



Information about the Primary Industries Border Class Exceptions

The Government has a range of border class exceptions in place for the primary industries. These assist in addressing immediate and seasonal workforce pressures ahead of a full border reopening, and before the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) opens on 4 July 2022.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) operates a nomination process for the primary industries border class exceptions, working with industry bodies or directly with employers, to validate whether a company, role and worker meet the requirements, before providing nominations to Immigration New Zealand (INZ).

Workers who wish to apply for a visa under a border class exception must first be nominated by MPI.

How do I apply?

This should be considered general information only, and not advice. Please seek advice on immigration matters from a Licensed Immigration Agent or INZ. www.immigrationnz.govt.nz/contact

The process of applying is quick and easy:

1. **Submit a nomination request to MPI for a particular role and worker.** For most, this is done through the industry bodies who collate the employer nominations then pass these onto MPI. Wood processing and manufacturing employers can email MPI direct.

Check the table over the page for the requirements specific to your exception. All applications are also subject to general immigration requirements such as a valid passport, medical examination or x-ray, good character, and work experience. **To avoid the risk of your application being delayed or declined, please ensure the person you submit for nomination intends to come to New Zealand and can confirm all criteria. Otherwise, their application may be delayed and take a place that others could use.** Guidance for general immigration requirements is online:

- [a valid passport](#)
- [x ray or medical examination](#)
- [good character](#)
- [work experience](#).

2. **If the request meets the criteria, MPI provides the nomination to INZ**
3. **The process then continues with INZ (via a Worker Expression of Interest (EOI) then Visa Application).**
 - a. [Employer request for critical worker exception | Immigration New Zealand](#)
 - b. INZ assesses the employer's Worker EOI. If approved, an Invitation to Apply for a visa is emailed to the worker and copied to the employer. This includes information about how to make the application online.

Who do I get in touch with?

For most class border exceptions, your first port of call is the industry bodies, who act as the agent between MPI and employers, engaging and assisting employers to collate what is required for nomination requests to go through. However, in some instances MPI works directly with employers.

- Seafood processors – Cathy.Webb@seafood.org.nz
- Deep-sea fishers – Hayley@oceanlaw.co.nz

All industry bodies forward collated nominations for consideration to: MPIBorderExceptions@mpi.govt.nz.



Border class exceptions requirements

Update on 2 September 2022: All primary industries border class exceptions closed on 1 September 2022, except for deep-sea fishing crew and seafood processing workers which will be phased out later.

Border Class Exception	Number of workers	Details	EOI Applications must be in by	Visa Duration
Deep sea fishing crew	615	Must be paid at least the minimum wage plus \$4 per hour.	30/10/22 (Last date of entry Sept 2022)	12 months
Deep sea fishing crew	450	Must be paid at least the minimum wage plus \$5 per hour.	30/10/22 (Last date of entry May 2023)	12 months
Deep sea fishing crew	615	Must be paid at least the minimum wage plus \$5 per hour.	30/10/22 (Last date of entry May 2023)	12 months
Seafood processing worker	300	Must be paid at least \$24 per hour and averaged at \$24 per hour over a specified pay period that is no longer than one month.	TBA, open until sector agreement is in place	10 months