SOP – Accreditation Gateway: Manual assessment for Employer accreditation applications

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: In-Confidence

When to use

When assessing an employer accreditation application that has been submitted on or after **7 April 2024**

Role

Immigration Officer (IO)

Guidelines and context

Changes to the Accredited employer instructions have introduced new requirements to tighten settings for lower-skilled workers.

The functionality in ADEPT will not be immediately available to implement these changes and as a result, these changes will be implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: Manual assessment required from 7 April 2024 (this process)

Phase 2: ADEPT functionality built into the process

In the interim, a combination of manual assessments and existing processes will need to be implemented to ensure that we meet the objectives of these changes.

Related Resources

Oa. Landing page - AEWV March changes.docx

2a. Job check Gateway.docx

3a.AE Work visa Gateway.docx

Assessment Template

The Employer Accreditation gateway will not have a manual VAT. It is expected however, that any relevant notes will be recorded and/or concerns will be raised as required.

Prerequisites

An employer has submitted an application for accreditation on or after 7 April 2024

Changes to the Employer accreditation application process

- The employer will be required to complete declarations on the 'Additional requirements' page whilst submitting their application.
- You can view these declarations in the application form from the 'Documents' tab.

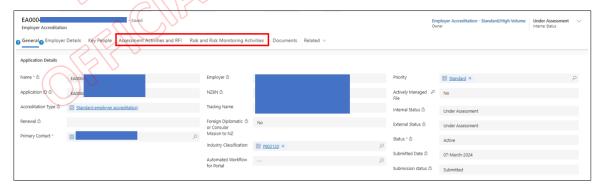
A summary of the declarations are listed below:

- An employer must declare that they will notify INZ when an AEWV holder's employment ends
 - A change has been made that requires Accredited employers to notify INZ within 10 working days when AEWV holder with a month or more left on their visa ceases employment. As per the note under WA2.35(a) this assessment is only applicable to employers when applying for first time accreditation, renewing, or upgrading their accreditation from 7 April 2024 onwards
 - If an employer who was subject to this requirement has failed to notify INZ within 10 working days, without reasonable justification, their Employer accreditation application may be declined as per WA2.35(d).
- An employer must declare that they will take reasonable steps to ensure workers are suitably qualified and meet the minimum skills threshold
 - The employer must agree to take reasonable steps to ensure that a person they intend on supporting for an AEWV meets the minimum skills threshold and is suitably qualified by work experience and/or qualification to do the job offered.
 - This requirement is applicable to employers when applying for first time accreditation, renewing, or upgrading their accreditation from 7 April 2024 onwards.
 - o If an employer who was subject to this requirement has failed to take reasonable steps, their employer accreditation may be declined as per WA2.30(a)(v).

Note: The employer must select 'Yes' to the declarations above for the Employer accreditation application to be submitted from 7 April 2024 onwards.

Steps

1. Open the Employer accreditation application

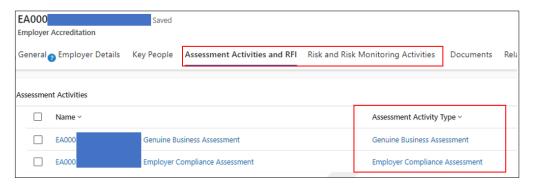


2. Undertake an assessment of the application

As mentioned above, the new changes will not be built into the system right away and as a result, this interim process will include an ADEPT assessment with the addition of a manual assessment.

• The system will highlight the assessments that you are required to undertake as per the requirements before these changes came into effect.

 Click on the 'Assessment activities and RFI tab' and the 'Risk and risk monitoring activities' tab to determine what activities and/or further action you are required to undertake



- Follow SOPs under: <u>Assess Employer Accreditation</u> for each of the activities that have generated within the application you are assessing
- 3. Complete the manual component of the assessment required by the new instructions
 - Review available information regarding the employer

3a. Consider the information available against WA2.35(a)

A change has been made that requires Accredited employers to notify INZ within 10 working days when an AEWV holder ceases employment. As per WA2.35 this assessment is only applicable to employers when **renewing or upgrading** their accreditation from **7 April 2024** onwards, and will also apply to employers applying for first-time accreditation from this date.

If an employer does not notify INZ within 10 working days, without reasonable justification, their Employer accreditation application may be declined as per WA2.35(d).

Included in the application form is a declaration made by the employer that they will notify INZ when an AEWV holder's employment ends (outside of one month of their visa expiry date) however, there may be information on file (e.g. warnings) to be considered against WA2.35(a).

If O	Then
There is an active warning present that indicates the employer failed to notify INZ within 10 working days that an AEWV holder's employment ceased; and Their last accreditation application was submitted on or after 7 April 2024 and That AEWV holder's visa was not within one month of the expiry date	 Open the Employer compliance activity Follow SOP - Manually add a custom assessment concern in ADEPT Ensure that the relevant blurbs are added Add a general note to explain the concerns identified Go to Step 3b
There is no information on file that indicates the employer failed to notify INZ within 10 working days that an AEWV holder's employment ceased; or Any other scenario applies	Go to Step 3b

3b. Consider the information available against WA2.30(a)(v)

A change has been made to the Employer accreditation gateway where employers must agree to take reasonable steps to ensure that a person, they intend on supporting for an AEWV meets the minimum skills threshold and is suitably qualified by work experience and/or qualification to do the job offered.

This check will be implemented through a declaration in the form and a manual check to ensure that there are no concerns present based on the available information.

If an employer who was subject to this requirement has failed to take reasonable steps, their employer accreditation may be declined as per WA2.30(a)(v).

