



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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Since 1 January 2007, regular passports issued to Chinese citizens, whether in China or abroad, are valid for ten years for passport holders sixteen years of age and older and five years for passport holders under sixteen years of age (China 24 Mar. 2011; Canada 30 Mar. 2011; China 2007, Art. 7). According to an online version of an article published in the English-language newspaper the *China Daily*, the Passport Law of the People's Republic of China, which established these validity periods, was "the first passport law since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949" (30 Dec. 2006). According to the Xinhua News Agency, the law "replaced a two-decade-old regulation governing passport management" and aimed "to standardize the application, issuance and management of passports" (5 Jan. 2007).

Prior to 1 January 2007, regular passports issued by China were valid for five years with the possibility of renewal for another five years (Canada 30 Mar. 2011; China 24 Mar. 2011). In 29 March 2011 correspondence with the Research Directorate, an official with the Document Integrity Unit of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) stated that the five-year passports were renewable for up to two periods of five years (Canada 29 Mar. 2011). The *China Daily* likewise states that passports with a five-year validity period were extendable to a maximum of ten years (30 Dec. 2006). In a 24 March 2011 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, the Consul General of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada explained that due to the possibility of extending their validity periods, some older passport versions are still in use (China 24 Mar. 2011).

Specific information on whether the validity periods for passports issued by embassies were consistent prior to January 2007 was not found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. According to the *China Daily*, the ten-year passports, which have been issued since January 2007, are not renewable (30 Dec. 2006). The Consul General stated that even in the case of the replacement of a lost or stolen passport, a new passport is issued with a validity period of ten years (China 24 Mar. 2011).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any

particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Canada. 30 March 2011. Canadian Embassy in Beijing. Correspondence with an official.

_____. 29 March 2011. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Correspondence with an official.

China. 24 March 2011. Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada, Ottawa. Telephone interview with the Consul General.

_____. January 2007. "Passport Law of the People's Republic of China." <<http://en.nci.gov.cn/Law/LawDetails.aspx?ID=6100>> [Accessed 31 Mar. 2011]

China Daily [Beijing]. 30 December 2006. Guan Xiaofeng. "New Rules Require More from Passport Applicants." <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2006-12/30/content_771417.htm> [Accessed 31 Mar. 2011]

Xinhua News Agency. 5 January 2007. "Beijing Cuts Passports Processing to Just 5 Days." <http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-01/05/content_5569626.htm> [Accessed 29 Mar. 2011]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States did not provide information for this Response. Attempts to contact the Department of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in London and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in France were unsuccessful.

Internet sites, including: Ambassade de la Republique Populaire de Chine en Republique Francaise, Australia - Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT), China - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China - Ministry of Public Security, Documentchecker.com, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), Factiva, United Nations (UN) Refworld, United Kingdom (UK) Home Office.

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