

VISA PAK ISSUE 511 — 17 JUNE 2022

UPDATE TO LOW TB INCIDENCE COUNTRIES

The list of low incidence tuberculosis (TB) countries contained in A4.25.10 of the Operational Manual was updated on 7 June 2022. 85 countries, areas or territories were added to the list and Libya and Dominica were removed.

The impact of this update is likely to be most significant amongst RSE work visa applicants from Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu who have now been added to the list, and most fee-paying student visa applicants from countries added to the list, as they will no longer require chest x-ray examinations.

The list of low incidence TB countries will next be reviewed in 2024.

Application Updates

The updates apply to applications submitted on and after 7 June 2022. Any application received prior to this date will not be impacted by this update and will need to meet the chest x-ray requirements in place at the time the application was lodged. On a case-by-case basis and where there are compelling reasons to do so, staff may continue to use their discretion to waive the chest x-ray requirements.

There may be instances where applicants who are impacted by this change obtain a chest x-ray prior to this information being published and submit an application after 7 June 2022. While this is unfortunate requests for a refund of chest x-ray costs in this situation should be refused.

Applicants from countries added to the list that have previously submitted a chest x-ray and been determined to be ASH with conditions are not impacted by this change. They are still required to provide the information specified in their previous health assessment with any future application.