If	Then
There is an active warning present that indicates the employer has not taken reasonable steps to ensure that a person, they intend on supporting for an AEWV meets the minimum skills threshold and is suitably qualified by work experience and/or qualification to do the job offered; and This is their first employer accreditation application submitted on or after 7 April 2024; or Their last accreditation application (renewal/upgrade/new application) was submitted on or after 7 April 2024	Open an activity and follow SOP - Manually add a custom assessment concern in ADEPT Ensure that the relevant blurbs are added Add a general note to explain the concerns identified Go to Step 4
There is no active warning to indicate that the employer has not taken reasonable steps to ensure that a person, they intend on supporting for an AEWV meets the minimum skills threshold and is suitably qualified by work experience and/or qualification to do the job offered; or Any other scenario applies	Go to Step 4

4. Determine if RFI/PPI is required

If	Then
Any concern has been identified	 Check that the relevant assessment concerns are present within the appropriate activity along with the applicable blurbs Ensure that the activity outcome is 'Require further info' An RFI/PPI activity will be generated. Check the details of the letter before sending it to the employer
	Go to Step 5

No concerns have been identified and	Go to Step 5
no assessment concerns are present	

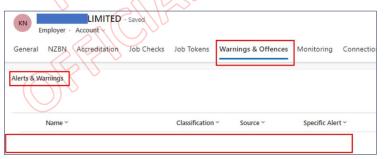
5. Check for warnings

If a warning is present that is linked to the employer, this would normally appear in the Risk activity/assessment to be addressed during the assessment. Whilst this is still in place, an additional check has been added in response to the changes regarding the list of non-compliant employers to ensure that we are identifying these employers before decisions are made.

• Open the 'Warnings & Alerts tab' by clicking on the 'Employer Details' tab and the link next to the 'Employer' field to ensure that all warnings are addressed/mitigated

Note: This check occurs at the time of assessment and again before an approval decision is made





If	Then
A warning is present that has not been addressed	See SOP Managing information warnings
for this application	to determine if referral to Risk &
	Verification is required.
(i.e., Not identified in the risk assessment, or a new	
warning added since the application was	Undertake further action to mitigate the
submitted)	warning before proceeding to Step 6
No warnings are present; or	Go to Step 6

All warnings have been addressed and mitigated	
for this application	

6. Finalise the application

- Check if the employer has provided a response to the RFI/PPI letter
- Make a determination on the application based on the information available

End of process



SOP – Accredited employer Work visa Gateway: Manual assessment for AEWV applications

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: In-Confidence

When to use

When assessing an applicant's Accredited employer Work visa application on or after 7 April 2024

Role

• Immigration Officer (IO)

Guidelines

Changes to the Accredited employer instructions have introduced new requirements to tighten settings for lower-skilled workers.

The functionality in ADEPT will not be immediately available to implement these changes and as a result, these changes will be implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: Manual assessment required from 7 April 2024 (this process)

Phase 2: ADEPT functionality built into the process

In the interim, a combination of manual assessments and existing processes will need to be implemented to ensure that we meet the objectives of these changes.

Related Resources

Oa. Landing page - AEWV March changes.docx

1a. Accreditation Gateway.docx

2a. Job check Gateway.docx

Ariā - Classifications (stats.govt.nz)

Assessment Template

AEWV (WA4) Assessment Template [WVxxxxxxxxx]

Prerequisites

AEWV applications submitted on or after 7 April 2024

Note: AEWV applications that are submitted on or after 7 April 2024 based on Job check applications approved before 7 April 2024 are acceptable however, the AEWV application will be assessed against the new instructions.

Changes to the Accredited Employer work visa application process

- The applicant/worker will now be required to complete an 'Additional form' whilst submitting their application that includes important declarations that align with the new instruction changes.
- You can view the 'Additional form AEWV' via the 'Documents' tab of the application

The declarations are listed below:

- If the offered role is on the 'Green List' and if it is, does the applicant meet the requirements of the list
- ANZSCO details
- If the meet the English requirements
- If they meet the minimum skills threshold

Steps

1. Open the Accredited employer work visa application in ADEPT



2. Complete the manual components of the assessment required by the new instructions

The updated instructions require a manual assessment to be undertaken in addition to the assessment activities identified in ADEPT until the functionality is built into the system. This manual process is to be used in the interim to ensure that the assessment aligns with the new instructions.

- Open the <u>AEWV (WA4) Assessment Template [WVxxxxxxxxx]</u> to begin the manual assessment
- 2a. Determine the skill level for role by checking the *Approved ANZSCO code* from within the job check application. Click the job check link and scroll down to the *Additional decision details* section top open the ANZSCO record in ADEPT



Note: If the AEWV application has been submitted on or after 7 April 2024 the ANZSCO determination as per the job check (assessed under previous instructions) can be used for the application on hand without any additional ANZSCO assessment.

- Take note of the ANZSCO skill level in the VAT
- Follow <u>SOP Determine if the applicant meets the minimum skills threshold</u>

If	Then
The applicant has provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the minimum skills threshold is met	Ensure that the relevant section in the VAT is completed and go to step 2b
The applicant has not provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the minimum skills threshold is met; or	Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT and go to step 2b
The applicant does not appear to meet the minimum skills threshold or the suitably qualified requirements	

2b. Determine if the applicant needs to meet the English language requirements WA4.12

If	Then		
The applicant's role is an ANZSCO skill level 1-	The applicant does not need to meet English language requirements		
3 occupation	Complete the relevant section in the VAT and go to Step 2c		
The applicant's role is	The applicant must meet Engli	ish language requirements	
an ANZSCO skill level 4			
or 5 occupation	Follow SOP – Assess English AEWV (ANZSCO Skill Level 4-5)		
	(F)	Then	
	English language	Check that the relevant sections	
	requirements are met	have been completed in the	
		VAT and go to Step 2c	
	English language	Ensure that the concern is	
	requirements are not met	noted in the relevant section of	
(0)//2		the VAT and go to Step 2c	
100			

2c. Undertake an assessment of the maximum continuous stay (MCS) requirements to determine visa duration

The maximum continuous stay period depends on when the applicant's first Accredited Employer work visa application was submitted and whether the role is paid at or above the median wage. A manual assessment of MCS is required until the enhancements have been implemented.

• Review the Maximum continuous stay flowchart

Review the maximum continuous stay instructions held at WA4.10.7

If	Then
The applicant has not been	Check when the application was submitted against the MCS
granted an AEWV in the past	requirements at WA4.10.7(c) and WA4.10.7(d) to determine
	visa duration
The applicant has been	Determine if the maximum continuous stay period has been
granted an AEWV in the past	met and if the applicant has or is required to spend time

outside of New Zealand. See WA4.10.7(e) and WA4.10.7(h) and
(i)

Go to step 3

3. Complete the ADEPT identified assessment components of the application

The ADEPT identified assessment activities will still need to be assessed in line with the existing processes outlined below.

