THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION, DOCUMENT INTEGRITY AND VERIFICATION SOLUTIONS

With visa and immigration fraud an ever-present challenge, governments are increasingly looking to trusted external service providers to facilitate reliable and affordable document integrity and verification checking in support of regular migration programmes. As an intergovernmental organization with a mandate to provide cost-effective migration related services to Member States, IOM’s Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division, is in a unique position to assist.

Since 2001, IOM has provided Document Integrity and Verification (DIV) solutions for governments in over 45 countries. Leveraging over a decade of experience and lessons learned, IOM’s team of DIV professionals verify the authenticity of supporting documentation directly with the issuing authority or the original source, either remotely or through site visits, as specified by the government client.

Through its DIV solutions, IOM provides governments with accurate, objective, up-to-date and timely first-hand information to support sound visa decision-making and risk analysis in immigration-related matters. Acting on specific service requests received from immigration, risk and compliance and/or integrity officers, IOM provides detailed, written reports using government approved reporting templates, terminology and checklists, while at all times, ensuring personal information protection and confidentiality.

Utilizing its extensive global network of 460 field offices and knowledge of the local language, area and customs in a given country, IOM’s DIV added value is most evident in countries where client governments have no presence and no local expertise. IOM’s DIV solutions contribute to improving the efficiency, effectiveness and integrity of immigration programmes. This reduces backlogs and improves access to, and the quality of, information available to visa decision makers and risk managers.

IOM’s global team of locally engaged Document Verification Officers are trained by client governments and abide by strict IOM Standards of Conduct as international civil servants. Close supervision and monitoring of all DIV activities is provided by international IOM Officials at both the local mission, regional and headquarters level.

OUR OBJECTIVE

“SUPPORT IMMIGRATION AND VISA OFFICERS BY VERIFYING VISA RELATED DOCUMENTATION WITH THE ISSUING AUTHORITY”
There are generally four DIV levels IOM is requested to report on, with the levels differing depending on immigration risk factors as determined by the client government (e.g. economic circumstances in a given country, push factors, pull factors, ease of obtaining counterfeit or genuinely issued but falsely obtained documents). The levels are as follows:

- Remote Checking (e.g. telephone, e-mail, Skype, Internet research);
- Paper-Based Checks (e.g. written requests for document comparison with the issuing authority; questionnaires, signed declarations by employers, institutes such as registration boards, unions);
- Face-to-Face Interviews (e.g. applicants, friends, family, sponsors, employers);
- Site Visits (e.g. job, relationship checks; establish domicile, establish employment).

Often, merely checking with the issuing authority may be insufficient and IOM is regularly called upon to view the actual register or database, including viewing the original application for a document, if available. IOM DIV teams also utilize technological solutions whenever possible, to document non-genuine cases at the request of client governments.

IOM’s DIV solutions are generally funded on a fee per service request basis, with IOM providing centralized monthly invoicing to client governments.

IOM currently provides DIV solutions for the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) covering all of East and West Africa, for Immigration New Zealand (INZ) under a global agreement covering over 30 countries, and for the Province of Alberta, Canada in the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nigeria.

The types of documents and verifications that IOM may be asked to report on, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reports of Birth
- Birth Certificates
- Marriage Certificates
- Divorce Certificates
- Nationality Certificates
- Adoption Certificates
- Custody Certificates
- Civil Status Registrations
- Identification Cards
- Passports
- Business Names
- Business Registrations
- Business Licenses
- Business Intelligence
- Property Registrations
- Employment History
- Reference Checks
- Primary Source Verification
- Financial Due Diligence Checks
- Income Tax Payment Receipts
- Academic Qualifications
- Academic Records
- proof of Residence
- Academic Diplomas
- Employment References
- Bank Statements
- Online Social Media Search
- Police Background Checks
- Identity Verification Checks
- Patents
- Resumes (CV’s)
- Trade Qualifications

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.