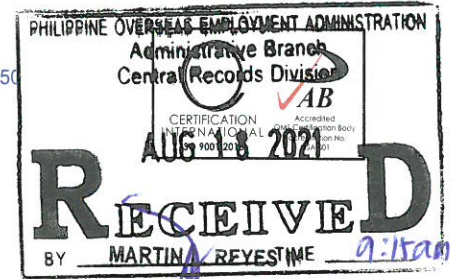




Philippine
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ADVISORY NO. 110
Series of 2021

CHANGES ON NEW ZEALAND ESSENTIAL SKILLS WORK VISA

On 19 July 2021, the New Zealand Government implemented the changes to the Essential Skills visas to provide more certainty to New Zealand employers and visa holders while New Zealand border restrictions are in place. These changes include:

- Increasing the maximum duration of an Essential Skills visa for jobs paid below the median wage from 12 to 24 months; and
- Removing the requirement to provide medical and police certificates if these have previously been provided to Immigration New Zealand with a visa application, even if they were provided more than 36 months ago (from 5 August 2021, this also applies to a partner and/or dependent child applying on the basis of their relationship to an Essential Skills applicant or visa holder)

In addition, if the applicant is remaining in their current full-time employment and not changing their role, employer or region of work then:

- the employer will no longer need to meet a labour market test (including a Skills Match Report) and
- applicants and employers will be able to make declarations in place of providing evidence that the requirements are met

The duration of Essential Skills visas for roles paid the median wage or above will remain up to three years. The fee for the two-year Essential Skills visas will remain unchanged (NZD\$440 plus the immigration levy of \$55).

Full details on this can be accessed thru this link:
<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/in-new-zealand/visa-information/essential-skills-work-visa-changes>.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

13 August 2021

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs - Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs
Immigration New Zealand (INZ)

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) New Zealand

