

VISA PAK ISSUE 499 — 7 MARCH 2022

PASSPORT SCAN FOR ONSHORE 2021 RESIDENT VISA APPLICANTS

The current standard operating procedure requires Immigration Officers to ask applicants of 2021 Resident Visa (21RV) to send their passports to the National Documentation Office for scanning when an application is Approved in Principle (AIP) if the applicant has applied with a passport that has not previously been scanned by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) or a Visa Application Centre (VAC). This is in addition to the copy of the passport already provided when the application was lodged.

This practice will no longer be required. This will streamline the process further by minimising unnecessary handling of passports while still allowing INZ to grant visas.

All applicants will still be required to upload a copy of their valid passport when applying for 21RV. Offshore secondary applicants, unless they are from a visa waiver country or China, will still be required to send their passports to a VAC for authenticating the document at the beginning of an application process. Everyone's passports will further be authenticated at the point of entry to New Zealand.

If identity concerns of an applicant arise, a passport can still be requested as a part of verification steps. This process will not apply to those applicants who have indicated they would like a physical visa label granted into their passport.

21RV at the AIP stage can now be granted against the valid passport details submitted with the application.