Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

Archived: June 2, 2025 10:31:40 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 16:59:56
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Request for Clarification on Recent Work Permit Policy Changes (owp) - REP-2025-0213- Due 18-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None
Attachments:

Hello

[redacted] to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Immigration Representatives mailbox. We appreciate your patience.

Note that this service provides guidance and not case-specific advice.

Please find the answers to your questions below:

Questions

1. 1. The January 14 announcement mentioned that spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements and those transitioning to permanent residence would not be impacted by these changes. However, the updated instructions published on January 21 no longer explicitly mention spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements. Could you kindly confirm whether spouses of workers under free-trade agreements remain unaffected by these changes?
2. 2. Regarding the eligibility of family members where the foreign worker is applying for a new or initial work permit: When assessing eligibility through the system, it automatically indicates that the family member cannot apply simultaneously and must apply separately. Could you confirm whether this applies even if the foreign worker holds a position within NOC TEER 0, 1, or under the listed TEER 2 and 3 categories, with a work permit validity of over 16 months?
3. 3. Could you clarify whether work permits can still be issued at the port of entry under the current policy? If so, which categories of applicants or family members qualify to apply for and receive their work permits at the port of entry?

Responses

1. 1. Spouses of workers under FTAs remain unaffected by the January 14th announcement.
2. 2. From the information you provided, it is difficult for me to ascertain the situation. I note that when I entered information in the portal for family members travelling with PAs on work permits that I was given the three options for applying that you indicated below.
3. 3. Please refer to the following Operational Bulletin, which was modified on February 14, 2025, for the most up to date information on making an application at a POE:
    - * Operational bulletin 686 – December 24, 2024 (modified February 14, 2025) (ci.gc.ca)

For more information, please consult the following webpages:
Open work permits for family members of foreign workers: When to apply - Canada.ca

We hope this information is of assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out again if you required further clarification.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

Sincerely,

Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 21 janvier 2025 13:23
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
Objet : Request for Clarification on Recent Work Permit Policy Changes (owp)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I member in good standing with CICC , am writing to seek clarification on the recent changes to the Open Work Permit (OWP) policy effective January 21, 2025, as announced on January 14, 2025.

1. 1. The January 14 announcement mentioned that spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements and those transitioning to permanent residence would not be impacted by these changes. However, the updated instructions published on January 21 no longer explicitly mention spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements. Could you kindly confirm whether spouses of workers under free-trade agreements remain unaffected by these changes?
2. 2. Regarding the eligibility of family members where the foreign worker is applying for a new or initial work permit: When assessing eligibility through the system, it automatically indicates that the family member cannot apply simultaneously and must apply separately. Could you confirm whether this applies even if the foreign worker holds a position within NOC TEER 0, 1, or under the listed TEER 2 and 3 categories, with a work permit validity of over 16 months?
3. 3. The updated instructions also state that eligible family members may:

    - * Apply for their work permit at the same time as the principal applicant, either online or at the port of entry,
    - * Need to apply separately, or
    - * Apply after their arrival in Canada.

    Could you clarify whether work permits can still be issued at the port of entry under the current policy? If so, which categories of applicants or family members qualify to apply for and receive their work permits at the port of entry?

Your clarification on these points would be greatly appreciated to ensure compliance with the updated processes and to avoid unnecessary delays for applicants.

[redacted]

Best regards,

Page 629

is withheld pursuant to section

est retenue en vertu de l'article

19(1)

of the Access to Information Act

de la Loi sur l'acces a l'information