How to read and understand to a visa sticker

Following specimen is based on ANNEX of Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 of 29 May 1995 laying down a uniform format for visas:
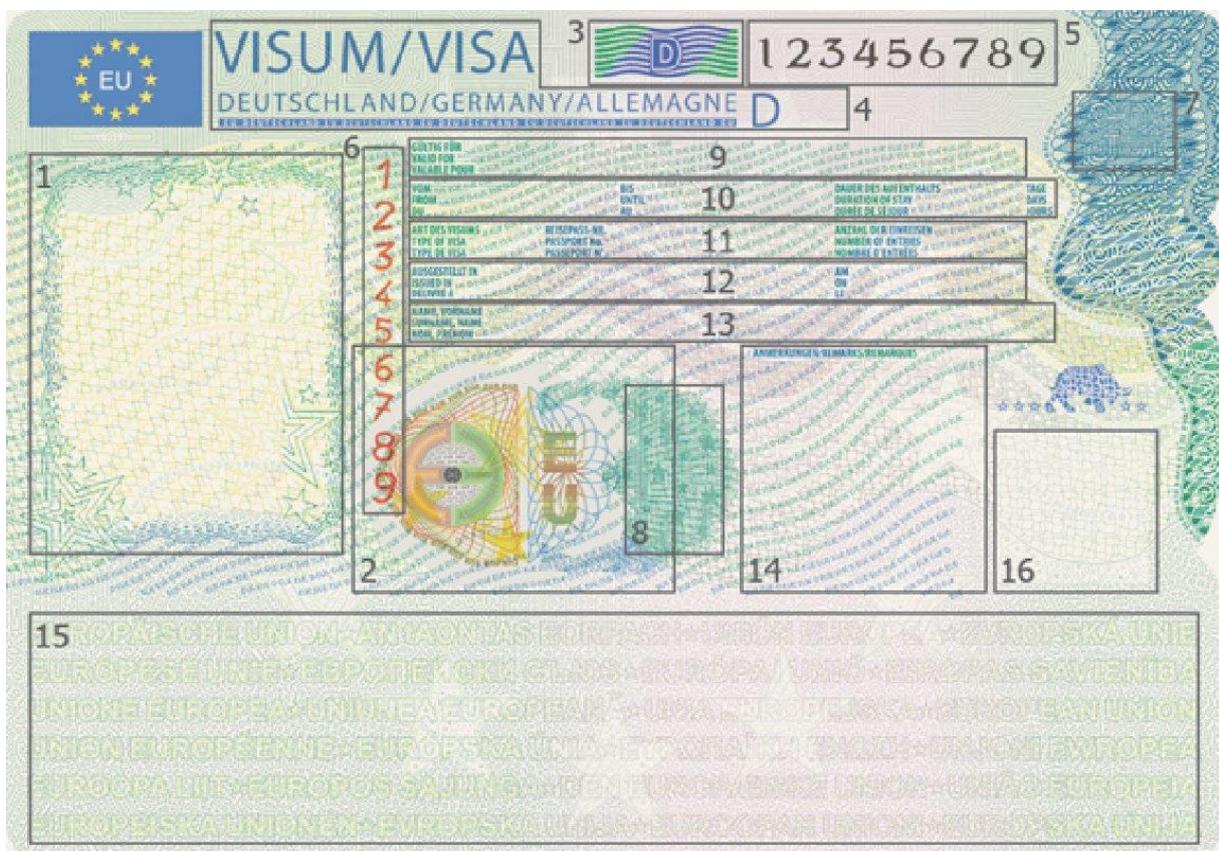
Security features

1. An integrated colour portrait of the holder shall be produced to high security standards.

2. A diffractive optically variable device ('Kinegram' or equivalent) shall appear in this space. Depending on the angle of view, the letters 'EU', 'EUE' and kinematic guilloche lines shall become visible in various sizes and colours.

