



**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL**  
**P R E S S R E L E A S E**

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**STRICT PHOTO REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MRP**

**- No Accreditation of Photo Studios**

NEW YORK – It has been brought to the attention of the Philippine Consulate General New York that some photo studios have claimed "accreditation" by our office and are charging higher fees for their service. The Consulate General wishes to clarify that while a number of studios have managed to comply with our requirements, there is no accreditation procedure precisely to discourage those who may wish to charge higher fees, and because we have observed that the quality of photos produced by photo studios fluctuate from day to day.

The proprietors of a few studios have come to our office to consult with us on how to comply with requirements. To protect the interest of the applicants as far as image quality and cost, the proprietors have agreed that should we reject the photos they take, the applicant will be reimbursed.

The following are the requirements for Machine-Readable Passport compliant photos:

- Background – ROYAL BLUE
- Size – 4.5 cm X 3.5 cm
- Pose – image of applicant is 70 – 80% of the photograph
  - *Straight frontal shot (no tilting of head)* - *Prescription eye-glasses allowed, provided there is no glare*
  - *"Medium" smile*
  - *Collared shirt / decent attire* - *Head scarf / veil for religious or health reasons allowed*
  - *Both ears visible / both eyebrows visible (no bangs)*
- Photos can be rejected for the following reasons:
  - *Distorted image – head is tilted or smile is too wide* - *use of dark eyeglasses / shades*
  - *Women - excessive makeup, large earrings* - *photos with "red-eye" effect*
  - *Men – wearing makeup, earrings* - *dirty photos / damaged / poor photo quality / poor or uneven lighting*
  - *colored contact lenses* - *digitally altered photos*
  - *use of headgear other than scarf/veil for religious or health reasons* - *unnatural skin tones*

So far, the following studios have agreed to this arrangement:

- Columbia Multiservice - #3 W 46<sup>th</sup> Street, b/n 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 212-997-9626
- Dream Team 1 Hr. Photo – 45<sup>th</sup> street, b/n 5<sup>th</sup> and Madison Avenues, 212-599-5010

These photo studios charge between \$10.00 and \$15.00 for four (4) photos. To ensure correct size, cropping / cutting of the photo will be done at the Consulate.

Others who wish to provide photo services for the Machine Readable Philippine passport are welcome to come to the Consulate to consult with us on the requirements. END