

ICA expects heavy Woodlands and Tuas traffic from 20 November to 3 January, as wrong-passport cases rise

Description

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ICA expects heavy traffic at Woodlands and Tuas checkpoints throughout the year-end school holidays, from Friday, 20 November 2026 to Sunday, 3 January 2027. The advisory, issued on 16 November, also warns that more travellers are turning up at the land checkpoints with the wrong passport or QR code.

Cases of travellers presenting the wrong passport or QR code rose from 46 in July to 74 in September 2026. Those travellers are referred for further checks and cannot leave Singapore until the checks are done and the right document or code is shown.



An artistâ??s impression of the redeveloped Woodlands Checkpoint. Image: ICA

Deepavali set the pace

More than 2 million travellers crossed Woodlands and Tuas over the Deepavali long weekend, from 6 to 9 November. The busiest day was 6 November, when more than 553,000 travellers cleared immigration at the two land checkpoints.

Car travellers leaving at peak hours that weekend waited up to three hours for clearance, because of traffic tailbacks from Malaysia.

ICA officers also ran stepped-up traffic enforcement at Woodlands Checkpoint over the long weekend and caught 11 departing motorists. Their offences included crossing double white lines, illegal right turns, stopping where it caused danger or obstruction, and queue cutting. Six vehicles were sent to U-turn and rejoin the queue, and five drivers of foreign-registered vehicles were banned from entering Singapore.

When to cross and how to clear faster

ICA wants travellers to plan ahead, cross at non-peak hours such as early mornings and late evenings, and look up the traffic before setting off. Updates run on LTAâ??s OneMotoring, the EMAS signs along the BKE and AYE, ICAâ??s Facebook and X accounts, and SPH and Mediacorp radio.

MyICA app QR codes are strongly encouraged. Since ICAâ??s New Clearance Concept started, QR code clearance and facial recognition for motorcyclists and pillion riders have raised throughput at departure peaks by more than 35 per cent, or 7,600 more travellers an hour than pre-Covid levels in 2019.

Bus passengers in wheelchairs, and family groups of up to four including children below six, can use QR codes at the Special Assistance Lanes. Motorists should take care at the land checkpoints, where construction and roadworks are ongoing. The works near Woodlands Checkpoint are part of its redevelopment, and those at the Tuas departure car zone support the rollout of the Automated Passenger Clearance System.

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Documents to sort before you travel

- Passports need at least six months of validity left.
- Short-term visitors, including holders of in-principle approval for a long-term pass, must submit the SG Arrival Card with health declaration in the MyICA app within three days before arrival, on the latest version of the app.
- Permanent residents with a renewed passport update the new details in their Re-Entry Permit through the MyICA app.
- Long-Term Pass holders must tell ICA or the Ministry of Manpower about any change of passport before re-entering Singapore.
- Foreign-registered cars need a valid Vehicle Entry Permit, or the SG Arrival Card cannot be completed. Drivers without a valid Autopass card, VEP approval email from LTA or valid insurance are turned back.
- Since 2 November 2026, foreign-registered vehicles with unpaid Singapore fines for traffic, parking or vehicle emissions offences cannot apply for or renew a VEP, and are denied entry.

ICAâ??s entry requirements, including the SG Arrival Card rules, are set out on its SG Arrival Card guide.

Date Created
17/11/2026
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