

NEWS RELEASE

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New Zealand implements new policy on temporary work visa

The government of New Zealand has implemented changes on the way employers recruit migrants for temporary work in New Zealand, starting July 2020 up to next year.

From 2021, employers wishing to employ migrant workers, including Filipino workers, on the temporary work visa will use a 3-step employer-led visa application process, the employer-check, the job-check and the worker-check.

An employer-check is mandatory for all employers, including those with an existing accreditation, to be accredited under New Zealand regulations and under the new application process before they can hire migrants on the new work visa.

A job check will include checking that the job is paid in line with the New Zealand market rate and, in some cases, will include a labor market test to ensure New Zealand workers are not available, while a worker-check is to ensure that the worker meet the New Zealand standard character, identity, health requirements, as well as showing they have the skills to do the job they have been offered.

The new temporary work visa will also replace the existing visas in New Zealand including the Essential Skills Work Visa, Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa, Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa, Silver Fern Job Search Visa, and Silver Fern Practical Experience Visa.

Also, the new policy now classifies jobs as low- or high-paid and the current median wage of NZD \$25.50 an hour will be used as threshold. The calculation of remuneration will continue to be in the same way based on an hourly rate.

Employers are also required to include the salary when advertising the job, provide information about low-paid jobs to MSD, and accept potential workers referred by MSD for a low-paid job, with some exceptions.

Meanwhile, the government of New Zealand is also negotiating agreements with industry sectors that employ large numbers of migrant workers, starting with the residential care (including aged care) and meat worker sectors.

Also, *from* mid-2020, low-paid migrant workers, will be able to support family visa and bring their families to New Zealand.

For further information, please visit the official portal of Immigration New Zealand at www.immigration.govt.nz.###