

VISA PAK ISSUE 449 — 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

VISA EXTENSIONS MADE IN 2020 TO DATE

The Minister of Immigration has made a number of extensions to temporary visas this year in order to manage the effects or consequences of COVID-19. The table below contains a summary of all extensions to date, and who they apply to.

Some people will be impacted by more than one extension. It is important to understand all the extensions so that you can determine what the appropriate expiry date is for an individual.

Cohort	Details	Duration of extension
Epidemic Management Notice (EMN) Visapak 434	Everyone who is onshore on 2 April 2020 ; <i>and</i> held a valid work, student, visitor, limited or temporary visa; <i>and</i> with an expiry date between 2 April and 9 July.	Until 25 September 2020
Employer-Assisted Workers Visapak 441 Visapak 442	Everyone onshore on 10 July 2020 ; <i>and</i> held a valid employer-assisted work visa; <i>and</i> with an expiry date between 10 July and 31 December 2020 (inclusive).	6 months from date of expiry
Partners and Dependents of EAWVs Visapak 447	Everyone onshore on 17 August 2020 ; <i>and</i> held a valid partner or dependent visa; <i>and</i> linked to a principal applicant already extended (in the above extension); <i>and</i> before 31 December 2020 (inclusive)	In line with the principal applicant
RSE Limited Visapak 441	Everyone onshore on 18 August 2020 ; <i>and</i> held a valid RSE Limited visa; <i>and</i> with an expiry date between the 18 August and 31 December 2020.	6 months from date of expiry
Visitor Visas Visapak 448	Everyone onshore on 4 September 2020 ; <i>and</i> held a valid visitor visa (unless excluded as a partner/dependent, guardian, or critical purpose visitor visa holder); <i>and</i> with an expiry date between 4 September and 31 October 2020 (inclusive).	5 months from date of expiry
Fishing crew Visa Pak 449	Everyone holding a valid foreign crew of fishing vessel employer-assisted work visa; <i>and</i> with an expiry between 11 September and 31 December 2020. <i>*Please note, due to some crew being offshore, or in the EEZ at the time of the Special Direction there is no requirement for this cohort to have been onshore on 11 September 2020, the extension applies to all visa holders of this type with an expiry between 11 September and 31 December 2020.</i>	6 months
Religious worker (and partners and dependents) Visa Pak 449	Every one onshore on 11 September 2020 ; <i>and</i> held a valid religious worker employer assisted work visa; <i>or</i> a valid partner or dependent visa linked to a religious worker primary applicant; <i>and</i> with an expiry date between the 11 September and 31 December 2020.	For the PA: 6 months <i>or</i> For partners and dependents: in line with the PA's visa or a

		six months extension (whichever is less)
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Once implemented, the Expiry Date Stay has been or will be updated for each person whose visa is extended. This will be displayed on both the Visa Summary section and Visa Detail Section (both are under Visa Tab in AMS).

In some instances, it can take some time for the new visa durations to be reflected in AMS. It is important to note that anyone captured in the Special Direction cohorts is lawful from the date the Special Directions (dates in **bold** above) came into effect regardless of whether the new expiry date appears in AMS. If a person's visa has expired after the Special Direction came into effect, and they appear unlawful in AMS, or they have been granted an interim visa in AMS, their visa will be extended and immigration history amended to delete the unlawful record or interim visa once AMS is updated.

INZ will email the affected visa holders to confirm their visas have been extended. It is expected that some visa holders will not receive the communication, as in some cases the address supplied may no longer be current or valid, or might have been of a third party. Information will also be updated on the INZ website.

Process for those not extended

If staff become aware of eligible people whose visas have not been updated in AMS, they should follow the process below

Visa-waiver countries

Individuals with border-issued visitor visas (e.g. nationals of visa-waiver countries expiring between 4 September – 31 October 2020) were eligible for an extension under the Visitor Visa Special Direction but have not yet been updated in AMS. This issue is being worked on urgently by INZ and an extension of visa-waiver individuals will be implemented ASAP. INZ will notify internal and external stakeholders when this is completed.

Visa extensions mailbox

Check if they meet the eligibility requirements. If you think they should have been extended please forward their details to [\[Internal mailbox address\]](#) (internal only – do not distribute).

Multiple Extensions

If your branch has multiple applicants who should have been extended, please ask a Technical Advisor, Practice Lead or Immigration Manager to QA the list of applicants, then submit them to the [\[Internal mailbox address\]](#) mailbox using the extensions spreadsheet pro forma.

Copies of the extensions spreadsheet will be distributed to Immigration Managers.

Use of label-less replace

In some instances, if there is a need to have a visa extension reflected immediately in AMS, staff may consider raising a label-less replace visa. However, the normal sign out process must be followed.

Examples

Example One: Essential Skills work visa holder

On 2 April an individual was in New Zealand on an Essential Skills work visa with an expiry date of 1 June 2020.

Q: What is their current expiry date?

1. They would have received the EMN extension and had their Essential Skills work visa extended until 25 September 2020.
2. Then they would have received the employer-assisted work visa extension for 6 months from 25 September out to **25 March 2021**.

A: Their expiry date is now 25 March 2021.

Example Two: Partner/Dependent of a Worker

On 2 April an individual was in New Zealand on a partner work visa with an expiry date of 1 May 2020.

Q: What other information do you need to know to work out when their new expiry date is?

1. You need to know if their partner was on an employer-assisted work visa which was in scope to be extended.
e.g. Their partner (the principal applicant) was onshore on 10 July 2020, and their initial visa expiry was 1 August 2020.

Q: What is their expiry date?

1. They have received the EMN extension and had their visa extended until 25 September 2020.
2. The principal applicant's visa was in scope to be extended as an employer-assisted worker. So the principal applicant's visa was extended from the 1 August 2020 to the 1 February 2021.
3. Their visa will be extended from 25 September 2020 to **1 February 2021**.

A: Their expiry date is now 1 February 2021.

Example Three: Partner/Dependent of a Worker

On 2 April a partner and two dependents were in New Zealand on partner and dependents visas with an expiry date of 1 May 2020.

Q: What other information do you need to know to work out when their new expiry date is?

2. You need to know if the principal applicant was on an employer-assisted work visa which was in scope to be extended.
e.g. Their partner (the principal applicant) was on an employer-assisted work visa with an expiry date of 1 August 2020, and departed New Zealand on 1 June 2020.

Q: What is their expiry date?

4. The partner and dependents have received the EMN extension and had their visas extended until 25 September 2020.
5. The principal applicant's visa is not in scope to be extended as an employer-assisted worker. This is because they were offshore on the date that the Special Direction for employer-assisted workers came into effect.
6. Their partner and dependents visas will not be extended past 25 September 2020.

A: The partner and dependents visas now have an expiry date of 25 September 2020.

Example Four: Visitor Visa

On 2 April an individual was in New Zealand on a visitor visa (parent/grandparent) with an expiry date of 1 August 2020.

Q: What is their expiry date?

1. Are they eligible for any of the extensions?
2. No. Their initial expiry date (1 August 2020) was out of scope for the initial EMN extension. It is also out of scope for the visitor visa extension.

A: Their expiry date remains the 1 August 2020. They will need to have applied for a new visa before this date, or departed New Zealand.