

Background

Immigration New Zealand was invited to speak at an EMA webinar in July 2021 about the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV). Below is a summary of the top questions asked during the question and answer segment of the webinar.

This information is current as at 28 July 2021. For the latest information, always visit immigration.govt.nz.

Information about the AEWV

The AEWV will be introduced in mid-2022. The AEWV application process will be employer led. Before hiring a migrant on the AEWV employers will need to:

- apply for accreditation under the new system
- apply for a job check to make sure the role they want to fill cannot be done by New Zealanders, and
- request a migrant worker to apply for a visa.

Information about the AEWV is available at [New accreditation and single work visa | Immigration New Zealand](#).

Top 26 questions – EMA webinar

	Questions	Answers from Immigration New Zealand
1	How can we bring in overseas workers in the current circumstances?	<p>Entry to New Zealand from all countries remains strictly controlled to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. There are some circumstances where employers and supporting agencies can request to bring 'other critical workers' into New Zealand. More information is available on our website.</p> <p>Bringing workers to New Zealand Immigration New Zealand</p>
2	When will the AEWV be introduced?	<p>The AEWV will be introduced mid-2022. The Immigration New Zealand website will be updated when an exact date is confirmed. Employers can also subscribe to receive email updates.</p> <p>Subscribe to updates & newsletters Immigration New Zealand</p>

3	What are the exact criteria of the accreditation for the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)?	<p>Details about AEWV employer accreditation can be found on the Immigration New Zealand website. The website will be updated as more information becomes available.</p> <p>See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to employer accreditation Immigration New Zealand • Standard and high-volume accreditation fact sheet Immigration NZ
4	What happens to employers who are currently accredited under the Talent Work to Residence category?	<p>Employers accredited under the Talent Work to Residence category will need to apply to be accredited under the new accreditation system when it is introduced, if they want to hire migrants on an AEWV.</p> <p>See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to employer accreditation Immigration New Zealand • Standard and high-volume accreditation fact sheet Immigration NZ
5	What happens if you expect to hire 5 or fewer migrants on AEWVs and get standard accreditation but then you need to hire additional migrants on AEWVs which pushes you into the high-volume accreditation category?	<p>Employers holding standard accreditation who want to hire 6 or more workers on AEWVs need to submit a new application for high-volume accreditation, and they will need to pay a new fee. High-volume accreditation has additional requirements that must be met.</p> <p>See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to employer accreditation Immigration New Zealand • Standard and high-volume accreditation fact sheet Immigration NZ
6	What is the cost to become accredited?	<p>Fees will be available on the website once they are confirmed.</p> <p>New accreditation and single work visa Immigration New Zealand</p>
7	How long will the Accredited Employer Work Visa be valid for?	<p>For jobs paying above the median wage an AEWV will be valid for up to three years.</p> <p>For jobs paying below the median wage, in cities and regions with a higher supply of labour, an AEWV will be valid for up to 12 months.</p> <p>For jobs paying below the median wage, in regions with a lower supply of labour (currently Waikato, Canterbury, Otago and Southland), an AEWV will be valid for up to three years.</p>

8	How long will the job check and the migrant check take?	Processing times for job checks are still being worked through. Overall, migrant checks are expected to be quicker than current timeframes because the employer and job checks will have already been done.
9	At the job check stage for the AEWV, it was mentioned the market rate must be paid. How is the market rate determined?	Immigration New Zealand takes into account information from a range of sources to determine the market rate, for example Careers New Zealand, and recent advertisements for jobs for that occupation.
10	Will commissions, health insurance and other additional benefits be recognised as part of the salary?	Only guaranteed income that is not dependant on performance is recognised as part of the salary. Some benefits may be included, such as the value of accommodation, if it is included in the employment agreement and if the value is reasonable.
11	The new employer accreditation requires employers to complete online modules - who needs to do this? Recruitment/HR staff or all managers involved in hiring?	Everyone who makes recruitment decisions must complete the online employment modules from Employment New Zealand. Employers should keep records to show they have met the requirements. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Learning Modules Employment New Zealand • Standard and high-volume accreditation fact sheet Immigration NZ
12	Are there any details about the sector agreements between some sectors and INZ available?	No, introduction of sector agreements has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New accreditation and single work visa Immigration New Zealand
13	Have any considerations been given to regional differences in available NZ citizens and residents (e.g. chronic shortage in rural South Island vs supply in major cities)?	Yes, the difference in labour supply between the regions has been considered. A regionalised labour market test will be applied under the AEWV.
14	Will employers still have to engage the Ministry of Social Development and obtain a Skills Match Report under the AEWV?	Yes. For jobs paying below the median wage, the AEWV labour market test requires checking with the Ministry of Social Development. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited Employer Work Visa Immigration New Zealand • Hiring migrant workers Ministry of Social Development
15	How does an employer satisfy the job check requirement if the visa holder is already in the role	If they are a temporary work visa holder, they are here to fill the temporary gap where no New Zealand citizens or residents are available. Employers need to test the labour market and demonstrate that there

