



Option and Naturalisation: passport checklist

This checklist only applies to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

This checklist does not apply if you have a biometric passport.

For whom is this checklist?

You have requested naturalisation or option. You have also shown a valid passport.

For a request for option or naturalisation, it is important that your identity and nationality are established with certainty. It must be clear from the passport that the authorities in your country of origin have checked your identity. This check takes place when you apply for and/or pick up the passport in person.

It is not clear from your passport that the authorities in your country of origin have checked your identity. Therefore, you must provide additional documents.

Which documents do I need?

✓ **I applied for and/or picked up my passport in person from the authorities of my country of origin.**

You must provide documents from which it is clear that you travelled to your country of origin, or a country where an embassy/consulate of your country of origin is located, to apply for or pick up your passport. You must also provide documents that prove that this authority issued the passport after checking your identity.

You can, for example, enclose the following documents:

- a copy of a plane ticket; and/or
- a copy of the entry and exit stamps in your old passport; or
- a statement by the authority concerned that has been legalised or has an apostille stamp, from which it is clear that the passport was issued after checking your identity. In any event, the statement must show:
 - that you went in person, giving the city/town and date; and
 - which identification document or documents you showed, what the document number is and if, for example, you also provided a birth certificate.

✓ **I did not apply for and/or pick up my passport in person. (For example in a situation where you applied for the passport online and received the document by post).**

You must still have your identity checked by the authorities in your country of origin.

You can, for example, enclose the following documents:

- a statement by the authority concerned that has been legalised or has an apostille stamp, from which it is clear that this statement was issued after checking your identity. In any event, this statement must show:
 - that you went in person, giving the city/town and date; and
 - which identification document or documents you showed, what the document number is and if, for example, you also provided a birth certificate.

Please note: a statement that the passport is valid and authentic is not enough.

How can I have my foreign documents legalised?

See the website www.netherlandsworldwide.nl.

Do I need to have my foreign documents translated?

If the documents have been drawn up in a another language other than Dutch, English, German or French, they must be translated for the naturalisation process by a sworn translator for the naturalisation procedure, preferably into Dutch. For information about translating documents for the option process, please contact the Office of the Cabinet or the Caribbean Netherlands IND Unit.

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