

ACCREDITED EMPLOYER WORK VISAS

OVERVIEW

The Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) changes the way employers hire overseas workers for temporary work in New Zealand. Accredited employers can only hire migrant workers if they have a Job Check application approved for the role.

If the Job Check is approved, Immigration New Zealand ("INZ") issues a Job Token for each position which the employer can fill with a suitable migrant worker. The employer provides the Job Token to the migrant so that they can then apply for an AEWV.

The migrant worker must have the skills and experience specified in the employer's approved Job Check application.

The AEWV allows an employee to live and work in New Zealand for up to 3 years.

The remuneration for the proposed employment must be at or above the median wage, unless the proposed employment is for an occupation that is [exempt](#) from the median wage threshold. The current median wage is \$29.66 per hour, or the equivalent annual salary.

AEWV REQUIREMENTS

The applicant will need to have the following:

- ◇ A copy of their letter of offer of full-time employment (minimum 30 hours per week) from the accredited employer;
- ◇ A copy of their signed employment agreement;
- ◇ A Job Check token/number issued to the employer when the Job Check was approved;
- ◇ Evidence of their work experience/qualification or occupational registration to show that they meet the skill requirements specified in the employer's approved Job Check application.

Applicants must meet health and character requirements. This means:

- ◇ An immigration Medical and Chest X-Ray completed by a [Panel Physician](#);
- ◇ Police Certificates from their country or countries of citizenship, and from any country where they have lived for a total of 5 or more years since they turned 17 years old.

THE ONLINE APPLICATION

1. The accredited employer or their immigration adviser gives the applicant an email from INZ asking them to apply for an AEWV. The email includes a link to a page to accept the request. The applicant is then directed to sign into the Immigration Online system and access their draft AEWV application.
2. The applicant completes the online AEWV application, or shares it with their representative to complete on their behalf.

3. The online application already includes information regarding the job offer. The applicant must confirm:
 - ◇ Employer's name;
 - ◇ Job title; and
 - ◇ Other position details such as ANZSCO classification code, hours of work, type of employment.
4. The applicant adds in:
 - ◇ The wages or salary they will actually be paid;
 - ◇ Confirmation whether they must hold NZ registration to do the job, and whether the job is on the [Green List](#);
 - ◇ Details about any dependent children whom the applicant intends to support for visas. If that is the case, the applicant must meet the minimum income threshold required under the visitor or student visa instructions;
 - ◇ Details of their qualifications and/or work experience to show that they have the skills specified in the Job Check approval; and
 - ◇ Supporting documents for the application.

CURRENCY OF THE AEWV VISA

AEWVs may be granted for up to three years for employment paid at or above the median wage.

The maximum visa duration and stand down period for applicants who are employed as part of a sector agreement or earn below the median wage are as follows:

- Tourism and hospitality - visas are valid for 24 months, with a stand down period of 12 months;
- Construction and Infrastructure – visas are valid for 24 months, with a stand down period of 12 months;
- Meat processing – visas are valid for 7 months, with a stand down period of 4 months;
- Seafood processing – visas are valid for 7 months, with a stand down period of 4 months.

OUR SERVICE

As your immigration professionals, our job is to ensure that all criteria are met and that all documentation provided in support of your application is in the form required by INZ, that it assists your application, and it does not create confusion or difficulty.

We keep in contact with INZ to ensure that each application is processed promptly and in a manner that is fair and in accord with natural justice.