



Thursday, 31 October 2019

Your possible options for Residence under SMC may now have increased

Statistics New Zealand and the Australian Bureau of Statistics have completed a 'refresh' of the ANZSCO and includes changing the skill level of some occupations. This will be published on the ABS website from 5 November.

For assessment purposes, Immigration New Zealand will **not** use the updated version of the ANZSCO until mid-2020. INZ will continue to use the version that they currently use, which is version 1.2.

However, occupations that have been '**upgraded,**' i.e. **have changed from skill level 4 or 5 to skill level 1-3 in the new version,** will be treated as exceptions. For these occupations, they will be treated as if they are skill level 1-3 immediately, provided the role pays at least the New Zealand median income.

Why is Immigration New Zealand continuing to use ANZSCO version 1.2?

From mid 2020, ANZSCO will no longer be used to determine the skill level of employment for essential skills work visa applications. Immigration New Zealand will use a simple remuneration threshold pegged to the median wage. How this will happen is not publicised yet. Immigration New Zealand is continuing to use the current the current version of ANZSCO versus 1.2

Why is Immigration New Zealand using exceptions to ANZSCO v1.2 for some occupations?

There are some occupations that would have benefitted from the new version of ANZSCO because the skill level of the occupation has been upgraded from 4 or 5 to 1-3. Treating these occupations as exceptions allows people in these roles to get the benefit of the higher skill level, provided they are paid at least the New Zealand median income.

Why do occupations on the exception list only get treated as skilled if they are paid the median income?

From mid-2020, the use of ANZSCO in assessment of skill bands under Essential Skills will be removed, and only roles that are paid above 100% of the median income will get the benefits associated with being mid- or higher-skilled under the current instructions.

If INZ had adopted the new ANZSCO version, the occupations that have been 'upgraded' would have been considered mid-skilled under Essential Skills provided they were paid at least 85% of the median income. However, for roles paid less than 100% of median wage, these would have gone back to being treated as lower-skilled from mid-2020.

Only recognising these occupations as skilled where they pay 100% of the median income prevents occupations from being treated as lower skilled, then skilled, then lower skilled again in a relatively short period. It only recognises the increase in skill level where the role will continue to be treated as skilled after the changes in mid-2020.

Note: The median income is currently \$25 per hour (\$52,000 for a 40 hour week) but will shortly increase to \$25.50 (\$53,040).

Which are treated as an exception, and where can I find them?

The occupations treated as an exception will be available in Appendix 7 of the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual. They are listed below for reference.

All occupations listed should be treated as ANZSCO skill level 1-3 and therefore may be eligible for points for skilled employment under the Skilled Migrant Category or be assessed as mid-skilled under Essential Skills provided the applicant earns at least the New Zealand median income.

What happens to applications already in process?

For Essential Skills applications, the occupations treated as an exception can be recognised as skill level 1-3 immediately provided the role pays at least the current median income, even if the application was submitted before this change.

There will not be any Skilled Migrant Category applications on hand that are affected by these changes, as occupations that were previously at skill level 4 or 5 would not have been eligible for points for skilled employment.

What happens where an occupation is listed as an exception but the role is not paid the median income?

In that situation, Immigration New Zealand will continue to treat the occupation at the skill level it has in ANZSCO version 1.2 (i.e. skill level 4 or 5).

APPENDIX 7

421111 Child Care Worker	551211 Bookkeeper	712111 Crane, Hoist or Lift Operator
421112 Family Day Care Worker	552111 Bank Worker	712916 Paper and Pulp Mill Operator
421114 Out of School Hours Care Worker	552211 Credit or Loans Officer	712921 Waste Water or Water Plant Operator
422116 Teachers' Aide	711211 Industrial Spraypainter	721112 Logging Plant Operator
423411 Child or Youth Residential Care Assistant	711311 Paper Products Machine Operator	721913 Paving Plant Operator
423413 Refugee Worker	711313 Sawmilling Operator	731311 Train Driver
451111 Beauty Therapist	711611 Sewing Machinist	821711 Construction Rigger
451412 Tour Guide	711711 Footwear Production Machine Operator	423313 Personal Care Assistant
451612 Travel Consultant	711712 Hide and Skin Processing Machine Operator	452311 Diving Instructor (Open Water)
451811 Civil Celebrant	711713 Knitting Machine Operator	591212 Import-Export Clerk
452211 Bungy Jump Master	711714 Textile Dyeing and Finishing Machine Operator	599611 Insurance Investigator
452212 Fishing Guide	711715 Weaving Machine Operator	599612 Insurance Loss Adjuster
452213 Hunting Guide	711716 Yarn Carding and Spinning Machine Operator	
452214 Mountain or Glacier Guide	711799 Textile and Footwear Production Machine Operators nec	
452215 Outdoor Adventure Instructor		
452216 Trekking Guide		
452217 Whitewater Rafting Guide		
452299 Outdoor Adventure Guides nec		

Should you have any queries or wish to check your eligibility, please contact us on 09 - 265 1578 or on 0275 - 706 540 or on email on info@terranoconsultancy.co.nz .

Yours sincerely,

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