3. This box shall contain the three-letter country code as set out in ICAO Document 9303 on machine-readable travel documents of the issuing Member State, or the acronym 'BNL' if issued by Belgium, Luxembourg or the Netherlands, in optically variable colouring. Depending on the angle of view, it shall appear in different colours.

4. The following shall appear, in capital letters, in this space:

(a) the word 'VISA'. The issuing Member State may include the equivalent term in another official language of the institutions of the Union;

(b) the name of the issuing Member State, in English, French and another official language of the institutions of the Union;

(c) the three-letter country code of the issuing Member State, as set out in ICAO Document 9303.

5. This box shall contain the nine-digit national number of the visa sticker in horizontal orientation, which shall be pre-printed in black. A special font type shall be used.

6. This box shall contain the nine-digit national number of the visa sticker in vertical orientation, which shall be pre-printed in red. A special font type shall be used, different from that used in box 5. The 'number of the visa sticker' is the three-letter country code as set out in ICAO Document 9303 and the national number as referred to in boxes 5 and 6.

7. This box shall contain the letters 'EU' with a latent image effect. Those letters shall appear dark when tilted away from the viewer and light when then turned by 90°.

8. This box shall contain the code as referred to in box 3 with a latent image effect. That code shall appear dark when tilted away from the viewer and light when then turned by 90°.

Sections to be completed

The captions for the boxes shall appear in English and French. The issuing Member State may add a translation in another official language of the institutions of the Union.

9. This box shall begin with the words 'valid for'. The issuing authority shall indicate the territory in which the visa holder is entitled to travel.

10. This box shall begin with the word 'from' and the word 'until' shall appear further along the line. The issuing authority shall indicate the period of the visa holder's stay as authorised by the visa. Further along the line the words 'duration of stay' (i.e. the duration of the applicant's intended stay) and again 'days' shall appear.

11. This box shall begin with the words 'type of visa'. The issuing authority shall indicate the category of visa. Further along the line the words 'Passport No' and 'number of entries' shall appear.

12. This box shall begin with the words 'issued in' and shall be used to indicate the location of the issuing authority. Further along the line the word 'on' (after which the date of issue shall be filled in by the issuing authority) shall appear.

13. This box shall begin with the words 'Surname, Name'.

14. This box shall begin with the word 'remarks'. The area below the word 'remarks' shall be used by the issuing authority to indicate any further information.

15. This box shall contain the relevant machine-readable information to facilitate external border controls. The machine-readable zone shall contain a printed text in the visible background printing with the words 'European Union' in all the official languages of the institutions of the Union. This text shall not affect the technical features of the machine-readable zone or its ability to be read.

16. This box shall be reserved for the possible addition of a common 2D barcode.

National notes

Valid for (Box 9.)

CZECH REPUBLIC – STÁTY SCHENGENU (SCHENGEN STATES), in case of Article 25 (Issuing of a visa with limited territorial validity) Visa Code can be a visa with limited territorial validity (note: in this case consult a consulate which issued a visa in order to fully understand to a given territorial limitations)

Remarks (Box 14.)

CZECH REPUBLIC – The alphanumeric number of visa application as following LLLLYYYYMMDDNNNN (L=letter, YYYY=year, MM=month, DD=day, NNNN=four digit number); purpose of a visit in Czech language (only examples, the list is not exhaustive): TURISTIKA (TOURISM), OBCHOD (BUSINESS), KULTURNÍ (CULTURAL), STUDIUM (STUDY); date of birth of an applicant as DD-MM-YY (DD=day, MM=month, YY=year)

F.A.Q.

Where I can find my name on a visa sticker? Should I verify if it is written correctly?

Consult box 13. Definitely check your name on a visa sticker immediately when you obtain a passport with a decision.

Where is a duration of my stay in days on a visa sticker?

Consult box 10 (under jours/days).

Why there is more 15 days to a duration of my stay?

Because the period of validity of a visa for one entry shall include a 'period of grace' of 15 calendar days. Member States may decide not to grant such a period of grace for reasons of public policy or because of the international relations of any of the Member States.