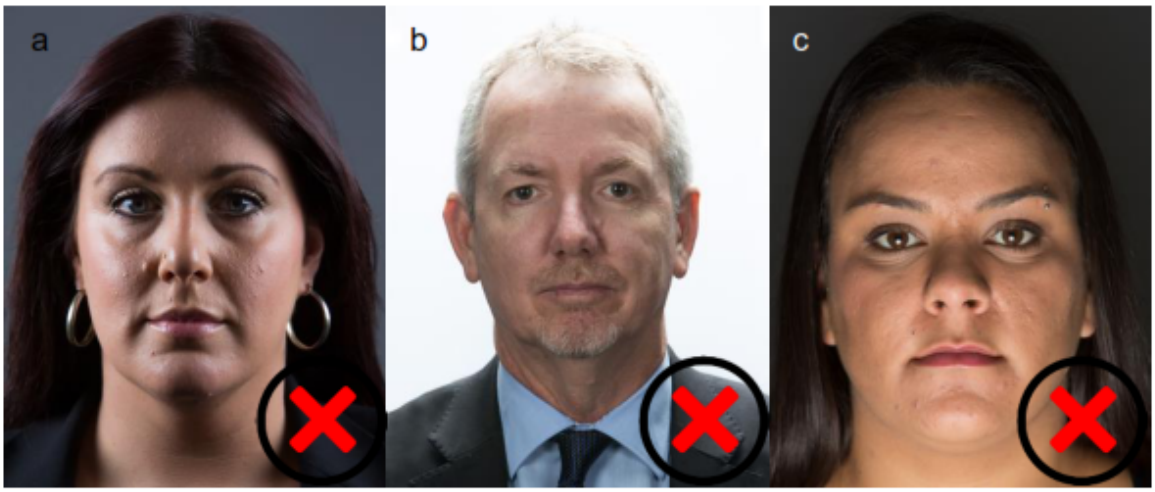
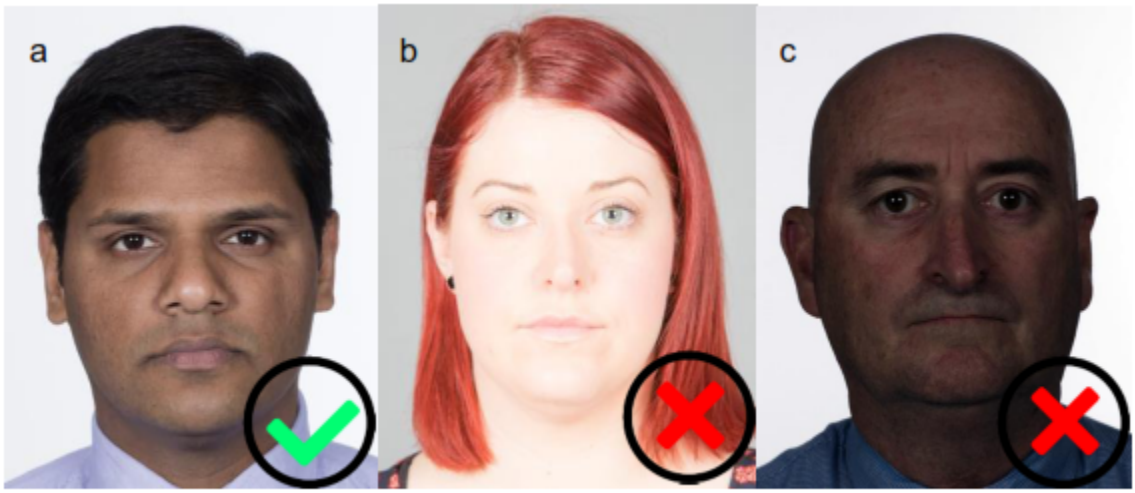
Guidelines for ICAO Compliant Photographs for Passport Applications

Here are the photograph guidelines as per ICAO standards to be adhered to capture photograph or upload in the passport application.

1. Close up of the head and top of the shoulders such that the face takes up 80-85% of the photograph.
2. The photograph should be in color and dimensions should be 630*810 Pixels.
3. Photos should be unaltered by computer software.
4. Background of the photograph should be White.
5. The photographs must –
    I. Show the applicant looking directly at the camera.
    II. Show the skin tones naturally.
    III. Have appropriate brightness and contrast.
    IV. Show the applicants eyes open and clearly visible.
    V. Should not have hair across the eyes.
    VI. Be taken with uniform lighting and not show shadows or flash reflections on the face and no red eye.
    VII. Mouth should not be open.
    VIII. Be taken from distance of 1.5 meters from a camera (not too close)
    IX. Should not be blurred
6. It should have full face, front view, eyes open.
7. Photo should be present full head from top of hair to bottom of chin.
8. Centre head within frame (head should not be tilted).
9. There should not be any distracting shadows on the face or in the background (should not have reflection of the glasses; glasses to be taken off to avoid reflections).
10. Illumination shall not cause any red eye effects visible in the eyes or other effects reducing the visibility of the eyes.
11. Head coverings are not permitted except for religious reasons, but the facial features from bottom of chin to top of forehead and both edges of the face must be clearly shown.
12. The expression on the face should look natural.