Follow the SOPs below as required:

- SOP AEWV Assess worker eligiblity
- SOP AEWV Job check validation
- Assess Job Check Meat and Seafood Sector Agreement

4. Determine if RFI/PPI is required

- If concerns are identified during the ADEPT assessment, these should be marked as 'No' in the 'Instructions met' field of the appropriate assessment criteria
 - Selecting 'No' in this field will ensure that the appropriate RFI/PPI blurb is added into the RFI/PPI where required
- If concerns are identified during the manual assessment, these will all be recoded on the VAT. These concerns (if present) will require an assessment concern to be raised manually

5. Raising a manual custom assessment concern (if required)

 A manual assessment concern will need to be raised for each of the concerns identified in the VAT and the appropriate blurbs will need to be manually added into fields of each of the assessment concerns raised

Note: If any concerns regarding WA4.10.7 (MCS) have been identified at step 2c, you will need to raise an assessment concern

Open an activity and follow <u>4a. SOP - Manually add a custom assessment concern in ADEPT.docx</u> (the blurb document is linked within the SOP)

If	Then	
Any assessment concerns have been	 Consider undertaking verification activity appropriate to the specific risk(s) identified. Consult a verification officer if there is an indication that advanced verification may be required. These concerns should be addressed through requesting 	
created/raised		
	further information (RFI) or requesting comment on	
	potentially prejudicial information (PPI) after assessing the	
	other aspects of the application	
	 Ensure that the outcome for each applicable activity is 'Require further info' 	

	Co to Ston 6	An RFI/PPI activity will generate. Ensure that the appropriate blurbs are reflected in the letter before sending it to the applicant.
	Go to Step 6	
No assessment	Go to Step 6	
concerns are present		

6. Check if a risk assessment activity is present

If	Then
A risk activity is present	See SOP - Managing information warnings (SOP - Managing
regarding an active	information warnings) to determine if referral to Risk &
warning	Verification is required.
	 Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT Undertake further action to mitigate the warning before proceeding to Step 7
	Note: If there is an NPP warning present, follow the
	process to request the content of the warning
	through R&V
No risk activity is present	Go to Step 7

7. Add the VAT into the notes and proceed to finalise the application

- Copy and paste the full VAT into the General notes of the application
- Make a determination on the application based on the information available

If \	Then	
Instructions are met and the application is to be approved	 Check the proposed visa details with consideration of the current maximum visa duration and maximum continuous stay WA4.10.7, WA4.10.10 and WA4.15 Proceed to approve the application END	
	Note: If the visa is issued on or after 7 April 2024 the	
	visa conditions should include a condition that states	
	that the visa holder must work full-time hours.	
Instructions are not met, and the application	Proceed to decline the application	
is to be declined	Note: Consider adding a warning on the employer	
	where applicable	
	(i.e., The application is being declined as the applicant	
	was assessed as not meeting the minimum skills	

threshold. The employer should be taking reasonable	
steps to ensure they meet the threshold before offering	
them the role. This should be considered when or if the	
employer applies to renew accreditation)	
END	
EIND	

END OF PROCESS



SOP – Assess English AEWV (ANZSCO Skill Level 4-5) (WA4.12)

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: In-Confidence

When to use

When assessing the English language ability of applicants for an Accredited Employer work visa application where their employment has been assessed at the Job Check as ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5.

Use the below visa assessment template to document the assessment and decision-making process:

• AEWV (WA4) Assessment Template [WVxxxxxxxxx]

Role

Immigration Officer

Guidelines

- AEWV applications must be declined if the applicant does not meet the minimum standard of English required.
- In any case, an immigration officer may require an applicant to provide an English language test result to determine whether the applicant meets the minimum standard of English. However, full consideration must be given to all evidence of English language ability provided before a decision to request an English language test is made. If such a test result is requested, the reason(s) behind the decision must be clearly documented and conveyed to the applicant.

Steps

1. Check the application declaration and type of evidence provided to determine how the applicant is claiming to meet the minimum standard of English

If the applicant	Then
Has provided an English language test result from a provider set out in WA4.12.5	Go to step 2.
Is claiming to meet the requirements through citizenship of Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK) or United States of America (USA); or	Go to step 4.
Has worked or studied in Australia or New Zealand for at least five years WA4.12.1(b)(i)	

Is claiming to meet the	Go to step 5.
requirements by holding an	
applicable qualification	

2. Check whether the test result is valid

If, at the time the application was lodged, the English language test result was	Then
More than two years old	Go to step 4 to determine whether they can meet the English language requirement through other means.
No more than two years old	Go to next step.

3. Check whether the test type and result are acceptable

Refer to the requirements for acceptable English language test results for applicants as set out at WA4.12.5.

If the test and result is	Then
Acceptable	English language requirements are considered met. Go to step 6.
Not acceptable	Continue to next step to determine whether they can meet the English language requirement through other means.

Note: If a risk is identified, engage with Risk and Verification to verify the result by making a Risk Treatment Referral. See SOP - Assess Risk and Conduct Verification.

4. Determine whether the applicant meets the criteria to have their language ability recognised through citizenship

An applicant may demonstrate meeting the minimum standard of English through citizenship of one of the following countries, provided they have spent (and provided evidence of) at least five years in work or education in one or more of those countries or Australia or New Zealand:

- Canada
- Ireland
- UK
- USA

If the applicant	Then
Meets the requirements above	English language requirements are considered met. Go to step 6 .

Does not meet the requirements	Continue to next step to determine whether they
above	can meet the English language requirement
	through study towards a qualification.

5. Determine whether the applicant meets the criteria to have their language ability recognised through a qualification

An applicant may demonstrate meeting the minimum standard of English through holding certain qualifications.

5a. Check where the qualification was obtained:

If the qualification was obtained	Then
In:	Continue to step 5(b) to determine how the
 Australia 	qualification is recognised.
 Canada 	
 New Zealand 	
Ireland	
• UK	
• USA	
Note: To meet this requirement, the applicant must have studied 'in the country' (i.e., Not by remote correspondence)	DURAGIA
In another country	The applicant does not appear to meet any
	English language criteria. Note the concern in the
	relevant section of the VAT and go to step 6.

