

16 October 2026

IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND INSTRUCTIONS: Amendment Circular No. 2026-30

AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND OPERATIONAL MANUAL

Introduction

This circular outlines changes to immigration instructions. A copy of the amended instructions is attached.

All immigration officers dealing with immigration applications should read the amendments and operate in accordance with the amended instructions from the effective date.

Note

The amendments described in this circular will be published in the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual in due course.

Information about these changes is available on our website www.immigration.govt.nz

Description of changes

Temporary entry

U8.30 Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

A new section of immigration instructions allows for the grant of visas to dependent children of New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holders. Key features of the new visa are:

- the application must be supported by a parent who is a New Zealand citizen or resident
- applicants must have an application for New Zealand citizenship under consideration by the Department of Internal Affairs or an application for residence under consideration by INZ
- duration of 12 months, with further visas available if required to allow for processing of the residence or citizenship application
- no requirement for evidence of funds or sponsorship

V3.20 Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

Changes have been made to increase the duration of the visitor visa for children of New Zealand citizens and residents from 9 to 12 months. The duration will be granted either from the date of visa grant if the applicant is in New Zealand or from date of arrival if the applicant is outside of New Zealand, instead of always being granted from date of arrival.

V3.15 Partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

WF2.1 Instructions on duration of visa for partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

Changes have been made to the duration of work and visitor visas granted to partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders to ensure that applicants are not granted a visa for longer than 12 months until after they have lived with their partner for a period of 12 months.

Residence

R5.95 Character requirement for partners supporting Partnership Category applications

A5.35 Residence applications usually deferred

Immigration instructions have been changed to allow the deferral of residence applications where a supporting partner has an arrest warrant, has been charged, is under investigation or wanted for questioning in relation to an offence that would make them ineligible to support the residence application. The existing instructions that set out the process for deferring a residence application on character grounds will apply in this situation.

Additionally, instructions related to police certificates provided by supporting partners have been updated to clarify they are subject to all the same requirements that apply to police certificates provided by applicants.

F2.5 How do partners of New Zealand citizens and residents qualify for a residence class visa?

Immigration instructions that set out how of partners of New Zealand citizens living overseas qualify for a permanent resident visa have been updated to ensure they can be easily applied where the applicant and their supporting partner have travelled to New Zealand separately.

F2.40 General rules when the supporting partner obtained residence under certain categories

F5.30 English language requirements

The sections of the Partnership and Dependent Child residence categories that set out English language requirements have been updated to ensure it is clear when applicant must meet these requirements and which requirements they have to meet.

Health Requirements (temporary entry and residence)

A4.5 Overview of health instructions

A4.20 Medical and Chest X-ray Certificates: residence class visa applications

A4.25 Medical and Chest X-ray Certificates: temporary entry class visa applications

A4.60 Medical waivers (applicants for residence class visas)

A4.65 Medical waivers (applicants for temporary entry class visas)

A4.70 Determination of whether a medical waiver should be granted (residence and temporary entry)

R5.96 Health requirement for partners or dependent children not included in or withdrawn from a residence class visa application

Changes have been made to immigration instructions to make a range of clarifications, corrections and improvements to the health settings. These include:

- reflecting the different methods that applicants provide Medical Certificates and Chest X-Ray Certificates to INZ depending on how they apply
- addition of notes with the names and reference numbers for the different types of medical certificates that are used by INZ panel physicians
- allowing INZ to assess a General Medical Certificate as if it was a Limited Medical Certificate where the applicant could have provided a Limited Medical Certificate
- removing the requirement for partners and children of New Zealand citizens and residents applying for temporary visas to meet specified residence criteria to provide a Limited Medical Certificate and be able to be granted a medical waiver, and instead specifying the requirements that need to be met directly within the health instructions
- clarifying that a Limited Medical Certificate provided with a previous application cannot be re-used with an application that requires a General Medical Certificate
- clarifying that a child included in a Partnership Category residence application is subject to the same health settings as the principal applicant in that application, regardless of whether the child is the child of a New Zealand citizen or resident
- minor updates to:
 - improve consistency across the different sections within the health instructions
 - reduce duplication
 - remove references to visa categories that have closed
 - correct cross references

Appendix 1: Amendments to temporary entry instructions effective on and after 16 November 2026

U8.30 Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders may be granted a student visa, provided that:
 - i. the parent intends to stay in New Zealand during the same period of time applied for by the dependent child; and
 - ii. the parent supports the application; and
 - iii. either the child's application for a residence class visa is being considered by INZ or the child's application for citizenship is being considered by the Department of Internal Affairs, and
- b. A visa under these instructions can be granted for a duration of 12 months:
 - i. from the date of arrival, if the applicant is outside New Zealand, or
 - ii. from the date the visa is granted, if the applicant is in New Zealand.
- c. If the applicant requires longer to obtain the outcome of their residence or citizenship application, immigration officers may consider granting a further visa for sufficient duration to allow their citizenship or residence application to be completed, as long as the requirements of paragraph (a) above continue to be met.
- d. Despite U8.30(a), where the applicant is subject to an overseas adoption order described in section 17(1) and 17(2) of the Adoption Act 1955, a visa cannot, as a result of the adoption, be granted under these instructions unless the adoption is from an 'exempt country' (see section 17(3)(b) and (4) of the Adoption Act 1955).
- e. Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders may be granted student visas without the need to produce evidence of enrolment.
- f. Guarantees of accommodation and/or maintenance for these dependent children are not required as they are supported by a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder.

Notes:

- For the purposes of (d), an 'exempt country' is one that is listed at Schedule 1AAB of the Adoption Act 1955.
- Where (d) applies, there is no discretion available, either under the Adoption Act 1955, the Immigration Act 2009, or through an 'exception to instructions', to grant a visa under U8.30, though an immigration officer may consider granting a visa under other categories of temporary entry instructions.

U8.30.1 Evidence for dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. Immigration officers must sight evidence of the following:
 - i. the New Zealand citizenship or New Zealand residence status of the applicant's parent; and
 - ii. documents that confirm the applicant's relationship with the parent (see [E4.5.10](#)); and
 - iii. that the applicant and parent are intending to stay in New Zealand during the same period of time; and
 - iv. that the New Zealand parent supports the application; and
 - v. the child has applied for a residence class visa or citizenship.
- b. If the evidence required by (a) above has been previously provided to INZ as part of a residence class visa application from or including the child, an immigration officer can use that evidence to be satisfied the requirements to grant a student visa are met.

Note: Dependent children holding a visa granted under this category may be able to be considered domestic for the purpose of all tuition fees at primary and secondary schools. See section 10(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020 and the associated notice administered by the Ministry of Education for complete information on domestic students.

