

VISA PAK ISSUE 626 — 23 MAY 2025

CHANGES TO TRANSLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITOR VISA APPLICATIONS

On 26 May, Immigration Instructions [A13.5](#) and [E4.65](#) will be amended to no longer require certified translations for documents provided with a visitor visa application that are not written in English. Instead of translations needing to be certified (as with previous instructions) they must now include the following details of the person who completed the translation (in English) - their name, contact details, and experience and qualifications that make them proficient in English and the translated language. This change applies to all sub-categories of visitor visa.

Translations must not be prepared by an applicant, any member of their family or an immigration advisor assisting with the application.

There has been no change to the requirement that certified translations must be provided for any police certificates or medical certificates not written in English which are provided in support of an application for a visitor visa.

Immigration Officers should approach a TA for advice regarding acceptable translations if they have concerns or questions.

General guidance

To help with applying these instructions in a consistent manner, some general guidance is provided below:

- IOs should use their judgement when determining whether a person completing the translation holds a qualification and/or experience that makes them proficient in English and the translated language. Qualifications completed in English and/or completion of secondary schooling in an English-speaking country may be considered sufficient to meet requirements. Employment in an English-speaking country or in a multi-national organisation may be considered sufficient to meet experience requirements. Immigration Officers should approach a TA for advice regarding acceptable translations if they have concerns or questions.
- Applicants are not required to provide additional evidence of the qualifications and/or experience of the person preparing the translation.
- An IO can accept translations with the details of the person completing the translation on each translation or, where the translator has translated all the relevant documents, a cover letter that includes the translator's details and confirms that that translator has translated all the documents, or specified documents, submitted with the application.
- An IO can also translate documents themselves where they have the appropriate language skills. This does not mean that applications provided with no translations should be fully translated by an IO. This instruction should be utilised on a case-by-case basis. IOs should consider the potential for unfairness across applicants who may or may not have an IO assigned to their case with these language skills and consult with a Technical Advisor if appropriate.
- If an application is submitted on or after 26 May, and it includes certified translations, these should be accepted.



- Irrespective of when the application was made, if an IO is assessing the application on or after 26 May, it may be assessed in line with the new instructions where beneficial to the applicant.
- For visitor visa applications submitted under the Temporary Retirement Category, IOs should consider requesting certified translations on a case-by-case basis in relation to this category given the types of the documents and evidence that needs to be provided with these applications, which may include complex investment or asset documents.
- IOs can still request certified translations if deemed necessary in any visitor visa application. If you have any concerns with the quality of the translations provided, you may discuss with a TA before requesting certified translations.

Standard text and Visa Assessment Template (VAT) changes

Standard letter text (both in ADEPT and AMS) and changes to the VV VAT on the INZKit will be ready for use on 26 May. For any locally held VV VATs please replace the current translations section with the new section to be published in the VV VAT on 26 May.

Standard Operating Procedures

A new Standard Operating Procedure has been developed to help IOs assess translation requirements. This will be published in the Global Process Manual the week of the 26th of May, or if delayed, the week after.