5b. Check the level of the qualification

If the qualification is comparable	Then
to	
A New Zealand level 7 Bachelor's degree and the applicant studied towards that qualification for at least two academic years in one or more of these countries:	English language requirements are considered met. Go to step 6 .
 Australia Canada New Zealand Ireland UK USA 	
A New Zealand <i>qualification at level 8</i> or above and the PA studied towards that qualification for at	English language requirements are considered met. Go to step 6 .

least one academic year in one or more of:	
 Australia Canada New Zealand Ireland UK USA 	
Neither of the above criteria appear to be met	The applicant does not appear to meet any English language criteria. Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT and go to step 6 .

6. Determine if further checks are required

	·	
If	Then	
The applicant meets English language requirements based on one of the checks above	Go to Step 7	ELATION
The applicant does not meet	Check if the applicant has pr	reviously been assessed as
English language	meeting English language re	equirements for an
requirements based on one	application submitted on or	after 7 April 2024
of the checks above		,
	If	Then
	The applicant has been	English language
	assessed as meeting	requirements are
	English requirements in a	considered met. Go to
(PS)	previous application	step 7.
	submitted on or after 7	
	April 2024	
	The applicant has not	The applicant does not
	been assessed as	appear to meet any
	meeting English	English language criteria.
	requirements in a	Note the concern in the
	previous application	relevant section of the
	submitted on or after 7	VAT and go to step 7
	April 2024	

7. Update visa assessment template with the outcome of the assessment of the applicant's English language ability

Ensure that all possible avenues have been considered (i.e. English language test result, citizenship, qualification) before making a determination on English language ability.

If	Then	

No concerns were identified	English requirements are considered met. Proceed with other relevant SOP(s) to continue assessing the application.
Concerns were identified	Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT.

END.



SOP – Determine if the applicant meets the minimum skills threshold

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: Unclassified

When to use

When assessing an Accredited employer Work visa and you need to determine if the applicant meets the minimum skills threshold as per WA4.10.6

Role

Immigration Officer (IO)

Guidelines

Changes to the Accredited employer instructions have introduced new requirements to tighten settings for lower-skilled workers.

The functionality in ADEPT will not be immediately available to implement these changes and as a result, these changes will be implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: Manual assessment required from 7 April 2024

Phase 2: ADEPT functionality built into the process

In the interim, a combination of manual assessments and existing ADEPT processes will need to be followed to ensure that we meet the objectives of these changes.

This is a standalone process to be used during Phase 1, to undertake an assessment of the minimum skills threshold.

Context

An applicant must meet the 'suitably qualified' requirements in addition to the 'minimum skills threshold':

Suitably qualified WA4.10.5 - An applicant is suitably qualified to do the job they have been offered if they have the qualifications, work experience, skills and other specifications that were listed by the employer, in the Job Check application, as the minimum requirements for the job.

Minimum skills threshold WA4.10.6 – An applicant meets the minimum skills threshold if they have either 3 years of relevant work experience or a Level 4 qualification (with some exceptions)

The 'suitably qualified' assessment will continue to be assessed in ADEPT in line with the relevant assessment criteria unless it is deemed to be met through one of the criteria below.

Related Resources

From April 7, 2024 - Entry into this process is from <u>SOP –Accredited employer Work visa Gateway:</u> Manual assessment for AEWV applications

Assessment Template

AEWV (WA4) Assessment Template [WVxxxxxxxx]

Prerequisites

From April 7, 2024 - Entry into this process is from <u>SOP –Accredited employer Work visa Gateway:</u>
<u>Manual assessment for AEWV applications</u>

Steps

1. Determine if the applicant is suitably qualified and meets the Minimum skills threshold WA4.10.5 & WA4.10.6

If		Then
The role off	ered is on the Green list and the applicant	The applicant can be considered
meets the r	equirements listed for the occupation; or	as meeting both the 'suitably
		qualified' requirements and the
An IO has al	ready assessed the applicant as being	'minimum skill threshold'.
suitably qua	alified and meeting the minimum skills	
threshold fo	or a previous application; or	Complete the relevant section in
		the VAT and go to back to step
The application	nt has provided evidence that they hold full	2b - SOP -Accredited employer
or provision	al registration for the job offered, where	Work visa Gateway: Manual
specification	ns were required to obtain that registration	assessment for AEWV
		<u>applications</u>
		END
	nt has been offered a pay rate that is twice	The applicant can be considered
the median	wage or more	as meeting the 'minimum skill
	15/5	threshold' but a 'suitably
		qualified' assessment is still
		required
		Complete the relevant section in
		the VAT and go to back to step
		2b <u>SOP –Accredited employer</u>
		Work visa Gateway: Manual
		assessment for AEWV
		<u>applications</u>
The applicant do	oes not meet any of the criteria above	An assessment against both the
		'suitably qualified' requirements
		and the 'minimum skill
		threshold' is required
		Go to step 2 below

- 2. Determine if the applicant is suitably qualified for the role and whether the minimum skills threshold requirements are met WA4.10.5 & WA4.10.6(a)
 - 2a. Determine if the applicant is suitably qualified to do the job they have been offered

Follow SOP <u>Assess worker eligibility</u> in line with the assessment criteria that are present to determine if the applicant is suitably qualified.

*Has the qualification/work experience/skills/other specifications that were listed by the employer in the job check application as the minimum requirements for the job.

