

VISA PAK ISSUE 511 — 17 JUNE 2022

REQUESTING A FURTHER CHEST X-RAY CERTIFICATE WHEN ASSESSING A VISA APPLICATION

Medical and chest x-ray certificates are generally provided by applicants at the time they apply for a visa; or shortly thereafter (if they apply online as per A4.20(h) and A4.25(h) and a certificate is necessary to determine that the applicant is of an acceptable standard of health).

As specified in residence immigration instructions at A4.20(e)(iv) and temporary entry immigration instructions at A4.25(g) and A4.25.1(f), an immigration officer may request a medical and/or chest x-ray certificate where one would not ordinarily be required under those instructions, if they consider it necessary in order to establish whether the applicant has an acceptable standard of health.

Reasons for requesting a new chest x-ray certificate could include, for example:

- An applicant self-declared a change in their health (applicants are obligated to inform Immigration New Zealand (INZ) of any changes in their circumstances during the processing of their visa application); or
- On a previous application, an INZ medical assessor has recommended that an updated chest x-ray be requested due to the applicant having had a past history of tuberculosis (TB), or there being evidence of TB in their most recent chest x-ray; or
- An immigration officer has reason to suspect a TB risk is present, e.g. a family member has TB, or INZ has received information from a third party indicating that the applicant may have TB.

Elapsed Time

In some situations, the time taken to assess and finalise an application may mean that an applicant has spent more than six consecutive months in a country not on the INZ list of low incidence TB countries (A4.25.10) since they underwent a chest x-ray. This is not in itself a reason to routinely request a new chest x-ray certificate. A new chest x-ray certificate should only be requested if the applicant's specific circumstances justify such a request.

To Note

For the avoidance of doubt, if an applicant, who has spent six consecutive months in a place not on the list of low incidence TB countries, applies for a temporary visa while their residence class visa application is still under consideration, a new chest x-ray certificate must be provided with the temporary visa application if A4.25.1 applies to the application, and may be requested if A4.25(g) applies to the application.