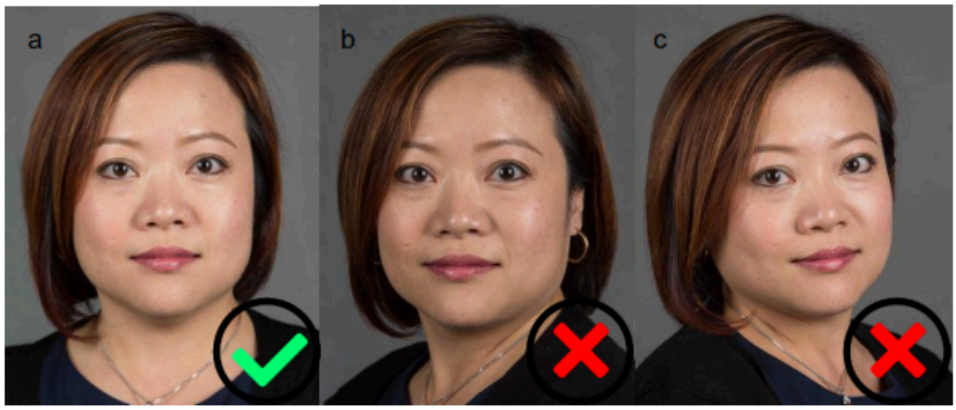


Non-compliant portraits: a) Side illumination, b) Top illumination, c) Bottom illumination.

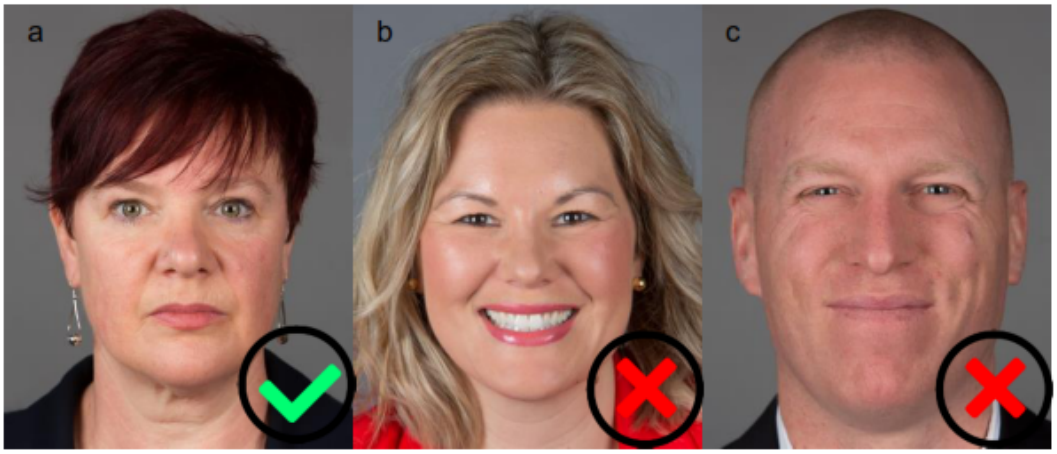


a) Compliant portrait, b) Over exposure, c) Under exposure.

a) Compliant portrait, b) Colour deviations, c) Excessive saturation in hue, saturation, & luminance (HSL) colour space.