2b. Determine if the applicant is suitably qualified to meet the minimum skills threshold

An applicant is suitably qualified to meet the minimum skills threshold if an IO is satisfied that the applicant:

- can demonstrate three years or more of relevant work experience with evidence from documentation not written by the applicant themselves; **or**
- has a relevant qualification at Level 4 or higher on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF)
 - Evidence of a qualification must include a copy of the qualification certificate specifying the applicant's name, the type of qualification and the awarding institution; and
 - An International Qualification Assessment (IQA) if the qualification is not a Bachelor's degree or higher

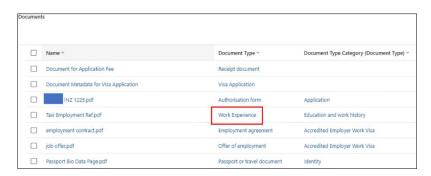
Consider the following when assessing if the applicant meets the minimum skills threshold:

- A qualification or work experience can be considered to be relevant if it is in the same field or industry as the job offered.
- Qualifications that are Bachelor's degrees or higher can be considered relevant to any employment offered.
- Evidence of relevant work experience not written by the applicant themselves may include, but is not limited to:
 - o letters of reference from an employer; or
 - certificates of employment; or
 - payslips; or
 - tax certificates

3. Review the information provided to determine if the applicant has provided qualification and/or work experience evidence

- Go to the 'Documents' tab to view the applicant's documents and look for qualification and/or work experience related documents
- Check the <u>General Work-related Risks and Advice</u> page on the Verification Toolkit to support determination of whether risks are likely to be present. Also ensure that you are familiar with relevant country profile page of the applicants nationality.
- Information regarding the IQA can be found here

Note: For the avoidance of doubt, a curriculum vitae is not sufficient unless it is provided with supporting documentation from a third party that satisfies an immigration officer



- The evidence must satisfy the IO that the applicant is suitably qualified to meet the minimum skills threshold and the requirements set out at WA4.10.6
- 4. Ensure the relevant sections in the VAT are completed and go back to Step 2b SOP Accredited employer Work visa Gateway: Manual assessment for AEWV applications

END OF PROCESS

SOP – Job check Gateway: Manual assessment of Job check applications

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: In-Confidence

When to use

When assessing an employer's Job check application on or after 7 April 2024

Role

• Immigration Officer (IO)

Guidelines

Changes to the Accredited employer instructions have introduced new requirements to tighten settings for lower-skilled workers.

The functionality in ADEPT will not be immediately available to implement these changes and as a result, these changes will be implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: Manual assessment required from 7 April 2024 (this process)

Phase 2: ADEPT functionality built into the process

In the interim, a combination of manual assessments and existing processes will need to be implemented to ensure that we meet the objectives of these changes.

Related Resources

Oa. Landing page - AEWV March changes.docx

1a. Accreditation Gateway.docx

3a.AE Work visa Gateway.docx

JC RFI/PPI blurbs

Assessment Template

The manual assessment required will need to be recorded using a Visa assessment template as linked below:

JC (WA3) Individual Assessment Template [AN XXXXXXXX]

Prerequisites

Job check applications submitted on or after 7 April 2024

Note: Job check applications that are submitted on or after 7 April 2024 based on Employer accreditation applications approved before 7 April 2024 are acceptable; however, the job check application will be assessed against the new instructions.

Changes to the Job check application process

- The employer will now be required to complete an 'Additional form' whilst submitting their application that includes important declarations that align with the new instruction changes.
- You can view the 'Additional form JC' via the 'Documents' tab of the application

The declarations made at Job check stage are listed below:

- Advertising the role for at least 21 days
- Work and Income engagement evidence required for ANZSCO Skill level 4 and 5 occupations
- The employer must declare that they will take reasonable steps to ensure workers are suitably qualified and meet the minimum skills threshold
- They must declare that there were no 'suitable and available New Zealanders if they have applied for an ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 role
- The employer must declare the ANZSCO occupation, code and skill level
- If the offered role is on the 'Green List' and if it is, does the role meet the requirements of the list

Note: The employer will be downloading the additional form to complete and upload into the application once completed

Steps

1. Open the Job check application



2. Complete the manual components of the assessment required by the new instructions

The updated instructions require a manual assessment to be undertaken in addition to the assessment activities identified in ADEPT until the functionality is built into the system. This manual process is to be used in the interim to ensure that the assessment aligns with the new instructions.

Open the **Job check VAT** JC (WA3) Individual Assessment Template [AN XXXXXXXX] and fill in the required fields as you complete the manual assessment component

2a. Check employer declarations

The employer should have manually uploaded the 'Additional form' which can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab.

• Check the employer's declarations as listed below:

- The employer must declare that they agree to take reasonable steps to ensure that any Accredited Employer work visa applicant who applies on the basis of this job check application:
 - Is suitably qualified as set out at WA2.10.14; and
 - Meets the minimum skills threshold WA2.10.14(c)
- The employer must declare that there were no 'suitable and available New Zealanders if they have applied for an ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 role
- The employer must declare if the offered role is on the 'Green List' and if it is, does the role meet the requirements of the list

If	Then
The declarations are incomplete	Note concern in the relevant section of
	the VAT
	Go to Step 2b
The declarations are complete	Go to Step 2b

2b. Undertake an assessment of the proposed role against ANZSCO requirements WA3.16 & WA3.16.1

- The employment assessment is required to determine the skill level of the proposed role and may comprise of two stages:
 - Stage One (Always required): Determine if the proposed role is substantially consistent with an ANZSCO occupation – SOP Undertake an employment assessment
 - Stage Two (Sometimes required): Determine if the proposed role is a substantial match to an ANZSCO occupation - SOP – Undertake a substantial match assessment.
- Follow SOP Undertake an employment assessment

Note: You will only need to undertake the substantial match assessment if required as per the steps in the 'Employment assessment' SOP.

 Once employment assessment is complete, the skill level of the ANZSCO occupation should be determined and the employment details in the VAT should be completed

2c. Determine if the exceptions to the labour market test apply WA3.20.a

- The labour market test must be met for all jobs to approve a Job Check, except where:
 - o the remuneration for the proposed employment is \$59.32 per hour or above, or the equivalent annual salary (<u>WA3.20</u>); **or**
 - o the proposed employment is for an occupation included on the Green List, and the minimum requirements for the job include the requirements on the list for that occupation (Appendix 13).

