

BIOMETRIC DATA COLLECTION

From 12 October 2015 all applicants applying for a Schengen visa must submit biometric data - ten fingerprints and a photo. Biometric data will be stored in the Visa Information System (VIS), which is an IT system that allows the Schengen States to exchange visa data. The main purpose of the VIS is to facilitate the issuance of visas and the control at external borders and to improve safety.

In order to submit their biometric data, all applicants must come to Visa Application Centre of Sweden (or the Embassy/Consulate) the first time they apply for a visa from 12 October 2015. ADS and Bona Fide applicants also need to come to VAC for Biometric data collection. Please be noted that biometric data collected in connection with residence permit applications are not valid when applying for a Schengen visa. If you have previously submitted biometric data when applying for a residence permit, please redo the process when applying for a Schengen visa.

Biometrics is requested only every 59 months; during 59 months the applicant can submit new visa applications without renewing the fingerprints. Applicants still need to come in person, when an applicant is asking for reuse of biometric, the applicant must show previous issued visa sticker marked with VIS in original, pasted in current passport or in expired passport. It is also acceptable with a copy of previous issued visa sticker.

For ADS group applicants and Bonafide Company applicants, if applicant shows visa sticker marked with VIS in the past 59 months, please kindly contact the Sweden Visa Application Center for more details.

It is imperative that ADS travel agent send an email to the visa application center 3 working days in advance , with simple information of the group size and preferred date and time of submission of biometric, to book an appointment to submit group applications in advance. If travel agent wants to change the appointment date already made, please inform the VAC also 3 working days in advance.

Beijing: infopek.swecn@vfshelpline.com;

Shanghai: groupsha.swecn@vfshelpline.com;

Chongqing: infojvac.chongqingchina@vfshelpline.com;

Xi'an: infojvac.chinaxian@vfshelpline.com;

Hangzhou: infojvac.hangzhouchina@vfshelpline.com;

Shenyang: infojvac.shenyangchina@vfshelpline.com

Wuhan: infojvac.wuhanchina@vfshelpline.com

Changsha: infojvac.changshachina@vfshelpline.com

Chengdu: infojvac.chinachengdu@vfshelpline.com

Jinan: infojvac.jinanchina@vfshelpline.com

Nanjing: infojvac.nanjingchina@vfshelpline.com

Kunming: infojvac.kunmingchina@vfshelpline.com

Please see the process flow chart at the end of this notice for ADS Biometric Data Collection process details.

It is important to note, that if for some reason fingerprints are not found in VIS, applicant will have to visit VAC to be fingerprinted again.

Applicants can ask the fingerprints to be taken every time when applying for a visa.

- In order to avoid prolonging processing time of the application if fingerprints are not found in VIS for some reason.
- For security reasons - to confirm the identity of the applicant.
- If applicant does not remember when fingerprints were taken last time or is not sure if fingerprints have been taken before.

Biometric data is not to collect for children under the age of 12 or for person physically impossible.

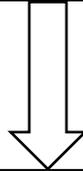
Visas applied before 12 October 2015 are valid through the period of validity without biometric data.

ADS Biometric Data Collection Process

Beijing: Travel agent contacts VAC via a group appointment email to make an appointment for groups over 5 applicants, and gives the group size, preferred date and time of submission and departure date in the email infopek.swecn@vfshelpline.com

Shanghai: Travel agent contacts VAC via a group appointment email to make an appointment for groups over 5 applicants, and gives the group size and preferred date, time of submission, departure date and courier name in the email groupsha.swecn@vfshelpline.com

The ADS agents should email the VAC at least 3 working days in advanced to the document submission date.



VAC to check whether the preferred date and time is available according to the appointment registration.

VAC confirms the date and time for biometric enrollment via group appointment email. If preferred time is already booked, VAC will propose the closest time for agent to confirm as per their clients' convenience.



The ADS agents should visit the VAC after 15:00 pm one day prior to the actual submission date (when the group comes). The VAC staff will at this occasion check all documents and prepare the docket. The docket will then be kept in a fireproof safe overnight.



Day 2

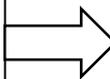
The group leader/courier comes early in the morning on the day of the submission to the VAC office to pay the submission fee.



After the payment procedure the group leader/courier leads group applicants who arrive on time to start their biometric process. During the biometric process, the applicant is verified again against the passport and the visa application form in the docket.



Applicant leaves the VAC after biometric enrollment.
End of process.



After all applicants finish biometric enrollment, Travel agent leaves the VAC.