

Update – Changes to Skilled Worker Requirements

Changes to the migration program commenced on Monday 16 March 2009.

The changes were:

- **Permanent skilled migration** for 2008/09 has been reduced from 133,500 visas to 115,000 visas. So, grant of skilled visas is restricted to 115,000 visas until 30 June 2009.
- The number of occupations on the **Critical Skills List (CSL)** has been reduced by the removal of construction and manufacturing trade occupations.

Clarifications

1. **Critical Skills List** is a list of skilled occupations that are give priority processing. The **CSL** was introduced on 1 January 2009 to enable priority processing of occupations that have a high priority of need in Australia. That list was changed on 16 March 2009. The **CSL** will be regularly reviewed to give priority processing to skilled occupations urgently needed in Australia.
2. There has been no change to:
 - **Skilled Occupation List (SOL)** – skilled workers continue to nominate skilled occupations from that list for the General Skilled Migration Scheme;
 - **Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL)** – skilled workers continue to nominate occupations from this list for the Employer Nomination Scheme;
 - **Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL)** – the **MODL** remains unchanged and so points for occupations on the **MODL** are still available for the skilled visas points test. The **MODL** is reviewed from time to time.
3. These changes are to the **permanent residence visa schemes** and do not apply to the temporary resident visas, e.g. the 457 temporary employer sponsorship.
4. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is now processing only general skilled migration applications which are **State or Territory** sponsored, or which have nominated occupations on the **Critical Skills List**, but does not mean that other skilled visa applications cannot be lodged. The **CSL** is simply a method of giving priority in processing in an attempt by the government to address the current skills shortages. The skilled migration applications that are not on the processing priority list can still be lodged.

Each year the Australian Government issues a new migration program, and the changes made on 16 March 2009 are in place until 30 June 2009. The new migration program for the year 2009/10 will commence on 1 July 2009.

For more information the above, or assistance with your migration needs, from visa applications to appeals, contact Australian Migration Lawyers on 07 5597 8888 or info@migrationlawyers.com.au

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As a leading industry player with a strong focus on skilled employees, our current program involves regular trips to the UK and South Africa to meet clients, conduct migration seminars and attend migration expos to link Australian employers with skilled migrants.