If	Then
1 11	THEI

At least one of the exceptions at WA3.20.a apply	Go to Step 3
Neither of the exceptions at WA3.20.a apply	Go to 2d

2d. Check the advertising timeframe as declared by the employer WA3.20.1.b

If you determined	Then	
the skill level of the		
role as		
An ANZSCO skill	WA3.20.1.b(i) - The job a	dvert must have closed prior to the Job
level 1-3 occupation		submitted and been listed for at least 14
	calendar days	_
	Determine if WA3.20.1.b	(i) is met based on the employer's
	declaration	
	If	Then
	WA3.20.1.b(i) is met	Go to step 3
	WA3.20.1.b(i) is not	 Note concern in the relevant
	met	section of the VAT
		Go to Step 3
An ANZSCO skill	WA3.20.1.b(ii) - The job a	advert must have closed prior to the Job
level 4 or 5	Check application being s	submitted and been listed for at least 21
occupation	calendar days	MINO
		(ii) is met based on the employer's
	declaration	
	If	Then
	WA3.20.1.b(ii) is met	Go to step 2e
	WA3.20.1.b(ii) is not	Note concern in the relevant
(07/2)	met	section of the VAT
		Go to Step 2e

2e. Check for Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Work and Income engagement evidence WA3.20.3

- Employers are required to engage with Work and Income for ANZSCO Skill level 4 or 5 roles prior to applying for the Job check
- The Work and Income Engagement Check is required when: (Noting exceptions at WA3.20.a)
 - The employer has applied for a proposed role that is an ANZSCO Skill level 4 or 5 occupation or
 - The employer has applied for an ANZSCO skill level 1-3 occupation; however, it was determined after undertaking an Assessment of employment that the proposed role is an ANZSCO Skill level 4 or 5 occupation
- If the Work and Income engagement check has been completed by the employer, they should have received:
 - o An email from Work and Income advising that the check has been completed; and

• A Work and Income engagement check form that contains details about the role and the checks undertaken

If	Then
The Work and Income Engagement check form has been provided; or	 Add the outcome to the appropriate section of the VAT Go to Step 2f
The employer has an exemption from Work and Income; and	
You are satisfied that WA3.20.3 is met	
Work and Income Engagement check form has not been provided; or	 Note concern in the relevant section of the VAT Go to Step 2f
You are not satisfied that WA3.20.3 is met	

2f. Check employer declarations for reasons why there were no 'suitable and available New Zealanders

Employers are required, for skill level 4 or 5 occupations, to provide reasons why they did not hire a New Zealand worker (see WA3.20.c.iii). If the reasons they provide in fact show that 'suitable and available New Zealand workers' (WA3.20.10) could have been hired but were not, the Job Check application can be declined.

- Access the 'Additional form' via the 'Documents' tab of the application.
- Check the employer's answer to question E3.

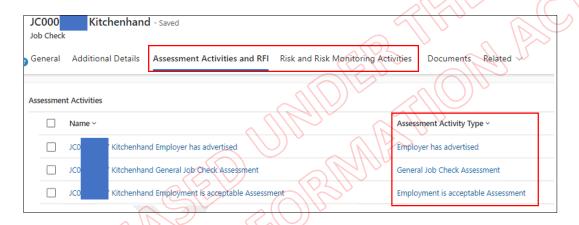
If S	Then
The employer has completed the declarations; and You are satisfied that WA3.20.b.ii is met, based on the employer's declaration	 Add the outcome to the appropriate section of the VAT Go to Step 3
The employer has not completed all the relevant declarations; or	 Note concern in the relevant section of the VAT (PPI required) Go to Step 3
You are not satisfied that WA3.20.b.ii is met	
Note: Ensure that you	
have assessed the	
provided reasons against	
the instructions at	
WA3.20.10, WA3.20.10.5,	

WA3.20.10.10, and	
WA3.20.10.15.	

3. Complete the ADEPT assessment components of the application

As mentioned above, the new changes will not be built into the system right away and as a result, this interim process will include an ADEPT assessment with the addition of a manual assessment.

- The system will highlight the assessments that you are required to undertake as per the requirements before these changes came into effect.
- Click on the 'Assessment activities and RFI tab' and the 'Risk and risk monitoring activities' tab to determine what activities and/or further action you are required to undertake



• Follow SOPs under: <u>Assess job check</u> for each of the activities that have generated within the application you are assessing

4. Determine if RFI/PPI is required

- If concerns are identified during the ADEPT assessment, these should be marked as 'No' in the 'Instructions met' field of the appropriate assessment criteria
 - Selecting 'No' in this field will ensure that the appropriate RFI/PPI blurb is added into the RFI/PPI where required
- If concerns are identified during the manual assessment, these will all be recorded on the VAT. These concerns (if present) will require an assessment concern to be raised manually

5. Raising a manual custom assessment concern (if required)

- A manual assessment concern will need to be raised for each of the concerns identified in the VAT and the appropriate blurbs will need to be manually added into fields of each of the assessment concerns raised
- Open an activity and follow <u>4a. SOP Manually add a custom assessment concern in</u> ADEPT.docx (the blurb document is linked within the SOP)

II IIIeII

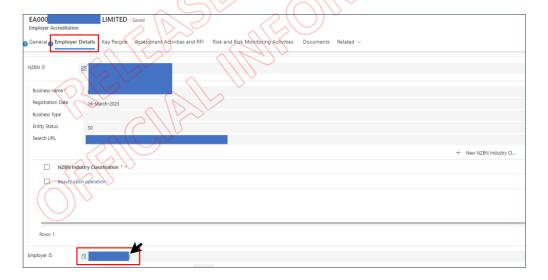
Any assessment concerns have been created/raised	 Consider undertaking risk activity appropriate to the specific risk(s) identified. Consult a verification officer if there is an indication that advanced risk treatment may be required - See <u>SOP - Assess Risk and Conduct Verification</u> These concerns should be addressed through requesting further information (RFI) or requesting comment on potentially prejudicial information (PPI) after assessing the other aspects of the application. Go to Step 6
No assessment	Go to Step 6
concerns are present	

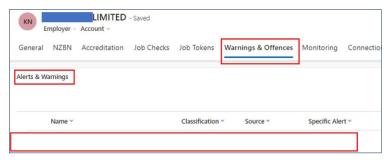
6. Check for warnings in ADEPT

If a warning is present that is linked to the employer, this would normally appear in the Risk activity/assessment to be addressed during the assessment. Whilst this is still in place, an additional check has been added in response to the changes regarding the list of non-compliant employers to ensure that we are identifying these employers before decisions are made.

