

Having the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) equipment and using the associated digital services offers significant advantages, primarily focused on **speed, security, and convenience** for both applicants and service providers.

Key advantages include:

- **Faster Processing Times:** Digital Application Services (DAS) and on-site, in-person photo/document capture significantly reduce, sometimes by half, the time required to process registration and SCIS renewals compared to traditional mail-in methods. Which also reduces the use of paper.
- **Convenience and Cost Savings:** On-site equipment such as a camera at our office allows for immediate, free, "passport-style" photos, eliminating the cost and effort of visiting a professional photographer.
- **Reduced Errors and Rejections:** In-person staff using the equipment can review documentation for accuracy in real-time and, along with digital verification, ensure that all required documents are included, reducing application rejections due to incompleteness.
- **Confirmation email:** the client will receive a confirmation email with a confirmation number. If they do not receive the card they can call the department and give them the confirmation number to see where it is at.
- **Enhanced Security:** The SCIS itself contains advanced security features, including laser engraving, tactile, raised lettering, ultraviolet imagery, and a secure window.
- **Border Crossing Facilitation:** The SCIS, particularly the "Border-Crossing" format with a machine-readable zone, is accepted for land and water entry into the United States.

Overall, the SCIS equipment enables a modernized, digital approach that makes it easier for First Nations individuals to renew their secure certificate of Indian status card.
