

VISA PAK ISSUE 395 — 29 MARCH 2019

LETTER FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS WITH ‘OPEN WORK VISAS’

This purpose of this Visa Pak item is to advise that staff must issue the template letter V297b ‘Confirmation that Filipino work visa holder does not need an Overseas Employment Certificate for POEA’ to Filipinos who will be granted an ‘open’ work visa. This applies to all applications made offshore & onshore.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in the Philippines require a document called “Overseas Employment Certificate” (OEC) for all Filipinos holding work visas (OFWs) departing the Philippines. A condition of being given an OEC is to provide an employment contract from the foreign employer. However, as Immigration New Zealand issues ‘open’ work visas where employment contracts are not required (e.g. partners of workers/students, Silver Fern Job Search, Working Holiday Scheme, etc.), clients are unable to meet this requirement.

Discussions with POEA and the BI have led to an agreement that if an open work visa holder presents the above letter to airport authorities upon departure to New Zealand, an OEC is not required.

Please see the below template letter V297b.

This letter is also located in the *Anytime* section of the TLS.



Application number:

Client number:

Date

To Whom It May Concern

Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila

Client Details: DOB:

Address:

Please be informed that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has granted the above named applicant with passport number XXXXXXXXX an open work visa on as per the INZ immigration instructions.

In this case, the applicant does not need to provide an Overseas Employment Certificate from the Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration (POEA) because he/she is not employed by a New Zealand company.

Their open temporary work visa was granted on the basis of:

[Bold the selected option below. Delete this instruction]

- an established relationship with a New Zealand resident/citizen or
- an established relationship with the holder of a New Zealand temporary work visa or
- an established relationship with the holder of a New Zealand temporary student visa or
- as a result of an approved Work-to-Residence visa or
- as a result of an approved Post-study work visa (open).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact, INZ Auckland International Airport Border Security Group on +64 9 277 0634.

Yours sincerely

Immigration New Zealand

www.immigration.govt.nz