



RESIDENT OR PERMANENT RESIDENT

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Do we need to change our residency certificates?

We have had numerous questions and discussions as to whether or not the green A4 resident certificate/registration certificates without an expiry date should be renewed.

Our response has been that;

1. To those members who were asked by health centers for a renewal of the certificate suggesting that the valid version had expired after five years. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE.** The document does not expire.
2. It is not obligatory to change the registration card for a version with the inscription 'residencia con caracter permanente'. All though It may be convenient to do so.
3. That these certificates **DO NOT** expire and furthermore after five years of legal residence you are by law a permanent resident.
4. Those who for expediency wish to exchange the certificate for one stating 'residencia con caracter permanente' have the right to do so and if refused, can make a formal complaint via the link below.
5. We have been advising members who have tried to obtain the card stating 'permanent residence', that there is no obligation to provide documentation such as healthcare and proof of income or to make a new application for residency status. Our posture on this is also backed up by the European commission in the link provided.

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www.citizensadvice.org.es



6. Regarding the 'permanent resident certificate' the EU states that 'The document should be valid for 10 years and is automatically renewable without any conditions or requirements'.

The link to a Spanish version has been added below for those who wish to present a copy to the authorities.

English Language version:

http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/documents-formalities/eu-nationals-permanent-residence/index_en.htm

Spanish language version:

http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/documents-formalities/eu-nationals-permanent-residence/index_es.htm

Available in other languages. Visit the link.

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