

VISA PAK ISSUE 447 — 31 AUGUST 2020

SPECIAL DIRECTION – VISA EXTENSION FOR PARTNERS AND DEPENDENTS OF EMPLOYER ASSISTED WORK VISA HOLDERS AND RSE WORKERS

Partners and Dependents of Employer-Assisted Workers

On 9 July 2020, the Minister of Immigration made a Special Direction to extend certain employer-specific work visas with an expiry date of between 10 July and 31 December 2020 (inclusive). These were extended by six months from the date of expiry. For more information on this extension, refer to Visa Pak 441.

On the 17 August 2020, the Minister of Immigration made a further Special Direction to extend the visas of any partners and dependants of the employer-assisted work visa holders whose visas were extended on the 9 July. Please note this only includes partners and dependants whose visas expire between the 17 August and 31 December 2020. Partners whose visas expired between the 9 July and 16 August will need to have applied for a further visa in order to remain lawful.

These secondary applicants will have their visas extended in line with the duration of the principal applicant's visa. As such, some of them will receive a six-month extension, some of them will receive shorter extensions. For example, if a principal applicant had an initial employer-assisted work visa that expired on the 30 September 2020, they would have been granted a six-month extension to the 30 March 2021. If their partner or dependent had an initial visa that was expiring on the 30 December 2020, this visa would also be extended to the 30 March 2021, in line with the principal applicant.

RSE Workers

The Minister also extended onshore RSE limited visas for a period of six months from the date of their expiry, where those visas would have expired between 18 August and the end of 2020. For example, if an RSE worker had a visa with an expiry date of 1 October 2020 it will now be extended to 1 April 2021.

Implementation

Please note that these extensions will not be visible in AMS or the Visa Verification Service for a number of days due to ICT implementation requirements. Anyone captured in the Special Direction cohorts is lawful from the date the Special Directions came into effect (17 and 18 August 2020) regardless of what appears in AMS. If their visa expires and they appear unlawful on AMS, their visa will be extended and immigration history amended to delete the unlawful record once AMS is updated.

Once implemented, the Expiry Date Stay will be updated and will be displayed on both the Visa Summary section and Visa Detail Section (both are under Visa Tab in AMS).



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INZ will email the affected visa holders shortly 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.

If you receive an enquiry from an eligible visa holder whose visa has not been extended on AMS, please advise them that the implementation of the extensions has begun, and ask them to check the website for details of when it will be visible on Visa View.