 Open the 'Warnings & Alerts tab' by clicking on the 'Employer Details' tab and the link next to the 'Employer' field to ensure that all warnings are addressed/mitigated

Note: This check occurs at the time of assessment and again before an approval decision is made





UNCLASSIFIED

If	Then
A warning is present that has not been addressed	See SOP - Managing information
for this application	warnings (SOP - Managing information
	warnings) to determine if referral to Risk
(i.e., Not identified in the risk assessment, or a new	& Verification is required.
warning added since the application was	
submitted)	Undertake further action to mitigate the
	warning before proceeding to Step 7
No warnings are present; or	Go to Step 7
All warnings have been addressed and mitigated	
for this application	

7. Record the VAT and finalise the application

- Copy and paste the full VAT into the General notes of the application
- Make a determination on the application based on the information available

End of process

SOP – Manually add a custom assessment concern in ADEPT

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: Unclassified

When to use

- When a concern has been identified while processing an ADEPT application; and
- An existing assessment concern is not present in the system to address the concern identified

Role

• Immigration officer (IO)

Guidelines

The user guide process covers the general process of adding an assessment concern however, in this case, a custom concern is required and the RFI/PPI blurbs will also need to be added manually to reflect in the letters to the applicant.

Related Resources

INZKit - ADEPT system user guide (sharepoint.com)

Templates

RFI/PPI blurb templates

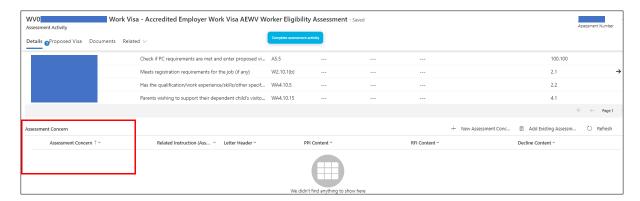
Prerequisites

- A concern has been identified while processing an ADEPT application; and
- A thorough search (including searching by instruction reference and keywords) of the current assessment concerns(using the 'Advanced find' function) has been undertaken with no results; and
- An existing assessment concern is not present in the system to address the concern identified

Note: This process has been created to support the manual workarounds required for Accredited Employer products during an interim period whilst the functionality is being built into ADEPT. See **Landing page - AEWV March changes**

Steps

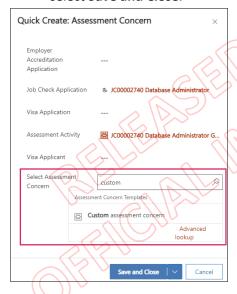
1. Open an Assessment Activity for the application you are currently working on and go to the Assessment Concerns section.



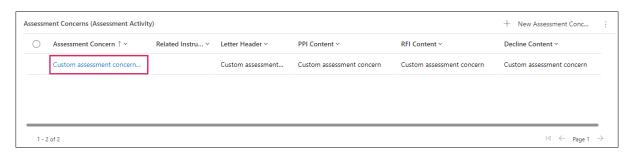
2. Select New Assessment Concern



- 3. The 'Quick Create: Assessment Concern' form opens.
 - In the **Select Assessment Concern** field, enter and select *Custom assessment concern*. Then select **Save and Close**.

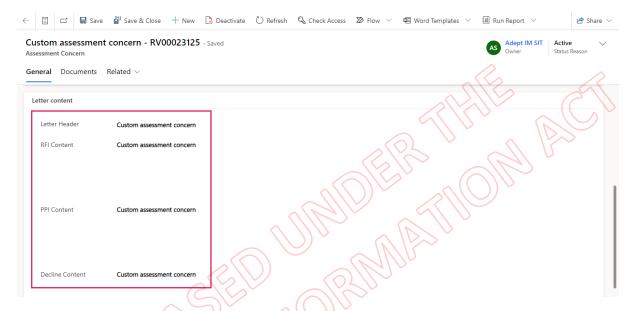


4. Open the assessment concern you just created by clicking on the link in the Assessment Concern column.



5. Locate the RFI/PPI blurbs related to the concern you have identified

- Open the RFI/PPI blurb templates
- Find the appropriate blurbs
- 6. Copy and paste the blurbs into the corresponding fields in the Letter content section so that content relating to the assessment concern will be populated into the relevant letter:
 - Letter Header
 - o RFI Content
 - o PPI Content
 - Decline Content



7. In the top menu, select Save & Close

END OF PROCESS

SOP – Undertake a Substantial match assessment

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: Unclassified

When to use

When an initial assessment of the employer's proposed role for a Job check application has been undertaken in accordance with <u>Job check Gateway</u> and <u>SOP – Undertake an employment</u> assessment; and

- a specific risk or concern has been identified indicating that there may be job inflation or the proposed role may not be genuine; and/or
- the applicant's role has been assessed as not matching the specific (6 digit) occupation description on the ANZSCO.

Role

• Immigration Officer (IO)

Related Resources

Immigration instructions:

WA3.16 Determining the occupation and skill level of the job

Prerequisites

- Job check Gateway
- SOP Undertake an employment assessment

Steps

- 1. Undertake a detailed substantial match assessment WA3.16.b
 - See <u>ANZSCO version 1.3</u>
 - Check that the proposed role title matches the ANZSCO code provided and aligns with the ANZSCO (6-digit) description for that occupation
 - Open and review the list of core tasks found under the ANZSCO Unit Group (4-digit) level description for that occupational group, excluding any tasks which are not relevant to the occupation description.
 - See and <u>Industry specific resources</u> and <u>work related risk & advice</u> in the Verification toolkit for further guidance





Considerations when assessing the role against ANZSCO

- the circumstances of the employer, including the scope and scale of the employer's organisation and operation (the size of the operation, the number of staff and managers, and whether management functions are centralised at a head office or undertaken by other managers); and
- o the qualifications and work experience required for the job; and
- the remuneration offered

Determine whether the applicant's employment is:

- A substantial match to the ANZSCO Occupation (6-digit) level description for that occupation and
- A substantial match to the tasks listed at the ANZSCO Unit Group (4-digit) level description for that occupational group, excluding any tasks which are not relevant to the occupation description.