V3.20 Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders may be granted a visitor visa provided that:
 - i. the parent intends to stay in New Zealand during the same period of time applied for by the dependent child; and
 - ii. the parent supports the application.
- b. A visa under these instructions can be granted for a duration of 12 months:
 - i. from the date of arrival, if the applicant is outside New Zealand, or
 - ii. from the date the visa is granted, if the applicant is in New Zealand.
- c. If dependent children apply to stay longer than 12 months, immigration officers may consider granting further visas allowing a total stay of up to 2 years from the date the first visa was granted to an applicant in New Zealand, or the first date of arrival if the visa was granted to an applicant outside New Zealand, as long as the requirements of paragraph (a) above continue to be met.
- d. Despite V3.20(a), where the applicant is subject to an overseas adoption order described in section 17(1) and 17(2) of the Adoption Act 1955, a visa cannot, as a result of the adoption, be granted under these instructions unless the adoption is from an 'exempt country' (see section 17(3)(b) and (4) of the Adoption Act 1955).

Notes:

- For the purposes of (d), an 'exempt country' is one that is listed at Schedule 1AAB of the Adoption Act 1955.
- Where (d) applies, there is no discretion available, either under the Adoption Act 1955, the Immigration Act 2009, or through an 'exception to instructions', to grant a visa under V3.20, though an immigration officer may consider granting a visa under other categories of temporary entry instructions.

V3.20.1 Evidence for dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. Immigration officers must sight evidence of the following:
 - i. the New Zealand citizenship or New Zealand residence status of the applicant's parent; and
 - ii. documents that confirm the applicant's relationship with the parent (see [E4.5.10](#)); and
 - iii. that the applicant and parent are intending to stay in New Zealand during the same period of time; and
 - iv. the New Zealand parent supports the application.
- b. If the evidence required by (a) above has been previously provided to INZ as part of a residence class visa application from or including the child, an immigration officer can use that evidence to be satisfied the requirements to grant a visitor visa are met

V3.20.5 Dependent children awaiting the outcome of a family residence visa application

- a. Dependent children who have made a visitor visa application as a child of a New Zealand citizen or resident (V3.20) may be granted work rights, enabling them to work for up to 25 hours in any given week and full-time during the summer holiday period (1 December-31 January inclusive annually) where they:
 - i. Meet age requirements as a result of being between 17 and 24 years old (inclusive) when they make their application; and
 - ii. have provided evidence to satisfy an immigration officer that they have successfully completed year 13 of secondary school (or the overseas equivalent) if they are aged 17 years old when they make their application; and
 - iii. have applied for residence under the Dependent Child Resident Visa ([F5](#)) category.

Notes:

- The summer holiday period is defined as running from 1 December to 31 January (inclusive) annually for visitor visa holders with work conditions which specify that they may undertake full-time work during the summer holiday period. This definition does not apply under student visa instructions, where the summer holiday period is determined by the associated education provider.
- Evidence that a 17-year-old applicant has completed year 13 of secondary school (or the overseas equivalent) may include, but is not limited to: a letter from their secondary school, a final school report or a graduation certificate.
- As per [R2.1.30\(f\)](#) where immigration officers are required to assess the financial dependence of children included in a resident application, any part-time work undertaken in accordance with these conditions will not affect that assessment.

V3.15 Partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

Partners (see [E4.1.20](#)) of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders may be granted a visitor visa provided that:

- a. they are living together in a genuine and stable relationship (see [E4.5.25](#), [E4.5.30](#) and [E4.5.5](#)); and
- b. the New Zealand partner intends to be in New Zealand during the same period of time applied for by the applicant; and
- c. the New Zealand partner supports the application; and
 - i. complies with the minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships (see [E4.5.15](#) and [F2.15](#)); and
 - ii. meets the character requirement for partners supporting 'partnership-based temporary entry applications' set out at [E7.45](#).

V3.15.1 Instructions on duration of visas for partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. The duration of any visa granted under these instructions is dependent on the time spent living together in a partnership, but must not exceed 36 months from:
 - i. the date the first partnership visa was granted if it was granted **to an applicant in New Zealand**; or
 - ii. the first date of arrival **on a** partnership visa granted **to an applicant outside New Zealand**.
- b. If the couple has lived together in a partnership for 12 months or more at the time the application is assessed, a visitor visa may be granted for the length of the couple's intended stay, up to a maximum of 36 months.
- c. If the couple has lived together in a partnership for less than 12 months at the time the application is assessed, then **a** visa granted under these instructions must not exceed 12 months' duration.
- d. **After the couple have been living together for 12 months**, further visas may be granted upon application for up to a maximum of 36 months from the date the first partnership visa was granted if the visa was granted **to an applicant in New Zealand** or the first date of arrival if the partnership visa was granted **to an applicant outside New Zealand** if:
 - i. during the validity of the first visa an application for a residence class visa under Partnership Category is made and the principal applicant wishes to remain in New Zealand pending a decision on their application; or
 - ii. the couple wish to spend more time in New Zealand and an immigration officer is satisfied they are still living together in a genuine and stable partnership.

V3.15.5 New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder partner must be eligible to support under Partnership instructions

- a. When determining the eligibility of the New Zealand partner to support a partnership-based visitor visa application, immigration officers must consider whether the New Zealand resident partner will be eligible to support a partnership-based residence class visa application (see [F2.10.10](#)) within 12 months of the grant of the visa.
- b. If the New Zealand partner would not be eligible to support a partnership-based residence class visa application within 12 months of the grant of the visa, the application for the visitor visa may be declined (see [F2.10.10](#)).

V3.15.10 Evidential requirements for partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. Immigration officers must sight evidence of the following:
 - i. the supporting partner's New Zealand citizenship or New Zealand residence status; and
 - ii. the applicant's relationship with their New Zealand partner; and
 - iii. that the applicant and their New Zealand partner are living together in a genuine and stable partnership at the time the application is made (see [E4.5.35](#) for the type of evidence required); and
 - iv. the Form for Partners Supporting Partnership-Based Temporary Entry Applications ([INZ 1146](#)) completed by the New Zealand partner; and
 - v. that the applicant and their New Zealand partner are intending to live in New Zealand for the same period of time.
- b. If requested by an immigration officer, applicants must also provide a written declaration from their New Zealand partner confirming
 - i. they are eligible to support; or
 - ii. they comply with the minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships (see [E4.5.15](#) and [F2.15](#)).

