

VISA PAK ISSUE 472 — 25 JUNE 2021

## OPERATIONAL CHANGES PRECEDING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCREDITED EMPLOYER WORK VISA FRAMEWORK ON 1 NOVEMBER 2021

The following changes will take effect in preparation for the new Accredited Employer Work Visa framework being implemented on 1 November 2021:

- Closure of the following three policies on 30 June 2021:
  - o Accreditation under Talent (Accredited Employer) instructions; and
  - o Labour Hire Accreditation under Essential Skills instructions; and
  - o Approval in Principle (AIP) under Essential Skills instructions.
- Removal of the requirement for labour hire companies to hold Labour Hire Accreditation, to support Essential Skills work visas for jobs in the construction industry, in the Canterbury region for the period 1 July to 31 October 2021.

Closing these policies ahead of 1 November will support the transition to the new policy by ensuring that employers do not apply and pay for accreditation or an AIP, when they will only be able to use it for a fraction of the normal duration. It will also reduce the period in which INZ is assessing, and employers are holding, employer statuses under both the old and new policies.

### What does this mean?

#### Treatment of on hand applications

Applications received before and up to 30 June will continue to be processed. Reconsiderations, requests for information and PPI letters can still be sent after 30 June as long as the application was submitted on or before this date.

#### Validity and duration of employer statuses

Any employer status that is granted (accreditation or AIP) will be granted with the normal duration as per current immigration instructions, and will remain valid until its expiry date. Any employer status that has already been granted will also remain valid until its expiry date. However, employers will be unable to use their status to support new work visa applications from 1 November 2021 onwards. Employers will need to apply to become accredited under the new policy if they want to recruit migrants on the new Accredited Employer Work Visa.

#### Post 30 June removal of the online mechanism for Accredited Employer applications

To stop applications from being submitted, the online mechanism for Talent Accredited Employer applications will not be available after 30 June. As a result all requests for further information or sending PPI letters will need to be carried out by other means, for example email.

Applications for Labour Hire Accreditation or AIP that are made after 30 June must not be accepted.



**Construction industry in the Canterbury region**

In the period between the existing Labour Hire Accreditation closing on 30 June and the new accreditation policy being implemented on 1 November, Labour Hire Accreditation will not be mandatory for labour hire employers supporting Essential Skills work visas for jobs in the construction industry in the Canterbury region. This is to ensure that labour hire employers in this region maintain access to migrant labour where there is a genuine need.

**Immigration Instructions**

Relevant immigration instructions have been updated to reflect the transition to the new Accredited Employer Work Visa policy, and will come into effect on 1 July 2021. Details can be found in Amendment Circular 2021-21.