

VISA PAK ISSUE 341 — 19 JANUARY 2018

START DATES AND EXPIRY DATES FOR TEMPORARY ENTRY VISAS WHERE CONDITIONS ARE UNCHANGED

This advice is in addition to Visa Pak 324 *Future Dated Visas* and Visa Pak 41 *Granting visas with start dates in the future*.

AMS allows for a temporary entry class visa to be approved with a start date in the future. This is reflected in immigration instructions at E3.10.c which states that the start date of a visa may be the date of its grant, **or** a future or past date.

Immigration New Zealand encourages applicants to apply for a new visa *at least* [two weeks](#) before their current visa expires. Where an applicant is applying for the same type of visa, in the same occupation with the same employer (i.e. no visa conditions have changed), issuing the visa with a start date on the date of its grant may cause applicants to lose out on their full entitled visa period.

Example

An applicant holds a current Essential Skills Work Visa (ES WV) as a Dairy Farm Assistant which expires 1 December 2017.

The applicant submits an application for a new ES WV on 1 November 2017, which is assessed and approved on 10 November 2017. The visa is issued with a start date that is the same as the date of its grant, and expiry date of 10 November 2018 – a maximum of one year under instruction WK4.1.a.iii.

In this situation, the applicant has lost three weeks validity on their existing visa by following the advice provided on the INZ website and applying early for a new visa.

It may be appropriate in this situation to issue a visa with the start date in the future – at the date of expiry of the original visa to allow the applicant to have the benefit of full validity of the currency of their existing visa. In the example above, the start date of the new visa should instead be 1 December 2017, and the expiry date 1 December 2018.

Assess on a case by case basis whether it is appropriate to issue a visa with a future start date. It will need to be taken into account how early the applicant has applied – it may not be appropriate in situations where the applicant has applied three months in advance.