WF2.1 Instructions on duration of visa for partners of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders

- a. The duration of any visa granted under these instructions is dependent on the time spent living together in a partnership but must not exceed 36 months from:
 - i. the date the first partnership visa was granted if it was granted **to an applicant in New Zealand**; or
 - ii. the first date of arrival **on a** partnership visa granted **to an applicant outside New Zealand**.
- b. If the couple has lived together in a partnership for 12 months or more at the time the application is assessed, a work visa may be granted for the length of the couple's intended stay, up to a maximum of 36 months.
- c. If the couple has lived together in a partnership for less than 12 months at the time the application is assessed, then **a** visa granted under these instructions must not exceed 12 months' duration.
- d. **After the couple have been living together for 12 months**, further visas may be granted upon application for up to a maximum of 36 months from the date the first partnership visa was granted if the visa was granted **to an applicant in New Zealand** or the first date of arrival if the partnership visa was granted **to an applicant outside New Zealand** if:
 - i. during the validity of the first visa an application for a residence class visa under Partnership Category is made and the principal applicant wishes to remain in New Zealand pending a decision on their application; or
 - ii. the couple wish to spend more time in New Zealand and an immigration officer is satisfied they are still living together in a genuine and stable partnership.
- e. Any work visas granted under these instructions may be endorsed with conditions that allow the holder to undertake any work in any occupation and any location.
- f. Self-employment is permitted however holders of visas granted under these instructions are restricted from employing others, whether directly, or indirectly via a business they operate as an owner.

Appendix 2: Amendments to residence instructions effective on and after 16 November 2026

R5.95 Character requirement for partners supporting Partnership Category applications

- a. A supporting partner will not meet the character requirement for partners supporting Partnership Category applications (unless granted a character waiver (see R5.95.5)) if they have been convicted either within New Zealand or any other country of:
 - i. any offence involving family violence; or
 - ii. any offence of a sexual nature.
- b. If the supporting partner does not meet the character requirement for partners supporting partnership application, the application may be declined.
- c. A residence application will usually be deferred for up to six months, if at the time the application is assessed, the supporting partner:
 - i. has an arrest warrant (or the equivalent) outstanding in any country for any offence which, on conviction, would make R5.95(a) apply to them; or
 - ii. has been charged with such an offence; or
 - iii. is under investigation for such an offence; or
 - iv. is wanted for questioning about such an offence.
- d. Where an application is deferred on the basis of (c) above, the process described in A5.35.1 and A5.35.5 must be followed.

Note: For the purpose of these instructions, 'family violence' has the meaning set out in s.9 of the family Violence Act 2018.

Any New Zealand conviction may be covered under the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004. See [A5.5.1](#).

R5.95.1 Evidence that partners supporting Partnership Category applications meet the character requirement

- a. Character checks must be carried out for partners (aged 17 and over) supporting Partnership Category applications.
- b. The supporting partner character check consists of:
 - i. a New Zealand police certificate obtained by Immigration New Zealand; and
 - ii. a police or similar certificate, less than 6 months old, from any country in which the supporting partner has lived 12 months or more (whether on one visit or intermittently) in the last ten years since attaining the age of 17 years.
- c. Despite (b), an immigration officer may, where they have reason to suspect the supporting partner may not meet character requirements, request a police certificate from the supporting partner for any country in which they have lived for 12 months or more since they turned 17.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, the requirements for police certificates at A5.10 and A5.10.1 apply to police certificates provided by supporting partners.

Notes:

~ For full information on police certificates see [A5.10](#) (A5.10 Police certificates).

~ Instructions in respect of how to obtain police certificates from specific countries can be obtained from the INZ website at www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate.

R5.95.5 Action

- a. Immigration officers must not automatically decline partnership applications on the basis that the supporting partner does not meet the character requirement for partners supporting partnership applications.
- b. Officers must consider the surrounding circumstances of the application to decide whether or not they are compelling enough to justify waiving the character requirement. The circumstances include but are not limited to the following factors as appropriate:
 - i. if applicable, the seriousness of the offence (generally indicated by the term of imprisonment or size of the fine); and/or
 - ii. whether there is more than one offence; and/or
 - iii. how long ago the relevant event occurred.
- c. Officers must make a decision only after they have considered all relevant factors, including (if applicable):
 - i. any advice from the National Office of INZ; and
 - ii. compliance with fairness and natural justice requirements (see [A1](#)).
- d. Officers must record:
 - i. their consideration of the surrounding circumstances, (see paragraph (b) above), noting all factors taken into account; and

- ii. the reasons for their decision to waive or decline to waive the character requirement.
- e. Any decision to waive the character requirement for partners must be made by an officer with Schedule 1-3 delegations.

A5.35 Residence applications usually deferred

Applications for a residence class visa will usually be deferred for up to six months if, at the time the application is assessed:

- a. any of the applicants included in the application has an arrest warrant (or the equivalent) outstanding in any country; or
- b. any of the applicants:
 - i. has been charged with any offence which, on conviction, would make [A5.25.5\(a\)](#) apply to that applicant; or
 - ii. is under investigation for such an offence; or
 - iii. is wanted for questioning about such an offence; or
- c. the principal applicant is applying under the Partnership Category, and the supporting partner has an unresolved matter relating to their character as described in R5.95(c); or
- d. the principal applicant is applying for residence under the Family or Special Categories on the basis of their relationship to a person whose residence status is under investigation at the time of assessment of the Family or Special Category application. In such cases, if the investigation cannot be finalised within the initial six month deferral period the application may continue to be deferred until it is.

Note: if a resident visa holder is applying for a permanent resident visa, and the travel conditions on the resident visa are about to expire, further travel conditions can be granted for the same duration as the deferral period.

A5.35.1 Action

The immigration officer must:

- a. defer the decision on the application for up to six months; and
- b. inform the applicant of the decision to grant a deferral and the period of the deferral, in writing; and
- c. await the outcome of the charge, investigation or questioning, or await cancellation or execution of the arrest warrant; and
- d. if removal of the character impediment is confirmed, continue processing the application normally; and
- e. if the character impediment is not removed, refer to the Head of Operations or Visa Operations Manager for their decision on whether to grant a second or subsequent deferral under the provisions at A5.35.5.

A5.35.5 Second and subsequent deferral periods

- a. In cases where the deferral period is coming to an end and the applicant is still awaiting the outcome of the charge, investigation or questioning, or awaiting cancellation or execution of the arrest warrant, a second or subsequent deferral period may be imposed.
- b. A decision on a second or subsequent deferral will only be made after appropriate consultation with National Office and the Legal Services of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment about:
 - i. whether a second or subsequent deferral is justified in the circumstances; and
 - ii. whether the deferral period is reasonable, given the likely timeframe of any outcome being reached and the efforts the applicant is making to reach an outcome.
- c. A decision to grant a second deferral must be made by a Head of Operations or Visa Operations Manager or above.
- d. If the character impediment is not removed by the end of the second deferral period, the Head of Operations or Visa Operations Manager may impose a subsequent deferral.
- e. The length of the subsequent deferral period will be decided according to the length of time it is expected for a decision on the charge, investigation or questioning, cancellation or execution of the arrest warrant to be made.
- f. The applicant must be informed of any decision to impose a second or subsequent deferral and the period of the deferral, in writing.
- g. If the subsequent deferral period comes to an end without the character impediment being removed or an outcome to the case, officers must assess the application as in [A5.25.10](#).

