

COUNTRIES WHICH MAY REQUIRE SECTION 18 RENUNCIATION

Countries which may require a formal renunciation of Australian citizenship under section 18 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 in order to:

- acquire the citizenship of that country; or
- retain the citizenship of that country in adulthood (if Australian citizenship was acquired at birth or during childhood)

	Acquire	Retain	
Austria	Yes	No	
Bahamas	Yes	No	
Czech Republic	Yes	No	
Denmark	Yes	No	
Estonia	Yes	Yes	
Finland	Yes	No	Repealed 1 June 2003
Germany	Yes	Yes	See note 6
Iceland	Yes	No	Repealed 30 April 2003
India	Yes	No	See note 7
Japan	Yes	Yes	
Kenya	Yes	Yes	
Latvia	Yes	No	
Lithuania	Yes	No	See note 8
Luxembourg	Yes	No	
Malaysia	Yes	Yes	
Malta	Yes	Yes	Repealed 10 February 2000. See note 3
Mexico	Yes	No	Repealed 20 March 1998. See note 3
Netherlands	Yes	No	See note 9
Norway	Yes	No	
Singapore	Yes	Yes	
Slovakia	Yes	No	
Slovenia	Yes	No	
Spain	Yes	Yes	
Sweden	Yes	No	Repealed 1 July 2001. See note 3
Zimbabwe	Yes	Yes	See note 10

GENERAL NOTES

1. The information in this table is indicative and based on a general understanding of law and policy. Actual practice in certain countries may be different on a case by case basis.
- In some instances a declaration under the law of the country concerned may be accepted as a substitute for a "section 18 renunciation" under Australian law. In other cases it may be possible to apply for exemption from the normal rules in cases of special ties to that country, or economic/social hardship
2. In general, adult Australian citizens acquiring the citizenship of any of these countries before 4 April 2002 would not have been required to complete a section 18 renunciation as most countries accepted an automatic loss of citizenship under section 17 of the Act instead.
3. In the cases of Malta, Mexico and Sweden, which repealed laws against dual citizenship before Australia did on 4 April 2002, there should be no cases of Australians needing to use s18 to acquire the citizenship of these countries
4. It is possible that some people from the countries above that do not require section 18 renunciations to retain citizenship may have renounced Australian citizenship anyway, if they misinterpreted the law in that country
5. Recent amendments to law and policy may not be reflected

COUNTRY SPECIFIC NOTES

6. Germany only requires a renunciation of foreign citizenship to retain German if neither parent is a German citizen
7. Acquisition of an Australian passport by a dual Australian/Indian citizen causes automatic loss of Indian citizenship
8. Lithuania only requires renunciation for those of non-Lithuanian descent. There are restrictions on Lithuanian citizens of non-Lithuanian descent carrying foreign passports
9. The Netherlands allows some exceptions to the requirement to renounce Australian citizenship (for example if one is married to a Dutch citizen)
10. Zimbabwe introduced stringent prohibitions against its citizens holding another citizenship with effect from 6 January 2002. See <http://www.citizenship.gov.au/info/zimbabwe.htm>