passengers travelling to the US must continue to meet all US entry requirements, including **ESTA** where applicable. Travellers to Canada may require a **Canadian eTA**.

What about travel on other European flights?

Nothing changes.

For flights within Europe, some EU nationals may continue to use a valid national ID card, where permitted under EU regulations