Note: A deferral does not require granting the applicant a temporary entry class visa.

F2.5 How do partners of New Zealand citizens and residents qualify for a residence class visa?

- a. To be granted a residence class visa under Partnership Category applicants must provide sufficient evidence to satisfy an immigration officer that they have been living together for 12 months or more in a partnership that is genuine and stable with a New Zealand citizen or resident.
- b. For the purpose of these instructions 'partnership' means:
 - i. a legal marriage; or
 - ii. a civil union; or
 - iii. a de facto relationshipand 'partner' means one of the parties to such a partnership indicated in (i), (ii) and (iii) above.
- c. In each case the onus of proving that the partnership on which the application is based is genuine and stable lies with the principal applicant and their New Zealand partner.
- d. An application under Partnership Category will be declined if:
 - i. the application is not supported by an eligible New Zealand citizen or resident partner; or
 - ii. an immigration officer is not satisfied that the partnership on which the application is based is genuine and stable; or
 - iii. the applicant and New Zealand citizen or resident partner have not lived together for 12 months or more at the time the application is lodged; or
 - iv. the application is based on marriage or a civil union to a New Zealand citizen or resident and either that New Zealand citizen or resident, or the principal applicant is already married to or in a civil union with another person; or
 - v. both the principal applicant and the New Zealand citizen or resident partner cannot satisfy an immigration officer they comply with the minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships (see [F2.15](#)); or
 - vi. the applicant(s) does not meet health and character requirements (see [A4](#) and [A5](#)).
- e. Applications for residence under Partnership Category will also be declined if the principal applicant was a partner to the eligible New Zealand partner but not declared on the eligible New Zealand partner's application for a residence class visa (if applicable), unless an immigration officer is satisfied the non-declaration occurred with:
 - i. no intention to mislead; and
 - ii. would not have resulted in a different outcome in the eligible New Zealand partner's application.

If both these clauses are met, an immigration officer should continue to assess the application and may approve it if all other requirements are met.

Note: Notwithstanding (e) above, officers should not decline an application on the basis of this provision without first providing the principal applicant an opportunity to explain the non-declaration in accordance with [R5.15](#) Explaining discrepancies in family details.

F2.5.1 Eligibility for a permanent resident visa for partners of New Zealand citizens living overseas

- a. A principal applicant may be granted a permanent resident visa (RA1.5) if:
 - i. they meet all the other criteria for a residence class visa under the Partnership Category; and
 - ii. they have a New Zealand citizen partner who has been residing outside New Zealand for a period of at least five years at the time the application is made; and
 - iii. the couple have been living together in a genuine and stable relationship for at least five years at the time the application is made; and
 - iv. their New Zealand citizen partner is either:
 - o outside New Zealand when the application is made, or
 - o has entered New Zealand in the 3-month period before the application is made.
- b. For the purposes of these instructions, residing outside New Zealand means spending less than 3 months in New Zealand in each of the five 12-month periods immediately preceding either:
 - i. the date the application is made (if the supporting partner was outside New Zealand when the application was made); or
 - ii. the date the New Zealand citizen partner arrived in New Zealand (if the supporting partner was in New Zealand when the application was made).
- c. Any secondary applicants included in an application where the principal applicant is eligible for a permanent resident visa under these instructions may also be granted a permanent resident visa ([RA1.5](#)).
- d. Any applicants who do not meet the criteria set out in this section but who meet all other requirements of the Partnership Category should be granted a resident visa ([RA1.1](#)).

F2.40 General rules when the supporting partner obtained residence under certain categories

F2.40.1 English language requirements

- a. An applicant must meet English language requirements if:
- they were eligible to be included in an earlier successful residence application made by the supporting partner; and
 - they were not included in that application, or were withdrawn from that application; and
 - that earlier application was made under a category that had English language requirements for non-principal applicants.
- b. The applicable English language requirements for non-principal applicants for each residence category is set out in the table below:

Residence category	English requirements
BE Employees of relocating business	BF1.1
BH Entrepreneur residence visa category	BF1.1
BI Business investor residence category	BI2.1 and SR2.10.10
BJ5 Investor 2 category	BF1.1
BL Entrepreneur plus category	BF1.1
SM Skilled Migrant Category (EOI pre-16 August 2023)	SR2.10.10
SR3 Skilled Migrant Category	SR2.10.10
SR 4 Green List: Straight to Residence	SR2.10.10
SR 5 Green List: Work to Residence	SR2.10.10
SR 6 Care Workforce: Work to Residence	SR2.10.10
SR 7 Transport Sector: Work to Residence	SR2.10.10
RW2 Talent (Accredited Employers) Residence from Work Category	RW5
RW3 Talent (Arts Culture and Sports) Residence from Work Category	RW5
RW4 Talent (Long Term Skills Shortage List) Residence from Work Category	RW5
RW7 Religious Workers Residence from Work Category	RW5

- c. If the English requirements are not specified in the table at (b), they are:
- those set out at BF1.1 for any residence category in the 'Business' chapter
 - those set out at RW5 for any residence category in the 'Residence from work' chapter
 - those set out at SR2.10.10 for any other residence category.
- d. The English requirements that apply are those in place at the time the partnership application is made, rather than those that were in place when the supporting partner made their earlier application for residence.

F2.40.5 Applications under Partnership Category of persons eligible for inclusion in earlier registrations or expressions of interest

- a. A partnership application must be declined if the principal applicant was eligible to be included in one of the

following, and was either not included or included and subsequently removed from:

- i. a registration or expression of interest listed in (b) below that was selected and resulted in the issue of an invitation to apply, or
 - ii. a successful application that was made under the Parent Category.
- b. The requirement at (a)(i) above applies to:
- i. registrations under the Family Quota, the Refugee Family Support Category, Samoan Quota Scheme or the Pacific Access Category; and
 - ii. expressions of interest under the Parent Category or Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship category

F2.40.10 Resident visas with conditions imposed under section 49(1)

If a New Zealand partner holds a resident visa subject to conditions (excluding travel conditions) imposed under section 49(1) of the Immigration Act 2009, then the principal applicant's resident visa will be subject to the condition that the New Zealand resident partner complies with those conditions (see [R5.65.1](#)).