Note: Reference made to ANZSCO skill level groups consist of ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 and 3 occupations grouped together AND ANZSCO skill level 4 and 5 occupations grouped together

If O	Then	
The tasks relevant to the ANZSCO occupation comprise most of the tasks required to undertake the proposed role	Go to Step 2	
The tasks required to perform the proposed	Determine further action	
role comprise most of	If	Then
the tasks of an ANZSCO occupation that differs from the one claimed by the employer	The ANZSCO occupation that is assessed as a substantial match to the proposed role is still within the same skill level group (i.e., Skill level 1-3 or Skill level 4 and 5)	Go to Step 2

	The claimed ANZSCO was a skill level 1-3 occupation that has been assessed as a substantial match to a Skill level 4 or 5 ANZSCO occupation	Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT – PPI may be required Proceed to assess against instructions that apply for Skill level 4 and 5 occupations Go to Step 2
The tasks relevant to	Note the concern	
the ANZSCO occupation description DO NOT	Go to Step 2	
comprise most of the	·	
tasks required to undertake the proposed		
role; and		
No other suitable		3 0
ANZSCO occupation is identified		

2. Make a further assessment of whether the employment is genuine WA3.15(I)

- Factors to consider include (but are not limited to):
 - Whether the role appears to be inflated to meet Immigration requirements
 - Whether the remuneration for the position is comparable to the market rate for New Zealand workers in that occupation.
 - Whether there is any indication that the applicant (or their agent or a third party)
 may have made payment to the employer (or their agent or third party) to secure
 the offer of employment.
- Check resources, such as job inflation, Illogical Position for Company pages, in the <u>General</u>
 <u>Work related risks page</u> on the Verification Toolkit to determine whether risks are likely to
 be present.

If O	Then	
No concerns regarding the	Make a determination of	n the ANZSCO skill level
genuineness of the	If	Then
proposed role are identified	You determined at Step 1 that the proposed role was a substantial match to an ANZSCO listed occupation	 The proposed role can be considered a substantial match to the occupation as listed on ANZSCO Record the ANZSCO skill level of the occupation in the VAT

	You were unable to determine at Step 1 that the proposed role was a substantial match to an ANZSCO listed occupation	Substantial match assessment complete • The proposed role cannot be considered a substantial match to the occupation as listed on ANZSCO. • Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT Substantial match assessment complete
Concerns around genuineness of the proposed role are identified	Note the concern in the Substantial match assess	relevant section of the VAT
Refer back to Job check Gateway for next steps END OF PROCESS		

SOP – Undertake an employment assessment

Date Published: 17 April 2024 Classification: In-Confidence

When to use

When an employer submits an application for a job check, we must assess the role/s applied for against ANZSCO standards to determine what further employment requirements need to be assessed.

Role

• Immigration officer (IO)

Guidelines

When an employer applies for a job check, we need to determine if the role meets immigration requirements. The 'Job check' instructions have been updated to include additional assessments of the role, what the applicant will be doing, and what skill level the role is.

Related Resources

ANZSCO guide

Immigration instructions to be listed here

Assessment Template

Job check - JC (WA3) Individual Assessment Template [AN XXXXXXXX]

Prerequisites

Entry into this SOP is from Job check Gateway

Steps

1. Review the evidence provided in the job check application

 Employment evidence may include (but is not limited to) information about the business, the pay rate, a job description, evidence of advertising for the role and other supporting documents

If	Then
Sufficient employment evidence of the role/s offered has been provided	Proceed to process the application using this evidence
	Go to Step 2
Insufficient employment evidence of the role/s	Note the concern in the relevant section of the VAT
offered has been provided	Go to Step 2

2. Identify the ANZSCO occupation and skill level as claimed by the employer

From the Job check application, go to the 'Additional details' tab to view the ANZSCO occupation and associated code that the employer has selected



- Check the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)
 - Refer to the Immigration NZ view of <u>ANZSCO version 1.3</u> as provided by Statistics New Zealand.
 - Locate the occupation listing on the ANZSCO

3. Identify if there are employment specific risks present

- Determine whether there are any relevant risk rules, active employer alerts/warnings or other information indicating the potential presence of any specific risk indicating that the role may not be genuine or that the occupation has been inflated
- Check the <u>General work related risk & advice</u>, <u>commonly inflated roles</u> and <u>Industry specific</u> <u>resources</u> in the Verification toolkit to determine whether risks are likely to be present

If	Then
No concerns regarding genuineness of employment and/or role and/or salary inflation are identified	Go to step 4
Concerns are identified regarding	Consider if a 'substantial match' assessment may
genuineness of employment and/or role and/or salary inflation are identified	required.
	See relevant steps in <u>SOP - Undertake a</u> <u>substantial match assessment.docx</u>

4. Determine the ANZSCO skill level of the role

- Undertake an overall review of the role against the definition of the ANZSCO occupation
- Check that the proposed role title matches the ANZSCO occupation and code provided.
- Determine if the role (taken as a whole), is substantially consistent with the ANZSCO (6 digit) definition for that occupation
- See <u>ANZSCO version 1.3</u>

• See and <u>Industry specific resources</u> in the Verification toolkit for further guidance



Note: Reference made to ANZSCO skill level groups consist of ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 and 3 occupations grouped together AND ANZSCO skill level 4 and 5 occupations grouped together

If	Then
You determine that the role is <i>substantially consistent</i> with an ANZSCO occupation:	Requirements are met and a substantial match assessment is not required Note the skill level as set out in ANZSCO
As claimed by the employer; or	in the relevant section of the VAT
Within the same ANZSCO skill level group (i.e., Skill level 1-3 or Skill level 4 and 5)	Employment assessment is complete
The employer claimed an ANZSCO skill level 1-3 occupation however, you have	Proceed to assess against instructions that apply for Skill level 4 and 5 occupations
determined that the role offered is	Note the skill level as set out in ANZSCO
substantially consistent with an ANZSCO	in the relevant section of the VAT
skill level 4 or 5 occupation	Take note as an assessment concern
	will need to be raised. It is likely that
	other requirements for Skill level 4 or 5
	roles may not be met.
The all the second	Employment assessment is complete
There is insufficient evidence to	Note the concern in the relevant section of
demonstrate that the role is substantially	the VAT
consistent with an ANZSCO occupation	
	Employment assessment is complete

Refer back to **Job check Gateway** for next steps

END OF PROCESS