

VISA PAK ISSUE 405 — 21 JUNE 2019

## **EMIRATES ESCORT PROCESS FOR OBTAINING VISAS**

Compliance Operations requires assistance from Emirates airlines on occasion to escort clients being deported from New Zealand to their home country.

Emirates employs their own security personnel to escort deportees from New Zealand to Middle Eastern and other destination countries, and;

- The escorts are not necessarily visa waiver applicants;
- The escorts normally arrive in New Zealand 1-2 days prior to the relevant deportation;
- Deportees are delivered to the craft by New Zealand Police and handed over to an escort at the aircraft door

There is some inconsistency in terms of the type of visa which Immigration New Zealand (INZ) should grant these escorts and they have variously been treated as visitors, workers and crew of craft previously.

“Crew” is defined in section 4 of the Immigration Act 2009 as “every person employed or engaged in working or providing a service in or on the craft”. The definition is broad enough to include persons employed or engaged by the airline to accompany a deported person from New Zealand to their destination country. The Emirates escorts are therefore “crew members” who enter New Zealand to join an aircraft that will then depart for another country and should be granted visitor visas under V3.70.

Emirates security escorts do not undertake employment in New Zealand, so do not require a work visa, nor do they arrive in New Zealand as aircraft crew, so should not be treated as deemed visa holders (see Schedule 3, Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010).

Finally, Emirates security escorts to whom a visa waiver applies may be granted visitor visas at an Immigration Control Area on arrival in New Zealand.

### **Process**



Any applications received from Emirates airlines that detail that the application is to come to New Zealand for the purpose of escorting a deportee out of the country should be sent to the Specialist Assessment Team (SAT) for processing. Because of the logistical arrangements required as well as strict legislative timeframes for managing the detention of the deportee, applications for Emirates security escorts must be prioritised and actively managed with the assistance of Compliance Operations.

SAT will process the applications as per standard procedures, including requesting any additional information forms and undertaking character checks where necessary.

Please contact Compliance Operations to confirm the dates that the escorts are working towards or for any additional information or assistance required.