F5.30 English language requirements

- a. An applicant must meet English language requirements if:
- they were eligible to be included in an earlier successful residence application made by the supporting parent; and
 - they were not included in that application, or were withdrawn from that application; and
 - that earlier application was made under a category that had English language requirements for non-principal dependent child applicants.
- b. The applicable English language requirements for non-principal applicants for each residence category is set out in the table below:

Residence category	English requirements
BE Employees of relocating business	BF1.1
BH Entrepreneur residence visa category	BF1.1
BI Business investor residence category	BI2.1 and SR2.10.10
BJ5 Investor 2 category	BF1.1
BL Entrepreneur plus category	BF1.1
SM Skilled Migrant Category (EOI pre-16 August 2023)	SR2.10.10
SR3 Skilled Migrant Category	SR2.10.10
SR 4 Green List: Straight to Residence	SR2.10.10
SR 5 Green List: Work to Residence	SR2.10.10
SR 6 Care Workforce: Work to Residence	SR2.10.10
SR 7 Transport Sector: Work to Residence	SR2.10.10
RW2 Talent (Accredited Employers) Residence from Work Category	RW5
RW3 Talent (Arts Culture and Sports) Residence from Work Category	RW5
RW4 Talent (Long Term Skills Shortage List) Residence from Work Category	RW5
RW7 Religious Workers Residence from Work Category	RW5

- c. If the English requirements are not specified in the table at (b), they are:
- those set out at BF1.1 for any residence category in the 'Business' chapter
 - those set out at RW5 for any residence category in the 'Residence from work' chapter
 - those set out at SR2.10.10 for any other residence category.
- d. The English requirements that apply are those in place at the time the dependent child application is made, rather than those that were in place when the supporting partner made their earlier application for residence.

Appendix 3: Amendments to temporary entry and residence instructions effective on and after 16 November 2026

A4.5 Overview of health instructions

- e. All applicants for visas must have an acceptable standard of health unless:
 - i. they are entering New Zealand for specific medical treatment and have been granted a visa for this purpose; or
 - ii. they are applying for a further residence class visa under RV2 or RV4.
 - f. A person has an acceptable standard of health if they are:
 - i. unlikely to be a danger to public health; and
 - ii. unlikely to impose significant costs or demands on New Zealand's health services or special education services; and
 - iii. able to undertake the work or study on the basis of which they are applying for a visa, or which is a requirement for the grant of the visa.
 - g. For the purposes of these instructions, 'Health services' includes all health and disability support services funded through Vote Health.
 - h. Applicants for residence class visas and applicants for temporary entry class visas are assessed to determine whether they have an acceptable standard of health using separate sets of criteria. Assessment of whether a temporary entry class visa applicant has an acceptable standard of health takes into account their length of intended stay in New Zealand (see [A4.10](#) and [A4.15](#)).
 - i. Applicants are required to provide evidence of their health status as follows, **unless specifically exempt**:
 - i. applicants for temporary entry class visas intending a stay in New Zealand of more than six months and who have risk factors for tuberculosis must provide a Chest X-ray Certificate (see [A4.25.1](#));
 - ii. applicants for residence class visas and applicants for temporary entry class visas intending a stay in New Zealand of more than 12 months must provide a Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate (see [A4.20](#) and [A4.25](#));
 - iii. applicants for a Global Workforce Seasonal Visa must provide a Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray.
 - j. **Where an applicant is required to provide a Medical Certificate and/or Chest X-ray Certificate by A4.20 or A4.25, they must:**
 - i. **if the application is not made online, provide evidence of completion of the required certificate(s) with the application;**
 - ii. **if the application is made online and evidence of completion of the required certificate(s) is required to submit the application, provide that evidence in the manner specified by the online application form; or**
 - iii. **if the application is made online and evidence of completion of the required certificate(s) is not required to submit the application, complete the required certificate(s) when requested after submission of the application and provide evidence of completion in the manner specified in the request.**
- Note:** Requests for certificates under (f)(iii) may be made by an automated system. INZ's automated system determines when to request a Medical or Chest X-ray certificate in line with instructions and based on the information provided by the applicant in the application form and information INZ holds about the applicant, such as the date and outcome of any previously provided Medical or Chest X-ray certificates.
- k. **Evidence of completion of a Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate includes:**
 - i. **a completed Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate; or**
 - ii. **an eMedical reference code (NZER); or**
 - iii. **confirmation that a physician has directly submitted the applicant's Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate to Immigration New Zealand.**
 - l. An immigration officer may however, request a Chest X-ray Certificate or a Medical Certificate regardless of the period of intended stay in New Zealand, if they consider this is necessary to establish whether the applicant has an acceptable standard of health.
 - m. Generally, an applicant's Chest X-ray Certificate or Medical Certificate will be valid for any temporary entry class or residence class visa application they make within 36 months of the certificate(s) having been completed by the radiologist and physician respectively (see [A4.25\(c\)](#) and [A4.20\(d\)](#)).
 - n. Some applicants who are assessed as having an unacceptable standard of health may be granted a medical waiver (see [A4.60](#) and [A4.65](#)).
 - o. If any person included in the application fails to meet the necessary health requirements and does not qualify for a medical waiver, the application may be declined.

A4.20 Medical and Chest X-ray Certificates: residence class visa applications

- a. All applicants for residence class visas must provide a completed Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096), unless:
- the applicant is pregnant or under 11 years of age, in which case they are not required to provide a Chest X-ray Certificate; or
 - the application is for a further residence class visa under RV2 or RV4, in which case no Medical or Chest X-ray Certificate is required.
- b. The Medical Certificate that may be required with a residence class visa application, includes the:
- General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007) which must be provided by all applicants other than those listed in (ii) below, or
 - Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201) which must be provided by:
 - applicants applying for or included in a residence application under the Partnership Category (F2) or Dependent Child Category (F5), unless [R5.96](#) applies; or
 - applicants who have been recognised as having refugee or protection status in New Zealand and are thereby eligible to apply for a permanent resident visa (see S3) and their partner and dependent child(ren), (if any); or
 - applicants who are applying under the Refugee Quota Family Reunification (RQFR) Category ([S4.20](#)); or
 - mandated refugees who have been selected as candidates for New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme [S3.5\(a\)\(i\)](#).

Note: For the avoidance of doubt, applicants under the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship category ([S4.25](#)) must provide a General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007).

- c. All Medical and Chest X-ray Certificates must have been issued less than three months before the date the application for a residence class visa is made, unless (d) below applies.

Notes:

~ The issue date of a Medical Certificate is the date of the declaration by the examining physician concerning the overall findings of the medical examination, or the date that the Medical Certificate was submitted to Immigration New Zealand if submitted by the physician electronically.

~ The issue date of a Chest X-ray Certificate is the date of the declaration by the radiologist, or the date that the Chest X-ray Certificate was submitted to Immigration New Zealand if submitted by the physician electronically.