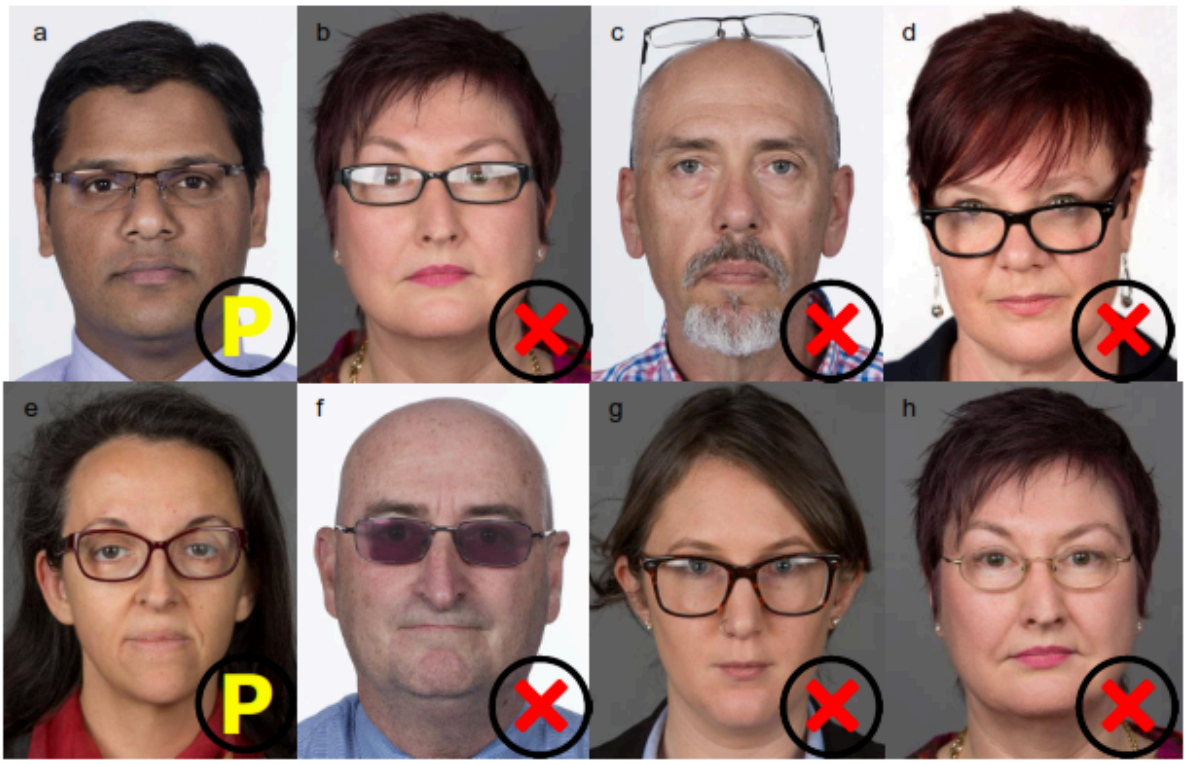


a) Compliant portrait, b) Shoulders not aligned toward the camera, c) Shoulders not aligned toward the camera, head tipped to the side.



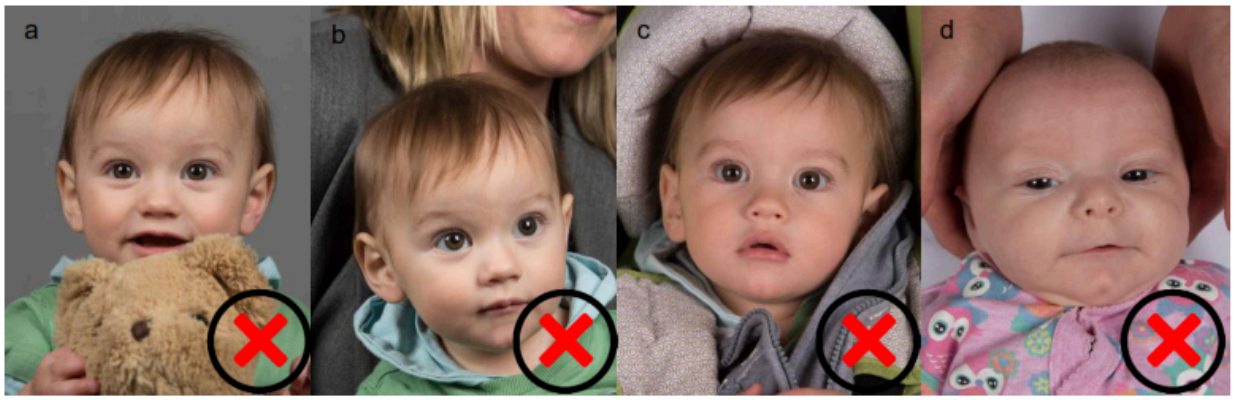
a) Compliant portrait, b) Smiling person, c) Person smiling with closed mouth.

a) Compliant portrait, b) Unnaturally wide opened eyes, c) Eyes not fully opened.



a) Compliant portrait, b) Strong reflections on glasses, c) Glasses worn on the head, d) Frame crossing the eyes, e) Compliant image, f) Sunglasses, g), h) Frames partially covering the *EVZ*.

a), b), c), d) Compliant child portraits.



a) Toy, b) supporting person ,c) Non-neutral background, d) Supporting hands.