

MEXICO'S NEW CONSULAR ID CARD

IMPROVING THE SECURE AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION FOR MEXICANS ABROAD

A mechanism to assist Mexican citizens

The Consular Identification Card —known as *Matrícula Consular*— was created as proof of Mexican nationality and domicile abroad. It is issued by Mexican consulates after a rigorous process to confirm the identity and residence of the bearer.

Starting on November 1st, 2014, the consulates will issue a new consular ID card, which has additional security measures.

The new Consular ID Card is one of the most secure documents issued by the Government of Mexico. The graphic design incorporates several features using state of the art software to increase security such as *Guilloché*, linear images, encryption data, among others.

The main responsibility of consulates is to provide services, assistance, and protection to nationals abroad. This is a key foreign policy priority for the Government of Mexico.

Mexican consulates issue secure, reliable and tamper proof documents such as passports and Consular ID Cards. Consular ID Cards have no bearing whatsoever on a person's immigration status.

The information contained in the IDs is centralized in a database that is useful to locate Mexican nationals in case of emergency.

Consular ID Cards Application Requirements:

A proof of Mexican nationality, an official proof of identity (Mexican or American), a proof of address within the corresponding consular district and a fee.

A reliable and widely accepted ID

The Consular Identification Card is issued in accordance to Mexican privacy laws (Access to Information Law, 2002) and to international legal instruments subscribed by Mexico and the United States (Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, 1963).

This document is recognized as proof of identity by many banks and financial institutions, as well as federal, state and local authorities in Mexico and the United States.

A Consular ID cannot be issued if the applicant has a criminal record, is subject to prosecution, or faces a judicial or administrative process in Mexico.

Main security features of the new Consular ID Card

The new Consular ID Card improves the already secure and tamper proof card that included measures such as: visual and hidden security elements, support by a centralized system to avoid duplications and confirm authenticity of documents and personal information, link to Mexican security data bases, biometric elements (fingerprints and signature), among others.

The new card includes additional security measures such as:

- Printed on plastic cards (PET) with visible and invisible marks.
- New background design with high quality print and micro text frames.
- ID format with text on different ink colors.
- Embedded identity data on Cryptographic Chip.
- More clarity on the picture, with security frames that don't affect the clarity of the image.
- Laser engraved card number.