~ INZ medical certificates have the following reference numbers when submitted by the physician electronically:

General Medical Certificate – 501 Medical examination
Limited Medical Certificate – 512 Limited medical examination
Chest X-Ray Certificate – 502 Chest X-ray examination

- d. Applicants for a residence class visa may provide a Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate, which was issued more than three months before the date that their application is made, if:
- they have provided a Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate with an earlier visa application; and
 - they were assessed as having an acceptable standard of health based on those certificates; and
 - those certificates were issued less than 36 months prior to the current application.
- e. Despite (d) above:
- Applicants who have spent six consecutive months in any one or more countries not listed in A4.25.10 since their previous Chest X-ray Certificate was issued, must provide a Chest X-ray Certificate which is less than three months old with their application.
 - Applicants who provided a Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201) with a previous visa application but no longer fall within the criteria listed at A4.20(b)(ii), must provide a General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007), which is less than three months old with their application.
 - Applicants must provide a Chest X-ray Certificate and specified tests, if:
 - they did not provide a Chest X-ray Certificate or specified tests with a Medical Certificate provided in the past 36 months because of their age, or because they were pregnant; and
 - their age would now require them to undertake the specified tests or provide a Chest X-ray Certificate, or they are no longer pregnant.
 - An immigration officer may require a Medical Certificate and Chest X-ray Certificate which is less than three months old, if they consider this is necessary to establish whether the applicant has an acceptable standard of health.
- f. If an applicant who could have provided a Limited Medical Certificate under (b)(ii) provides a General Medical Certificate instead or is using a General Medical Certificate provided with a previous application under (d), an immigration officer may assess the applicant's standard of health by reference only to the information contained in the General Medical Certificate that would be required for a Limited Medical Certificate.

A4.25 Medical and Chest X-ray Certificates: temporary entry class visa applications

- a. All applicants for temporary entry class visas intending a stay in New Zealand of more than 12 months must provide a completed Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate which have been issued less than three months before the date the application is made, unless:
- specifically exempt by (c) to (f) below; or
 - the applicant is pregnant or under 11 years of age, in which case they are not required to provide a Chest X-ray Certificate.
- b. The Medical Certificates and Chest X-ray Certificate that may be required with a temporary entry visa application include:
- General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)
 - Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)
 - Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)

Note: Unless specified otherwise, applicants should provide the General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007) and the Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096).

~ INZ medical certificates have the following reference numbers when submitted by the physician electronically:

General Medical Certificate – 501 Medical examination
Limited Medical Certificate – 512 Limited medical examination
Chest X-Ray Certificate – 502 Chest X-ray examination

- c. Unless specifically stated, applicants for a temporary entry class visa do not ordinarily need to provide a Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate if:
- they have provided a Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate with an earlier visa application; and
 - they were assessed as having an acceptable standard of health based on those certificates; and
 - those certificates were issued less than 36 months prior to the current application.

Note: Despite (c) above, applications for a Parent Boost visitor visa are subject to the requirements under the Parent Boost visitor visa instructions – see [V4.5\(c\)](#) and [V4.5.1\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

- d. Medical Certificates and Chest X-ray Certificates do not need to be provided by the following types of temporary entry class visa applicants:
- Applicants for a student visa as a fee paying foreign student (see U4.10) (except for students holding a New Zealand scholarship administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (see U11) unless A4.25.1 applies.
 - Applicants for a Working Holidaymaker Extension visa (see WH2).
 - Applicants (and their partner and dependent child(ren), if any) who have been recognised as having refugee or protection status in New Zealand and are eligible to apply for a permanent resident visa.
 - Applicants (and their partner and dependent child(ren), if any) for a Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa (see WI20).
- e. Applicants for a temporary entry class visa who have a claim for refugee or protection status in New Zealand under consideration (and their partner and dependent child(ren)) do not ordinarily need to provide a Medical Certificate with their temporary visa application (see E8.10.1). These applicants must provide a completed Chest X-Ray Certificate.
- f. Applicants who must provide a Medical Certificate other than the General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007) are set out below:
- Partners of New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders must provide a Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201) and a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096) unless [E7.50](#) applies, if:
 - they are intending a stay in New Zealand of more than 12 months, and
 - the applicant and their partner have been living together for 12 months or more in a partnership that is genuine and stable.
 - Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders must provide a Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201) and a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096), unless [E7.50](#) applies, if:
 - they are intending a stay in New Zealand of more than 12 months; and
 - they meet the definition of a dependent child for the purpose of inclusion in a residence application, as set out in R2.1.30.
 - Recognised Seasonal Employer limited visa applicants must provide a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096) where A4.25.1(b) applies. Regardless of the length of intended stay, Recognised Seasonal Employer limited visa applicants are not required to provide a General Medical Certificate.
- g. Despite (c), (d)(i), (ii), (iv), and (f)(iii) above, an immigration officer may require a Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate if they consider this is necessary to establish whether the applicant has an acceptable standard of health.

- h. Despite (c), applicants who provided a Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201) with a previous visa application but no longer fall within the criteria listed at A4.25(f)(i) or (ii), must provide a General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007) which is less than three months old with their application.
- i. Risk factors which may indicate that an applicant should be asked to provide a Medical Certificate or Chest X-ray Certificate, where not otherwise required, may include:
- the applicant declaring they have a medical condition; or
 - INZ having knowledge of an applicant's medical condition; or
 - a recommendation from an INZ medical assessor that a future application be accompanied by an updated Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate; or
 - where A4.25.1(e) applies.
- j. Applicants must provide a Chest X-ray Certificate and specified tests, if:
- A4.25(a) applies; and
 - the applicant did not provide a Chest X-ray Certificate or specified tests with a Medical Certificate provided in the past 36 months because of their age, or because they were pregnant; and
 - their age would now require them to undertake the specified tests or provide a Chest X-ray Certificate, or they are no longer pregnant.
- k. Applicants who intend to stay in New Zealand for a total of more than 12 months include those:
- already in New Zealand for up to 12 months seeking a further visa to be in New Zealand for longer than 12 months; or
 - applying for visas who indicate their intention is to remain in New Zealand for longer than 12 months; or
 - applying for student visas and who are defined as domestic students (see U3.35), or who are students holding a New Zealand scholarship administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (see U11), for a course or courses of study that are longer in total than 12 months; or
 - applying for Parent Boost visitor visa (see V4).
- l. Applicants who intend to stay in New Zealand for more than 12 months are also subject to the provisions of A4.25.1(h) and (i).
- m. Parent Boost visitor visa holders, as a condition of their visa, must provide a Medical certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate that is less than 3 months old when they submit a compliance with conditions form (see [V4.35.5](#)).

Notes:

- The issue date of a Medical Certificate is the date of the declaration by the examining physician concerning the overall findings of the medical examination or the date that the Medical Certificate was submitted to INZ if submitted by the physician electronically.
- The issue date of a Chest X-ray Certificate is the date of the declaration made by the radiologist, or the date that the Chest X-ray Certificate was submitted by the physician electronically.