	meaning there is no vacancy to advertise to do the job check?	are no New Zealand citizens or residents available to get the job check approved. New accreditation and single work visa Immigration New Zealand
16	Would the AEWV also offer a pathway to residence – such as the Work to Residence policy?	Cabinet agreed that there would be a pathway to residence for AEWV holders who are paid at least 200% of the median wage. The requirements for this, including when this will be introduced, will be made available on the INZ website once details are confirmed. New accreditation and single work visa Immigration New Zealand
17	Is INZ still processing resident visa applications?	For people currently in New Zealand, INZ is continuing to process resident visa applications. Visa processing for overseas applicants is currently on hold. Skilled Migrant Category and Residence from Work processing times Immigration New Zealand
18	There are people who have submitted resident visa application under Work to Residence category but need to apply for another work visa because resident visa application is taking so long. What visa can they apply for?	They would need to apply for the same type of work visa under Work to Resident category to keep their pathway for a resident visa. The Work to Residence visa categories will remain open for people that are awaiting a decision on their Residence from Work application.
19	Will people who are currently on a work visa under Work to Residence category still be eligible for a resident visa after 31 October 2021?	Yes, the residence from work pathway will remain open for people that already hold a Work to Residence visa (e.g. Talent, LTSSL), even if they apply for residence after 31 October 2021.
20	Can people on a work visa under Work to Residence Talent (Accredited Employer) category change their employer to another accredited employer?	Should a person change from one accredited employer to another accredited employer they will need to apply for a variation of conditions. We are still working through what the variation of conditions criteria will be after 31 October 2021 for people that hold visas under the existing policies.
21	If an employee who worked for an accredited employer (under the Talent category) switches to a non-accredited employer, would that employee still be eligible to apply for a resident visa?	Only if they applicant had the conditions of their visa varied to work for the non-accredited employer. If they didn't, they would not be eligible for a resident visa. If the employee stays with the same employer, but the employer lets their accreditation lapse and is no longer accredited, then the employee does not need

		to vary the conditions of their visa and will still be eligible for residence.
22	Can a non-accredited employer still hire 'Other Critical Workers' on a critical purpose visitor visa?	Yes, non-accredited employers can hire migrant workers on a critical purpose visitor visa. Hiring a migrant during COVID-19 Immigration New Zealand
23	What projects are the Government approved projects?	Events, projects and programmes approved for other critical workers can be found on our website. Events, projects and programmes approved for other critical workers Immigration New Zealand
24	How can we get an occupation on the shortage list?	We are reviewing the approach to skills shortage lists and are not updating them at this time. This includes revising and restricting regional skill shortage lists to city skill shortage lists, which will be used in the AEWV system to allow jobs paid at least the median wage in cities to bypass the advertising requirements. We will update our website when the reviews are complete.
25	What is the current timeframe for work visa applications?	How long it takes to process a visa application can be found on our website. Skilled Migrant Category and Residence from Work processing times Immigration New Zealand
26	Will we get notified of an update on the AEWV?	The Immigration New Zealand website will be updated when more information becomes available. Employers can also subscribe to receive email updates. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New accreditation and single work visa Immigration New Zealand • Subscribe to updates & newsletters Immigration New Zealand