

Passport & ID Photograph Specifications

Photograph quality

The photographs must be:

- ▶ two identical colour photos for passports
- ▶ two identical colour or black and white photos for IDs
- ▶ not more than one (1) month old
- ▶ 35mm in width and 45mm in height
- ▶ a close-up of your head and top of your shoulders so that your face takes up 70 – 80% of the photograph
- ▶ of high quality with no ink marks or creases and not damaged

The photographs must:

- ▶ show you looking directly at the camera
- ▶ have appropriate brightness and contrast
- ▶ be printed on high-quality photo paper



Too close

Too far away



Blurred

Ink marked/creased



Looking away

Unnatural skin tones



Too dark

Too light



Washed out colour

Pixelated

Style and lighting

The photographs must:

- ▶ show your natural colour
- ▶ show your eyes open and clearly visible - no hair across your face
- ▶ show you facing square onto the camera, not looking over one shoulder (portrait style) or tilted
- ▶ show both edges of your face clearly
- ▶ be taken with a light grey or plain cream-coloured background
- ▶ be taken with uniform lighting and not show shadows or flash reflections on your face and no red-eye
- ▶ show you alone (no chair backs, toys or other people visible)



Hair across eyes

Eyes closed



Portrait style

Eyes tilted



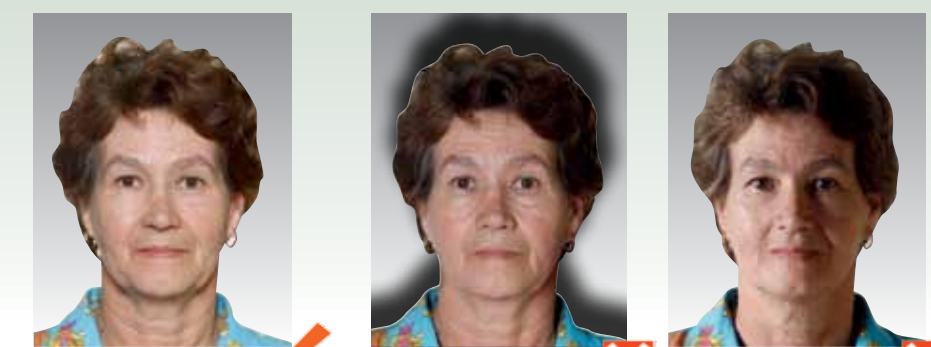
Busy background

Not centred



Flash reflection on skin

Red-eye



Shadows behind head

Shadows across face

Glasses and head covers

If you wear glasses:

- ▶ the photograph must show your eyes clearly with no flash reflection off the glasses
- ▶ no dark-tinted lenses or heavy frames
- ▶ make sure that the frames do not cover any part of your eyes

Head coverings:

- ▶ are not permitted except for religious reasons, but your facial features from bottom of chin to top of forehead and both edges of your face must be clearly shown



Dark tinted lenses

Flash reflection on lenses



Frame too heavy

Frames covering eyes



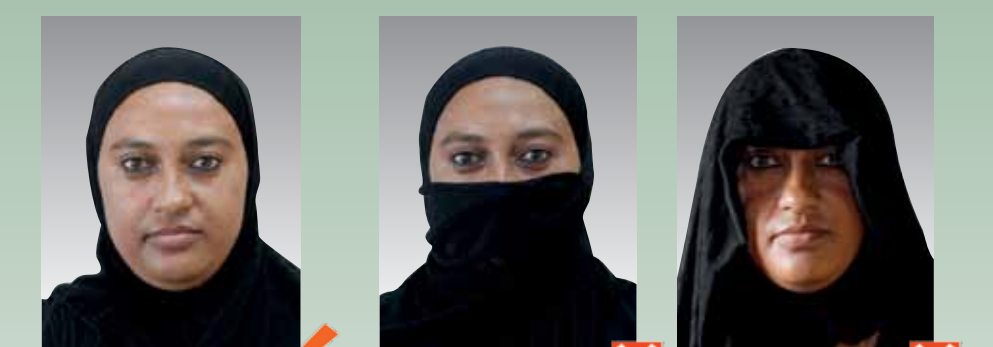
Wearing a hat

Wearing a cap

Expression

The photograph must:

- ▶ show you looking at the camera with a neutral expression and mouth closed
- ▶ no obvious grinning, frowning or raised eyebrows



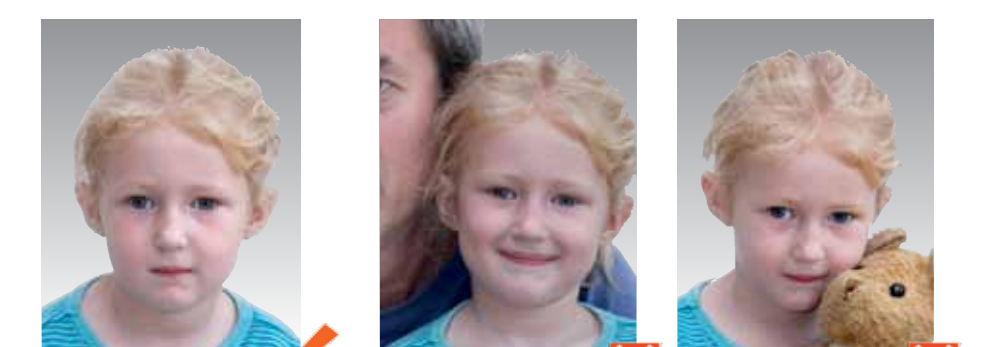
Face covered

Shadows across face



Shows another person

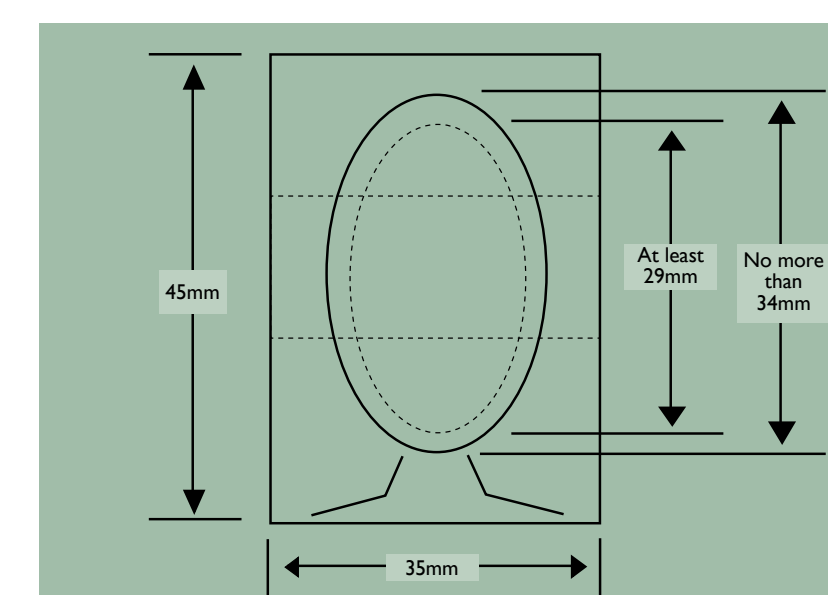
Mouth open



Shows another person

Shown with a toy

For further information please contact:
The Department of Home Affairs at
0800 60 11 90
You can also visit our website
www.dha.gov.za



Photographic Template

The photographs must:

- ▶ be in sharp focus and clear
- ▶ have a strong definition between face and background, and
- ▶ be printed professionally - photographs printed at home are not likely to be of an acceptable quality

Black and White Photos

- ▶ Black and white photos for IDs must also meet these requirements



home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA