

The Passport Office (processing of requests for authentication and identification)

Requests might be received on a telecom network from Canadian and/or foreign Immigration offices for authentication of passports by verification of checksums (i.e. a counterfeiting check recorded in the imbedded passport chip). Passport numbers and checksums would be received, compared with the data base, and the result forwarded to the enquiring agency within seconds (with no transmission of personal information).

Requests might also be received on the telecom network for Canadian and foreign biometrics checks (i.e. an identity check); complete biometric data might be retrieved from the archives and transmitted to the requestor via the telecom network within minutes after approval for release of information by Security.

Immigration counters

Where not equipped to read electronic chip or request electronic verification, processing would be similar to the current system - an immigration officer would do a visual check on image, signature, etc. Visas would be stamped manually as present system.

In highly automated locations, the passport holder might be asked to put his own passport through a reader, press his thumb against a fingerprint reader and wait a few seconds for a comparison with data in the imbedded WORM chip. If OK, an electronic visa might be written into a read/write portion of the imbedded chip, entry recorded in immigration computers, an entry gate opened and the visitor entered into the country.

If the self-reading entry process was unsuccessful, or if the immigration regime is more security conscious, the passport would be handed over to an immigration officer who passes it through a reader. Electronics in the reader might automatically verify the polynomial check digits as a first level counterfeit check - the digitized image might also be displayed for a visual check against the image printed on the data page. Optionally, the immigration officer might request a quick verification of