

File No. 26011/Misc/71/2018-OCI

**Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Foreigners Division
[OCI Cell]**

MDC National Stadium, India Gate,
New Delhi - 110002, Dated : 01st October 2018

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub : Discontinuation of hand written travel document by the International Civil Aviation Organization from October, 2018.

The undersigned is directed to state that it has come to notice of this Ministry that some Indian Missions/Posts have flashed in their website that PIO cards would be invalid after 30.09.2018. The matter has been examined in this Ministry and the following clarifications are issued :-

- i. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 26011/01/2014-IC.I dated 9.01.2015 all PIO cardholders with valid PIO cards as on 9.01.2015 are deemed to be OCI cardholders. Hence the PIO card, which is a deemed OCI card continues to be legally valid as per Law.
- ii. Machine-readable electronic travel document is mandated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines. It is not a precondition prescribed by MHA/Bol for entry into India.
- iii. All PIO cardholders with valid PIO cards as on 9.01.2015 may be advised to apply for conversion of their PIO card to OCI card. Detailed instructions conveying the procedure for processing of application for conversion of PIO card to OCI card has been issued vide this Ministry's letter no. 26011/06/2015-OCI dated 16-07-2015 and 10-03-2016. Separately, MHA is again issuing instructions reiterating the procedure already prescribed.
- iv. As far as Bureau of Immigration(Bol) is concerned, it will accept PIO cards as valid document till March 31, 2019 along with valid foreign passport. If in the meantime, any deadline is notified by the ICAO, thereby making hand written PIO cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain appropriate visa from our Missions, if they have not converted their PIO card to OCI card. However, the Indian immigration check posts will continue to consider all PIO cards valid for exit/entry into India till 31st

March, 2019. Situation would be reviewed in March, 2019 and appropriate instructions will be issued later on.

2. All Indian Missions/Posts/FRROs may be informed accordingly.

(R.P. Sati)

Under Secretary (Citizenship)

Tele No. 23077515

**Sh. Amrit Lugun,
Joint Secretary(CPV),
Ministry of External Affairs,
Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi.**

Copy for information to – Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma , Joint Director , Bol.