- n. Despite (a), applications for a Global Workforce Seasonal Visa must include a Medical Certificate and a Chest X-ray Certificate which have been issued less than three months before the date the application is made, regardless of their intended length of stay in New Zealand, unless (c) above applies.
- o. Despite (l), applicants are also subject to the provisions of A4.25.1(h) and (i) if they are applying for a Global Workforce Seasonal Visa.

A4.25.1 Requirement to undergo screening for tuberculosis for people with risk factors

- a. Applicants for temporary entry class visas who intend to be in New Zealand more than six months, and not more than 12 months, and are considered to have risk factors for tuberculosis (TB), must undergo TB screening unless:
- they are pregnant; or
 - they are under 11 years of age.
- b. Despite (a) above, all Recognised Seasonal Employer limited visa applicants (including those who intend to be in New Zealand for less than six months) who are considered to have risk factors for TB must undergo TB screening unless they are pregnant.
- c. Applicants required to undergo TB screening must provide:
- a completed Immigration New Zealand Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096); and
 - any associated radiologist report.
- d. A Chest X-ray Certificate and the associated report must be less than three months old at the time the application is made unless:
- the applicant has provided a Chest X-ray Certificate with an earlier visa application; and
 - they were assessed as having an acceptable standard of health based on that certificate; and
 - that certificate was issued less than 36 months prior to the current application.

- e. Applicants who have spent six consecutive months in any one or more countries not listed in A4.25.10, since their previous Chest X-ray Certificate was issued, must provide a Chest X-ray Certificate which is less than three months old with their application, despite (d) above.

Note: The issue date of a Chest X-ray Certificate is the date of the declaration by the radiologist, or the date that the Chest X-ray Certificate was submitted to INZ if submitted by the physician electronically.

- f. Despite (a) and (d) above, an immigration officer may require a Chest X-ray Certificate if they consider this is necessary to establish whether the applicant has an acceptable standard of health.
- g. Applicants who intend to stay in New Zealand for a total of more than six months include those:
- already in New Zealand for up to six months seeking a further visa to be in New Zealand for longer than six months; or
 - applying for visas who indicate their intention is to remain in New Zealand for longer than six months; or
 - applying for student visas for a course or courses of study that are longer in total than six months; or
 - applying for Parent Boost visitor visas (see [V4](#)).
- h. Where an applicant in New Zealand has applied for a further temporary entry class visa and is assessed as having TB (excluding latent TB), their application must be declined on the basis that they do not have an acceptable standard of health. A limited visa should be granted for an initial period of one month for the express purpose of undergoing immediate medical treatment to render the disease non-infectious and to travel out of New Zealand. The limited visa should be granted using the delegated power to grant a visa of a different type from that for which an application is made (see [A15.5](#)).
- i. Pregnant applicants who intend to be in New Zealand for more than six months, and are considered to have risk factors for TB (see A4.25.5) but otherwise meet immigration instructions for the grant of a temporary entry visa, may only be granted a visa within the limitations of [E3.10.1](#).

A4.25.5 Definition of person with risk factors for TB

- a. A person is considered to have risk factors for TB if:
- they hold a passport issued by a country not listed in A4.25.10; or
 - in the five years prior to application they have spent a combined total of three or more months in any one or more countries not listed in A4.25.10.
- b. Despite (a)(i) above, if an applicant provides evidence that satisfies an immigration officer they have never lived or spent time in the country that issued their passport, and (a)(ii) does not apply, they will not be considered to have risk factors for TB and the requirement to undergo TB screening and provide a Chest X-ray Certificate will not apply.

A4.25.10 Low TB Incidence Countries, Areas and Territories

The following countries are deemed for the purpose of immigration instructions to be countries with a low incidence of TB.

Aland Islands	France	Occupied Palestinian Territory
Albania	French Guiana	Oman
American Samoa	French Polynesia	Panama
Andorra	Germany	Pitcairn Islands
Anguilla	Gibraltar	Poland
Antarctica	Greece	Portugal
Antigua and Barbuda	Grenada	Puerto Rico
Argentina	Guadeloupe	Qatar
Armenia	Guam	Reunion
Aruba	Guatemala	Saint Barthelemy
Australia	Guernsey	Saint Eustatius & Saba
Austria	Heard and McDonald Islands	Saint Helena, Ascension and
Bahamas	Honduras	Tristan da Cunha
Bahrain	Hungary	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Barbados	Iceland	Saint Lucia

Belarus	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Belgium	Iraq	Samoa
Belize	Ireland	San Marino
Bermuda	Isle of Man	Saudi Arabia
Bonaire	Israel	Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Seychelles
Bouvet Island	Jamaica	Sint Maarten
British Indian Ocean Territory	Japan	Slovakia
British Virgin Islands	Jersey	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Jordan	South Georgia and the South
Cabo Verde	Kuwait	Sandwich Islands
Canada	Latvia	Spain
Cayman Islands	Lebanon	Suriname
Chile	Liechtenstein	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Christmas Island	Lithuania	Sweden
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Colombia	Maldives	Syrian Arab Republic
Comoros	Malta	Togo
Cook Islands	Martinique	Tonga
Costa Rica	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Croatia	Mayotte	Tunisia
Cuba	Mexico	Turkey
Curacao	Monaco	Turks and Caicos
Cyprus	Montenegro	United Arab Emirates
Czech Republic	Montserrat	United Kingdom
Denmark	Netherlands	United States of America
Egypt	New Caledonia	Uruguay
Estonia	(New Zealand)	United States Virgin Islands
Falkland Islands	Norfolk Island	Vanuatu
Faroe Islands	North Macedonia	Vatican City
Finland	Norway	Wallis and Futuna Islands

A4.60 Medical waivers (applicants for residence class visas)

