



ID checking routes during basic DBS checks

When applying for a basic DBS check, the DBS offer two potential routes to proving identity, with a third route – named route 1a – eligible only to non-EEA national applicants.

Route one once again provides the most straightforward route, requiring only a single primary identity document alongside one further document.

Should providing the necessary documents for route one prove impossible, route two is then required.

This route involves providing a document from group 2a followed by two further documents from groups 2a and 2b.

Non-EEA national applicants applying for a basic DBS check for paid work must use route 1a.

This route requires a document from Group 1a alongside one further document from any group.

All documentation must be current – should a non-EEA applicant be unable to current documentation they will be unable to apply for a basic DBS check.

Any combination of documents must also provide the applicant's name, address and date of birth.

All applicants, regardless of background, must provide original documents when proving their identity.

Types of ID used for DBS checks

As mentioned, each route requires a different combination of documents. These are defined as:

Group 1: Primary identity documents

Group 1a: Primary identity documents for non-EEA nationals needing a basic DBS check for paid work

Group 2a: Trusted government documents

Group 2b: Financial and social history documents

The primary identity documents found in Group 1 provide the applicant with the possibility to satisfy the identity requirements for a DBS check through route one.

These documents include:

Passport (any current or valid passport)

Biometric residence permit

Current driving licence photocard (UK, Isle of Man, Channel Islands or EEA)

Birth certificate

Adoption certificate

The primary documents in Group 1a are required exclusively by non-EEA nationals with a permanent or temporary right to work in the UK. A non-EEA applicant must show one of these documents.

Some of the documents in this group include:

A current Biometric Immigration Document

A current passport showing the holder is exempt from immigration control or allowed to stay temporarily and undergo the work in question

A current Immigration Status Document indicating the individual is allowed to either stay in the UK indefinitely or stay temporarily and undergo the work in question

A current Residence Card issued by the Home Office to a family member of a national of the EEA or Switzerland

Should an applicant be unable to provide a Group 1 document they will need to provide multiple documents from Groups 2a and 2b, following the appropriate route.

Some of the documents in these groups include:

Current driving licence photocard (Non-EEA countries)

P45 or P60 statement

Marriage/civil partnership certificate (UK, Channel Islands)

HM Forces ID card

Mortgage Statement (UK, EEA)

Benefit Statement

Utility bill

Visa/work permit

Visit the DBS website for a comprehensive list of all the different ID types in each group required for a DBS check.

The website also provides details of exactly which documents are required for each ID checking route.

Non-EEA nationals applying for work

Non-EEA nationals applying for voluntary work, who are eligible for a DBS check, have to apply using route one.

In comparison, Non-EEA nationals applying for paid work and who require a basic DBS check must provide a primary document from group 1a alongside one further document.

Finally, Non-EEA nationals applying for paid work and require a standard/enhanced DBS check must follow the "paid work route"- providing one primary document and two supporting documents.

Any documents provided must be original with primary documents detailing a right-to-work in the UK and a satisfactory immigration status.

If you're an employer without much experience in handling right-to-work documents, it's worth reviewing this handy guide.