

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HAND WRITTEN PIO CARDS

As per the Government of India's instructions, all PIO cardholders with valid PIO cards as on 09.01.2015 are deemed to be OCI Card holders. Hence the PIO card, which is a deemed OCI card continues to be legally valid as per Law.

Machine-readable electronic travel document is mandate by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines. It is not a precondition prescribed by MHA/ Bol for entry into India.

All PIO cardholders with valid PIO Cards as on 09.01.2015 are advised to apply for the conversion of their PIO card to OCI card.

As far as Bureau of Immigration (Bol) is concerned, it will accept PIO cards as valid document till March 31, 2019 along with valid foreign passport. If in the meantime, any deadline is notified by the ICAO, thereby making handwritten PIO cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain appropriate visa from our Embassy/Consulate, if they have not converted their PIO card to OCI card. However, the Indian immigration check posts will continue to consider all PIO cards valid for exit/entry into India till 31st March 2019. Situations would be reviewed in March, 2019 and appropriate instructions will be issued later on.