



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.6.2011
C(2011) 3918 final

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of 20.6.2011

amending the Recommendation establishing a common "Practical Handbook for Border Guards (Schengen Handbook)" to be used by Member States' competent authorities when carrying out the border control of persons (C (2006) 5186 final)

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

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amending the Recommendation establishing a common "Practical Handbook for Border Guards (Schengen Handbook)" to be used by Member States' competent authorities when carrying out the border control of persons (C (2006) 5186 final)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 292 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Recommendation of 6 November 2006 (C (2006) 5186 final) established a "Practical Handbook for Border Guards (Schengen Handbook)" containing common guidelines, best practice and recommendations on border controls.
- (2) The Commission committed itself to ensuring regular updates of the Practical Handbook for Border Guards.
- (3) In order to provide for guidance on invalidated travel documents containing a valid visa and to take into account the guidelines on marking of fraudulent documents, the Practical Handbook should be adjusted.

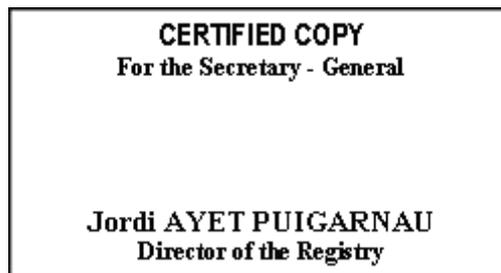
HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. The Annex to the Recommendation of 6 November 2006 (C(2006)5186 final) is amended as set out in the Annex to this Recommendation.

2. Member States should transmit the amendments to the Practical Handbook for Border Guards, laid down in this Recommendation, to their national authorities competent for carrying out border controls on persons.

Done at Brussels, 20.6.2011

*For the Commission
Cecilia MALMSTRÖM
Member of the Commission*



ANNEX

(1) In the table of contents the following reference to the new point 13 is added:

"13. Marking of fraudulent documents".

(2) In Part Two, Section I, is amended as follows:

(a) The following paragraph is added to the first indent of point 1.6:

"A third-country national subject to the visa obligation may travel with two passports, i.e. with a valid passport (without visa) and with an invalidated passport containing a valid visa";

(b) The following paragraph is added to the second indent of point 1.6:

"For further information on the guidelines on marking of fraudulent documents, see point 13, Section I.";

(c) The following paragraph is added to the fourth indent of point 1.7:

"A third-country national subject to the visa obligation may hold two passports, i.e. a valid passport (without visa) and an invalidated passport containing a valid visa";

(d) The following paragraph is added to the second indent of point 3.1.1:

"Family member subject to the visa obligation might also present two passports, i.e. a valid passport (without visa) and an invalidated passport containing a valid visa";

(e) The following new point 13 is added to Section I, PART II:

"13. Marking of fraudulent documents

In cases where a border guard, while performing border checks detects a document which is fraudulent he/she shall refuse entry to the third country national, and mark the document according to the Schengen Borders Code (Annex V, Part B).

The border guard should take all the necessary measures to prevent the further use of the fraudulent document. In order to achieve this objective he/she should, as a general rule, seize the document.

Where it is necessary to hand over the document to the competent authorities (border control or others) of the third country/country of origin concerned (directly, through the carrier companies or through diplomatic channels), the border guard should:

- Invalidate the document - by hole-punching or cutting the document, where possible, in the machine readable zone (MRZ),

or, if this is not possible:

- Mark the document as follows (only in cases when the document is not marked as described above):

1) Paper

Marking the lower left corner of a passport's last page and, if possible, marking as well the page on which the signs of falsification or counterfeiting can be found, by building in a small triangle around letter "F", with a red hard-nibbed pen (unless that page is full, in which case the adjoining pages should be used);

2) Polymer

Marking a void area on a polymer based stand-alone document, by building in a small triangle around letter "F", using an UV ink pen, preferably red;

Or (only for completely counterfeit documents)

Marking a void area on a polymer based stand-alone counterfeit document by punching or cutting the document in the area where personal data and security features imitations are not affected.

In the particular case of fraud concerning documents which appear to have been issued by another Schengen State, the seized document should be returned to that State, once the national proceedings linked to the seizure of the document are completed."
