

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua
November 8, 2023

MINUTE NO. 329

**ADOPTION OF A MACHINE-READABLE MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL
CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY ON
OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION OR OF EITHER SECTION**

The Commission met in the offices of the Mexican Section in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua at 1:00 p.m. on November 8, 2023 to consider the official means of identification of personnel crossing the international boundary between the United States of America and the United Mexican States in connection with the official business of the Commission or of either Section.

The Commissioners noted that pursuant to the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande (1944 Water Treaty), the 1963 Convention between the United States of America and the United Mexican States for the Solution of the Problem of the Chamizal, and the 1970 Treaty to Resolve Pending Boundary Differences and Maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the International Boundary between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, personnel employed directly or indirectly on the construction, operation, or maintenance of works provided for in these treaties shall be permitted to pass freely from one country to the other for the purpose of going to and from the place or location of the works without any immigration restrictions, passports, or labor requirements.

The Commissioners also observed that each Government furnishes, through its respective Section of the Commission, the means of identification to the personnel employed directly or indirectly on these works. The Commissioners pointed to Minute No. 184, "Adoption of Official Means of Identification of Personnel, Vehicles, and Other Equipment Crossing the International Boundary on Official Business of the Commission or of Either Section Thereof," dated January 21, 1947, through which the Commission established additional requirements for identification of personnel having occasion to cross the international boundary between the United States of America and the United Mexican States in connection with official business of the Commission or of either Section. The Commissioners also observed that Minute No. 281, "Modification of the Official Decal Adopted to Identify Personnel, Vehicles and Other Equipment of the Commission," dated March 17, 1990, modified the format of the Commission identification card that was established in Minute No. 184. Most recently, the Commission updated the identification card to a more secure format by means of Minute No. 312, "Official Means of Identification of Personnel, Vehicles, and Other Equipment Crossing the International Boundary on Official Business of the Commission or of Either Section," dated January 26, 2007.

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Since Minute No. 312 was approved, the Commissioners have observed that instances continue to arise where the Commission identification may not be recognized or accepted at ports of entry along the United States-Mexico border since its security features are different from the security features utilized by other types of identification presented at ports of entry. For this reason, the Commissioners have recommended the adoption of a new format for the Commission identification with machine-assisted document verification features using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. When the card with OCR characters is read by machine at a port of entry, it will provide access to electronic information about the bearer that matches the information that is printed on the card. In this way, the card's authenticity is verified. They observed that this technology would be cost-effective for the Commission to adopt in light of the low cost of equipment to produce this type of identification as compared to costs associated with producing secure forms of identification using other technologies.

In light of the above, the Commissioners adopted the following resolutions, subject to approval of the two Governments:

Identification of Official Personnel

1. The Commission adopts the identification cards shown in Exhibit 1 as its official means of identification for employees of either Section who cross the international boundary for official purposes.
2. The identification shall include a Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ) using OCR characters based on content specifications established by the International Civil Aviation Organization.
3. Each Section shall be responsible for the issuance of the identification cards depicted in Exhibit 1 to its respective employees. A record shall be maintained of the issuance of each card, including the bearer's name, date and place of birth, nationality, job title, and a copy of the bearer's photograph that forms part of the identification card. Cards issued by each Section shall be numbered serially. The series issued by the United States Section shall be designated by the letters "US" followed by the number "1" and seven numeric characters. The series issued by the Mexican Section shall be designated by the letters "MX" followed by the number "2" and seven numeric characters. Each card issued shall have a unique card number. A number from an expired card shall not be reused. For renewal of an expired identification, a new card number and new photograph shall be used. A card number issued to a former employee shall not be re-used for a new employee. The cards issued by the U.S. Section shall contain the word "OFFICIAL" in the MRZ

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while the cards issued by the Mexican Section shall contain the word "OFICIAL" in the MRZ. In addition, both versions will contain a series of unique characters associated with the bearer.

4. Each Section shall determine the expiration date for the identification cards that it issues to official personnel but in no case shall a card referred to in Resolution 1 be in effect for a period greater than 72 months.

Identification of Non-Official Personnel

5. The Commission adopts the identification cards shown in Exhibit 2 as its official means of identification of private contractors and their supervisory employees engaged on works of the Commission or of either Section and having occasion to cross the international boundary for official purposes in connection with such employment.
6. The Commission adopts the identification cards depicted in Exhibit 2 for personnel of other agencies of either of the two Governments collaborating with their respective Section having occasion to cross the international boundary on official business of the Commission or of either Section.
7. The identification shall include a Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ) using OCR characters based on content specifications established by the International Civil Aviation Organization.
8. Each Section shall be responsible for the issuance of the identification cards depicted in Exhibit 2 to its respective contractors or Government personnel. A record shall be maintained of the issuance of each card, including the bearer's name, date and place of birth, nationality, job title, and a copy of the bearer's photograph that forms part of the identification card. Cards issued by each Section shall be numbered serially. The series issued by the United States Section shall be designated by the letters "US" followed by the number "6" and seven numeric characters. The series issued by the Mexican Section shall be designated by the letters "MX" followed by the number "7" and seven numeric characters. Each contractor or Government employee shall be issued a unique card number. A number from an expired card shall not be reused. For renewal of an expired identification, a new card number and new photograph shall be used. A card number issued to a former contractor or Government employee shall not be re-used for a new contractor or Government employee. The cards issued by the U.S.

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Section shall include the word "TEMPORARY" in the MRZ while the cards issued by the Mexican Section shall contain the word "TEMPORAL" in the MRZ. In addition, both versions will contain a series of unique characters associated with the bearer.

9. Each Section shall determine the expiration date for the identification cards that it issues to contractors and personnel from other Government agencies but in no case shall a card referred to in Resolutions 5 and 6 be in effect for a period greater than 12 months.

Data Transmission

10. On each identification card, the Machine-Readable Zone using OCR characters shall include properties described by the International Civil Aviation Organization as referenced in Resolutions 2 and 7 above so that when the card is read by a machine, it shall be associated with a database containing the bearer's identifying information as printed on the card. In this fashion, personnel using the machine to read the card will be able to validate its authenticity.
11. The two Sections shall utilize a secure means to transmit electronic data about the bearers between the two Sections and to their respective governments' customs and immigration officials. The electronic data about the bearer shall be the same as the information that is printed on the card. When the card is presented at a port of entry and a machine is used to read it, the Machine-Readable Zone using OCR characters will link to the electronic data for the purpose of verifying the bearer's information. The Commission shall review the data transmission protocols periodically to update them as appropriate depending on evolving security technologies.

General Provisions

12. The detailed specifications for the card layout and for the data sheet containing the bearer's information shall be documented in a Joint Memorandum of the Secretaries.
13. During the transition period in which the new cards for the identification of official and non-official personnel are adopted, which will not be greater than one year from the date that this Minute enters into force, the old identification cards for identification of official and non-official personnel will continue to be in effect.

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14. This Minute shall supersede Resolutions 3 through 11 of Minute No. 312 upon entry into force.
15. This Minute shall enter into force upon notification of approval by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States through the respective Section of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned.



Maria-Elena Giner
U.S. Commissioner



Adriana Reséndez Maldonado
Mexican Commissioner



Sally E. Spener
U.S. Section Secretary



José de Jesús Luévano Grano
Mexican Section Secretary