

VISA PAK ISSUE — 18 JULY 2024

CALCULATING 12- AND 24-MONTH PERIODS IN PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA PROCESSING

This Visa Pak provides guidance on the interpretation of the requirements involving 12-and 24-month time periods when assessing Permanent Resident Visa (PRV) applications, to ensure consistency between manual and system assessments.

Immigration instructions in section [RV2](#) set out the requirements for resident visa holders applying for a PRV. These requirements include references to 12-and 24-month time periods. The enhanced Immigration Online system, however, calculates time periods in days, not calendar months.

Conversion of periods of months into days

- 12-month time period should be interpreted to equate to 365 days.
- 24-month time period should be interpreted to equate to 730 days.

Calculations involving leap years

While most 12-and 24-month periods contain 365 and 730 days respectively, when a leap year is involved, they could contain 366 or 731 days.

We have considered the intent of the instructions and we do not believe there is an intent for the requirements to be different for those applicants who have held their resident visa over a leap year, compared to those who have not.

Below are two examples of PRV calculations.

Calculating if an applicant held their resident visa for at least 24 months before it expired - instruction RV2.5(a)(ii)

1 January 2021	Resident visa granted
1 January 2023	Travel conditions expired

1 March 2024	Applicant departs New Zealand without valid travel conditions
2 March 2024	Resident visa expired (refer to Visa Pak 194 - Limbo Day - Expiry of a Visa)
1 June 2024	Permanent Resident Visa application submitted

To calculate whether the applicant held their resident visa for at least 24 months before it expired, count 730 days back from the day the visa expired, *excluding* the day the visa expired from the count.

- 730 days before 2 March 2024 (excluding this date) = 3 March 2022.

Calculating the two 12-month periods of the 24 months immediately preceding the date the PRV application was made - instruction RV2.5.1

1 November 2021	Resident visa granted
19 May 2024	Permanent Resident Visa application submitted

To calculate the two 12-month periods before the applicant submitted their PRV application, first count 365 days back from the PRV application submission date, *excluding* the date the application was submitted.

- 365 days before 19 May 2024 (excluding this date) = 20 May 2023

Then count back a further 365 days from the first date you have calculated (20 May 2023) *excluding* this date.

- 365 days before 20 May 2023 (excluding this date) = 20 May 2022

The two 12-month periods of the 24 months immediately preceding the PRV application date are therefore:

- 20 May 2023 – 18 May 2024; and
- 20 May 2022 – 19 May 2023.