- a. Applicants for residence class visas in New Zealand who are assessed as not having an acceptable standard of health and whose applications meet all other requirements for approval under the relevant Government residence instructions may be considered for the grant of a medical waiver unless they:
 - i. require dialysis treatment, or an Immigration New Zealand medical assessor has indicated that they will require such treatment within a period of five years from the date of the medical assessment; or
 - ii. have severe haemophilia; or
 - iii. have a physical, intellectual, cognitive and/or sensory incapacity that requires full time care, including care in the community; or
 - iv. currently have tuberculosis (TB) (any form including pulmonary and non-pulmonary TB, Multidrug-Resistant (MDR)-TB and Extensively Drug-Resistant (XDR)-TB) and have not completed full treatment for TB as outlined in the New Zealand Guidelines for TB Treatment; or
 - v. have had a history, diagnostic findings or treatment for MDR-TB or XDR-TB, unless they have been cleared by a New Zealand Respiratory or Infectious Diseases specialist upon review of their file or review of the applicant as outlined in the New Zealand Guidelines for TB.
- b. Medical waivers will also not be granted to people who:
 - i. are applying for residence under one of the Family Categories; and
 - ii. were eligible to be included in an earlier application for a residence class visa (or a residence visa or residence permit issued or granted under the Immigration Act 1987) as the partner of a principal applicant or the dependent child of a principal applicant or their partner; and
 - iii. were either:
 - o not declared in that earlier application; or
 - o not included in that earlier application; or
 - o withdrawn from that earlier application.
- c. Applicants (and dependants included in their application) who have been recognised as having refugee or protection status (except those invited to apply under the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship category (see [S4.25](#))) will be granted medical waivers, unless (a) above applies.
- d. Unless (a) or (b) apply, an applicant will be granted a medical waiver if they would otherwise meet the criteria for the grant of residence to a person applying or included in an application under the Partnership Category (F2) or Dependent Child Category (F5).

Note:

- These instructions do not apply to people applying for a permanent resident visa who currently hold resident visas.
- For avoidance of doubt applicant(s) applying for a Parent Boost visitor visa are subject to the requirement in [A4.65.2](#).

4.65 Medical waivers (applicants for temporary entry class visas)

- a. Applicants for temporary entry class visas will not be considered for the grant of a medical waiver unless they:
- i. are applying for work visas as seconded business personnel (see A4.65.1 below); or
 - ii. have submitted a claim for refugee or protection status in New Zealand; or
 - iii. have been recognised as having refugee or protection status in New Zealand; or
 - iv. are the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder whose purpose of stay in New Zealand is to be with that New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder; and
 - o if they are the partner, the applicant and their partner have been living together for 12 months or more in a partnership that is genuine and stable; or
 - o if they are a child, the applicant meets the definition of a dependent child for the purpose of inclusion in a residence application, as set out in R2.1.30; or
 - v. are under 21 years of age and are applying for a student or visitor visa as a dependent of a work, student or military visa holder and it has been determined they do not have an acceptable standard of health as set out in [A4.15\(c\)](#).

Note: The consideration of a medical waiver is only available in respect of [A4.15\(c\)](#) - there is no ability to consider a medical waiver if a person is not considered to have an acceptable standard of health as set out under [A4.15\(b\)](#).

- b. Despite A4.65(a)(iv) medical waivers will not be granted to applicants who:
- i. are applying for a temporary entry class visa as the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen, or residence class visa holder; and
 - ii. were eligible for inclusion in their partner or parent's earlier application for a residence class visa, but were not included **or were withdrawn from that application.**

Note: The grant of a medical waiver for the purpose of temporary entry to New Zealand does not confirm that the applicant has an acceptable standard of health for the purposes of residence in New Zealand or that a medical waiver would be granted if a residence class visa application were made. This does not prevent an immigration officer considering whether or not an applicant is likely to be granted a medical waiver for the purpose of residence in New Zealand.

A4.65.1 Seconded business people

- a. Seconded business people applying for work visas may be granted a medical waiver if an immigration officer is satisfied that:
- i. the intended secondment will be of real benefit to New Zealand; and
 - ii. the applicant is unlikely to be a danger to public health during the period of secondment; and
 - iii. the employer has guaranteed to pay all medical expenses of the applicant during the secondment, including any significant costs to health services identified by an immigration officer or Immigration New Zealand medical assessor (despite [A4.15.1\(b\)](#)).
- b. At the time the work visa is granted, the principal applicant must be advised in writing that the visa has been granted even though the applicant does not have an acceptable standard of health.

Note: This instruction (A4.65.1) facilitates New Zealand's international trade commitments (see [E9](#)).

A4.65.2 Parent Boost Visitor Visa

Applicants applying for a Parent Boost Visitor Visa will not be considered for the grant of a medical waiver.

A4.70 Determination of whether a medical waiver should be granted (residence and temporary entry)

- a. Any decision to grant a medical waiver must be made by an immigration officer with Schedule 1-3 delegations (see [A15.5](#)).
- b. When determining whether a medical waiver should be granted, an immigration officer must consider the circumstances of the applicant to decide whether they are compelling enough to justify allowing entry to, and/or a stay in New Zealand.
- c. Factors that officers may take into account in making their decision include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. the objectives of Health instructions (see [A4.1](#)) and the objectives of the category or instructions under which the application has been made;
 - ii. the degree to which the applicant would impose significant costs and/or demands on New Zealand's health or education services;
 - iii. whether the applicant has immediate family lawfully and permanently resident in New Zealand and the circumstances and duration of that residence;
 - iv. whether the applicant's potential contribution to New Zealand will be significant;
 - v. the length of intended stay (including whether a person proposes to enter New Zealand permanently or temporarily).
- d. For applicants applying for a student or visitor visa as a dependent of a work, student or military visa holder, officers may also take into account whether the applicant's parent's potential contribution to New Zealand will be significant in making their decision.
- e. Unless the applicant has one of the conditions listed in A4.60(a) or cannot be granted a medical waiver because they were eligible to be included in an earlier residence application as set out at A4.60(b), medical waivers will be granted to applicants who are:
 - i. applying for a temporary class visa and can be considered for a waiver because they are a partner or child or a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder as set out at A4.65(a)(iv); or
 - ii. applying for a residence class visa, and are required to be granted a waiver as set out in A4.60(d) because they are a person who would otherwise meet the criteria for residence if they applied for or were included in an application under the Partnership Category (F2) or Dependent Category (F5).
- f. An applicant who has been recognised as having refugee or protection status (except those invited to apply under the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship category) will be granted a medical waiver, unless the limitation on the grant of medical waivers to such persons set out at [A4.60\(a\)](#) applies.
- g. An immigration officer should consider any advice provided by an Immigration New Zealand medical assessor on medical matters pertaining to the grant of a waiver, such as the prognosis of the applicant.
- h. An immigration officer must record decisions to approve or decline a medical waiver, and the full reasons for such a decision.

R5.96 Health requirement for partners or dependent children not included in or withdrawn from a residence class visa application

- a. Applicants must provide a General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007) with their application rather than a Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201) if:
 - i. they are applying under one of the Family Categories, and
 - ii. they were eligible for inclusion in an earlier residence application made by or including the New Zealand citizen or residence class partner or parent supporting the application as that person's partner, child or partner's child, and
 - iii. they were not included or withdrawn from that residence application.
- b. If an immigration officer determines that such an applicant does not have an acceptable standard of health they will not be granted a medical waiver (see [A4.60\(b\)](#)) despite applying for or being included in an application made under Partnership (see F2) or Dependent Child (see F5) instructions.