

AEWV changes (from 7 April 2024) [Most from 7 April except franchisee changes]

- A minimum English language requirement is being introduced for ANZSCO skill level 4 and 5 roles.
- A minimum skills and work experience threshold is being introduced for most AEWV roles.
- The duration of the AEWV and Maximum Continuous Stay is being reduced for most level 4 and 5 roles.
- Employers will have to engage with Work and Income for ANZSCO skill level 4 and 5 roles.
- The franchisee accreditation category is being disestablished.
- Franchisee employers will instead be able to hold either standard, high-volume, or triangular employment accreditation, depending on their circumstances. (
- Employers will be required to notify Immigration New Zealand (INZ) when a migrant leaves their employment before their visa expires.
- AEWVs will have a condition that the visa holder must be employed full-time.
- INZ will be able to suspend accreditation of employers who breach any accreditation standard, not just some of them.
- The duration required to advertise ANZSCO level 4 and 5 vacancies is increasing to 21 calendar days.
- A definition of suitable New Zealand applicants is being introduced, and employers will need to declare reasons for not hiring New Zealand applicants for ANZSCO level 4 and 5 roles.
- More info can be found here: www.immigration.govt.nz/aewv-changes

Work to Residence pathway changes (from 7 April 2024)

- This change will only affect bus and truck drivers who apply for an AEWV from now onwards – people who already hold AEWVs or those who have application pending (and are subsequently approved) will still retain their residence pathway.
- The median wage exemption for eligible bus driving roles under the Transport Sector Agreement (set at \$28/hour) will be retained.
- The change does not affect the Transport Sector Agreement residence pathway for deck hands and ship's masters, as there appear to still be shortages in these roles.

Green List addition changes (from 8 April 2024)

- In light of the changed economic and labour context, the Government is no longer adding 11 roles to the Green List:
 - Paving Plant Operator
 - Metal Fabricator
 - Pressure Welder
 - Welder
 - Fitter (General)
 - Fitter and Turner
 - Fitter-Welder
 - Metal Machinist (First Class)
 - Panel Beater
 - Vehicle Painter
 - Road Roller Operator
- These include construction roles, where demand is softening, and occupations where a large number of migrants are arriving through existing pathways, showing the settings are sufficiently attractive without being on the Green List.

- Six roles, corresponding to nine ANZSCO occupations, will still be added to continue to attract and retain the talent and skills New Zealand needs.
 - Straight to Residence
 - Aviation Engineer (Avionics, Aeronautical, Aerospace Engineer)
 - Naval Architect (aka Marine Designer)
 - ICT Database and Systems Administrator
 - Mechanical Engineering Technician
 - Aircraft Maintenance Engineer.
 - Work to Residence
 - Corrections Officer.

Granting work rights to dependent children on family residence visa applications (Mid 2024)

Migrant high school leavers who are awaiting the outcome of a family residence application will be granted work rights later this year.

Roles not being added to Construction and Infrastructure Sector Agreement

- In August 2023 the former Cabinet agreed to add seven roles to the Construction and Infrastructure Sector Agreement, following the closure of the Recovery Visa.
- However, demand for these lower-skilled roles has softened and employers have been able to hire migrants for these roles at the AEWV required wage rate.
- The roles no longer being added are:
 - Driller's Assistant
 - Earthmoving Labourer
 - Earthmoving Plant Operator general
 - Linemarker
 - Machine Operators not elsewhere classified
 - Mechanic's Assistant
 - Road Traffic Controller