



Virtual APEC Business Travel Card (VABTC)

What is the Virtual APEC Business Travel Card (VABTC)?

Virtual APEC Business Travel Card (VABTC) is a new and secure method for travelling on ABTC.

The Virtual ABTC has been developed to allow approved card holders from fully participating APEC member economies to securely display their ABTC on their mobile device removing the need of carrying a physical ABTC.

When was the Virtual ABTC available in Papua New Guinea?

Papua New Guinea as one of the member economies has successfully transitioned on the **30th of June, 2021**, hence, we are no longer issuing physical cards.

It is important to note that the Virtual ABTC is simply a digital version of the physical card; therefore, current entry and exit processes remain the same regardless of whether the card holder is using a Virtual ABTC or the physical card.

How is the Virtual ABTC different to the physical ABTC?

The Virtual ABTC provides the cardholder and Port Officials with up-to-date information:

Real time data - The Virtual ABTC is linked to the ABTC System, providing cardholders and

Port Officials with real-time information on the status of the ABTC.

ABTC System – As the Virtual ABTC is linked to the ABTC System, any updates made in the system will be immediately reflected when the cardholder opens or refreshes their smart device 'app'. Examples of updates that appear immediately include:

- if Pre-Clearance to enter an Economy has been approved, updated or removed,
- the ABTC has expired, or
- the holder's passport has been renewed.

Virtual ABTC allows the cardholder to begin using the virtual ABTC without having to wait for every economy to provide their approval.

For more information, refer [to Frequently Asked Questions – The Virtual ABTC](#).

Is the Virtual ABTC accepted at the International Ports of Entry?

From the 01st of March, 2021, all economies including transitional member economies have accepted the use of Virtual ABTC at the international ports of entry.

Until further notice, all travellers holding a virtual ABTC will need to apply for a visa to enter the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. This notice does not apply to travellers who are still able to present a physical ABTC.

Who can access and use the Virtual ABTC?

The Virtual ABTC will only apply to new applicants and for those applying for renewal.

Existing card holders will not have access to the Virtual platform until they apply for ABTC renewal.

What happens to lost or stolen physical ABTCs?

If your physical ABTC has been lost or stolen, you are required to advise the PNG ABTC Team, however, the physical ABTC will not be replaced as you will be required to use the Virtual ABTC.

How will applicants receive the Virtual ABTC?

As PNG has chosen to utilise auto-notifications - an automatically generated email will be sent to the applicant (*provided an email address is recorded in the ABTC System*) once the applicant's virtual ABTC has been issued.

Virtual ABTC Application can be downloaded using Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Search for the 'APEC Business Travel Card', or 'ABTC', and install the application.

To login to the Virtual ABTC on your mobile device, refer to the [Virtual ABTC Quick Reference User Guide](#).

What happens if you lose your mobile device?

You can download the Virtual ABTC App to an alternative mobile device and login using your existing details. To login to the Virtual ABTC, refer to the [Virtual ABTC Quick Reference User Guide](#).

What if you forget your PIN?

If you forget your PIN, you can reset it on the login screen.

More information on the Virtual ABTC

Go to the [Virtual ABTC Page](#) in the Business Mobility Group section of the APEC website.

Or

Email or call the ABTC Papua New Guinea Team if you have any questions or concerns.

Email: abtc@immigration.gov.pg

Telephone: +675 3276100 or +675 3276123