

VISA PAK ISSUE 450 — 09 OCTOBER 2020

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS FOR OFFSHORE RESIDENT VISAS

On 11 September 2020, the Minister of Immigration signed two special directions which:

- varied the travel conditions for a class of offshore resident visa holders by extending them until 11 September 2021
- granted new resident visas for a class of former resident visa holders who are offshore with expired travel conditions.

The travel condition can either be the *'first entry before'* date or *'expiry date travel'* on the resident visa. Those people covered by the special directions will have until 11 September 2021 to travel to New Zealand if exempt from the border restrictions.

People affected by the special directions

Those affected by the special directions include the following people who are offshore as of 11 September 2020:

- Variation of travel conditions: resident visa holders with valid travel conditions expiring within one year of 11 September 2020 will have their travel conditions ('first entry before' or 'expiry date travel') extended until 11 September 2021. Example: a resident visa expiring on 15 November 2020 will be extended to 11 September 2021.
- Grant of new resident visas: former resident visa holders whose travel conditions expired between 2 February 2020 and 10 September 2020 (inclusive) will be granted a new resident visa with travel conditions valid until 11 September 2021. Example: someone with a resident visa which expired on 15 June 2020 will be granted a new resident visa expiring on 11 September 2021.

Implementation

The extensions and new resident visas will not be visible in AMS until ICT implementation is complete. Once implemented, any extended travel conditions will be reflected on the *'Visa Summary'* and the *'Visa Details'* sections in AMS while any new resident visas will appear on the AMS *'Applications'* and *'Visa Summary'* sections.

INZ will email affected visa holders in November to confirm their new travel conditions. It is expected that some resident visa holders will not receive the communication, as in some cases the address supplied with their earlier residence application may no longer be current or valid, or might have belonged to a third party.

If you receive an enquiry from an eligible visa holder whose visa has not been extended on AMS or has not been granted a new resident visa, please advise them that if they are within the class of people covered by the special directions they will be contacted by INZ once the change has been implemented.

Please refer to the Question and Answer section below for more details.

Question and Answer – Offshore Resident Visas

1. Who will be affected by the changes to offshore resident visas announced by the Minister?

The following people who were offshore on 11 September 2020:

- a. resident visa holders with valid travel conditions expiring between 11 September 2020 and 10 September 2021 (inclusive)
- b. former resident visa holders whose travel conditions had expired between 2 February and 10 September 2020 (inclusive)

2. What will happen to offshore resident visa holders whose travel conditions expire before 11 September 2021?

Offshore resident visa holders with a current resident visa will have their travel conditions extended until 11 September 2021.

3. What will happen to offshore resident visa holders whose travel conditions have expired since border restrictions were put in place on 2 February 2020?

They will be granted a new resident visa with new travel conditions which will expire on 11 September 2021.

4. Are visa holders required to submit applications to receive the extended travel condition or new resident visa?

No. INZ will contact those affected via email to the most recent email address held by INZ.

5. How will visa holders know if the travel condition on their resident visas have been extended or they have been issued a new resident visa?

INZ will contact those affected via email in November. The email will be sent to the most recent email address held by INZ.

6. The 'first entry before' date of a person's resident visa had expired on 30 July 2020, is this person eligible for a new resident visa?

Yes if this person was offshore on 11 September 2020.

7. If the 'expiry date travel' of a person's resident visa is 15 October 2020, will this be extended if this person does not travel to New Zealand before 15 October 2020?

Yes the 'expiry date travel' will be extended to 11 September 2021.