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CHANGES TO TEMPORARY WORK VISAS - INTRODUCING NEW ACCREDITATION AND SINGLE WORK VISA IN NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Government had announced the introduction of a new temporary work visa called the **Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)** which will commence on 1 November 2021 and will replace the following six (6) of the existing temporary work visa categories:

- Essential Skills Work Visa
- Essential Skills Work Visa - approved in principle
- Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa
- Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa
- Silver Fern Job Search Visa
- Silver Fern Practical Experience Visa

Alongside the AEWV, a new employer-led system will be introduced that will generally simplify the application process and make it easier for businesses and regions to fill genuine skills shortages when it is clear that there is no New Zealander available to do the job, or who can be trained up for the role.

Employers will need to be accredited before they can hire a migrant on an Accredited Employer Work Visa.

Employer accreditation and the new 3-check visa application process is can be found on the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/employ-migrants/introducing-new-accreditation-and-single-work-visa/employer-leads-visa-application-process>

Better Work Protection

This employer-led visa application process affords better worker protection.

The new 3-check system will help combat migrant exploitation by strengthening requirements on employers. The changes are also important for encouraging employers to focus on ways to train and upskill their existing workforce.

The system will:

- reduce New Zealand's reliance on lower-paid temporary workers
- better address productivity, skills and infrastructure challenges



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- increase the skill levels of migrants

When to Apply for Accreditation

Employer only needs to be accredited under the new system when they want to start hiring migrants on the new Accredited Employer Work Visa.

- Employers will be able to apply for accreditation from late September, ahead of the 1 November 2021 introduction date.
- Employers accredited under the current system will need to apply and meet the policy requirements of the new accreditation system.
- Employers don't need to be accredited in the new system by 1 November 2021 if they do not plan to start hiring migrants on AEWVs at this time.

Businesses employing migrants who hold a current Talent or Essential Skill visa don't need to become accredited until they want to hire someone on the new visa.

Transition Timings

The following employer policies are closing to new and renewing applications on 30 June 2021:

- Accredited Employer (Talent - Accredited Employer)
- Labour Hire Accreditation (Essential Skills)
- Approval in Principle (Essential Skills) – this does not include approval in principle for other policies including AIP for foreign crew of fishing vessels.

If employers want to be able to use these statuses up to 1 November 2021, they should apply by 30 June 2021 and consider the processing timeframes available on the INZ website. Employers that only want to hire migrants using the new Accredited Employer Work Visa should wait and apply under the new accreditation system.

This information is the first in a series of updates. More details will be shared and available at immigration.govt.nz over the coming weeks and months.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

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Administrator



Source: Philippine Overseas Labour Office
Immigration New Zealand (INZ)

