



**High Commission of India  
Lilongwe (Malawi)**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards**

Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme was withdrawn by the Government of India and was merged with Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme in 2015. PIO cards are handwritten whereas the new OCI cards are machine readable. As informed earlier, International Civil Aviation Organisation will accept only machine readable travel documents from **October, 2018**.

However, the existing valid PIO cards as on 09.01.2015 which are handwritten will, be considered as valid document till **March 31, 2019**. PIO cards will be invalid after this deadline and therefore, travelling to India on handwritten PIO cards will be refused entry at not only Indian immigration counters but also Immigration Check posts at other centres, after March 31, 2019.

**All PIO cardholders with valid PIO cards as on 09.01.2015 are advised to apply for conversion of their PIO card to OCI card as soon as possible to avoid any inconvenience.** Applicants need to fill the online application form on the website (<https://ociservices.gov.in/>) and also upload copy of Foreign Passport and OCI Card. The following documents are required to be produced at the time of submission of application at the High Commission's counter: 2 photographs as per the photo specifications, Foreign Passport & Photocopy of the foreign passport and PIO card & Copy of PIO card.

The date for application for conversion of valid PIO card to OCI card on gratis basis was extended till 30th June 2017 & thereafter till **31st December 2017**. However, the conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards is chargeable with effect from 01 January 2018 (**US\$ 100**).

For more information regarding conversion of PIO to OCI, please visit website: [www.hcililongwe.gov.in](http://www.hcililongwe.gov.in). & <https://ociservices.gov.in/>.

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October 05, 2018



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