

11 February 2009

IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND INSTRUCTIONS: Amendment Circular No. 2009/01

To: All Manual Holders

AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND (INZ) OPERATIONAL MANUAL – SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SELECTION CRITERIA

Introduction

This circular advises of a change to Government residence policy in the INZ Operational Manual.

All visa and immigration officers dealing with immigration applications should read the amended policy and operate in accordance with it from 11 February 2009. A copy of the amended policy is attached to this Circular at Appendix 1.

Note

The amended policy described in this Circular will be published in the electronic version of the INZ Operational Manual in due course.

Any enquiries about this policy change should be directed to the National Contact Centre on 0508 558 855 or 09 914 4100 (Auckland only).

Change to Government residence policy

SM3.15.1 Additional selection criteria

This provision includes the additional selection criteria available to select Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the Skilled Migrant EOI Pool after selections are made under SM3.15 (c), if further places are available in the Skilled/Business Stream of the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP). This additional selection criteria will be maintained until 31 July 2009.

Appendix 1: Amendments to Government residence policy

SM 3.15 Selection of Expressions of Interest

- a. As Expressions of Interest are entered into the Pool they will be ranked on the basis of total points claimed for employability and capacity building factors in accordance with Skilled Migrant (Application) Policy. The ranking of Expressions of Interest relative to each other will change as Expressions of Interest enter, or are withdrawn from, the Pool.
- b. Expressions of Interest in the Skilled Migrant Category Pool are selected from that Pool periodically on the Government's behalf by the Department of Labour.
- c. Selections from the Pool after 21 December 2005 are made in the following manner:
 - i. Expressions of Interest that have total points of 140 or more are selected automatically from the Pool;
 - ii. Expressions of Interest that have total points of 100 or more but less than 140, and include points for the principal applicant's offer of skilled employment or current skilled employment in New Zealand, are selected (according to their points ranking) in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements of the Skilled/Business Stream of the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) at the time of that selection (subject to any adjustment to the number or distribution of places in the NZRP determined by the Government).
- d. If, following the selection process set out at (c) above, further places are available in the Skilled/Business Stream of the NZRP at the time of that selection (subject to any adjustment to the number or distribution of places in the NZRP determined by the Government), additional Expressions of Interest may be selected from the Pool on the basis of criteria set from time to time by the Minister of Immigration, having regard to the objectives of the Skilled Migrant Category. Those criteria are specified at SM3.15.1.

SM3.15.1 Additional selection criteria

- a. The following additional selection criteria apply for the purposes of SM3.15(d), for selections from the Pool occurring until 31 July 2009 inclusive.
- b. Expressions of Interest will be selected by applying the criteria in the order in which they appear in (i) – (iv), to the extent necessary to satisfy any exercise of the discretion under SM3.15 (d):
 - i. Expressions of Interest that include 15 points for work experience in an area of absolute skills shortage (in descending order of their points total);
 - ii. Expressions of Interest that include 10 points for work experience in an area of absolute skills shortage (in descending order of their points total);

- iii Expressions of Interest that include 10 points for a qualification in an area of absolute skills shortage (in descending order of their points total);
- iv the points total of Expressions of Interest not meeting any of the criteria in (i) – (iii) (in descending order).

Effective 11/02/2009