Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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**Archived:** June 2, 2025 2:39:00 PM
**From:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
**Sent:** Tue, 25 Mar 2025 12:41:15
**To:**
**Cc:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
**Subject:** TR: Seeking clarification on the application of IRPA 11.2 (2) (b) - Express Entry CEC - REP-2025-0561 - Due 17-03-2025
**Importance:** Normal
**Sensitivity:** None

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Good day,

[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

**Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance.. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the** IRCC Web form.

Please see our response to your question:

**Question:**

Does the **definition of "at the time the officer received their application"** in IRPA 11.2(2) refer strictly to the AOR stage, or does it apply to the entire **processing period,** including until the final decision is made regarding the application for permanent residence?

**Answer:**

In Express Entry, "at the time the officer received their application" refers to the date on which the application for permanent residence i[redacted]lly [redacted] to [redacted] date may [redacted] to [redacted] the date the electronic application for permanent residence (eAPR) is made. An applicant will receive their Acknowledgement of Receipt (AOR) on the same date. The eAPR stage is strictly limited to the date of submission and does not apply to the entire processing period.

**Question:**

Is an applicant **required to maintain their CRS score** at or above the minimum required for an ITA on the day an applicant received an ITA **throughout the entire processing** of the application (excluding Core/human capital points for age) to retain eligibility for processing?

**Answer:**

In order to receive an invitation to apply (ITA) in an Express Entry round, an applicant must have a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score at or above the cut-off score for the round and meet the eligibility requirements of one of the Express Entry Programs. If invited to apply, the applicant must maintain the score at or above the cut-off score for the round when they submit their application (eAPR). There is no requirement for an applicant to maintain their CRS score after the eAPR is received by IRCC.

Please be advised, however, that CRS and program eligibility criteria are distinct and separate program components: CRS is used for ranking candidates in the Express Entry pool, while program eligibility criteria determines requirements to be met in order to be selected for one of the Express Entry programs. While CRS is assessed at ITA and eAPR only, applicants must satisfy eligibility criteria for their program throughout the whole application process.

**Question:**

In cases where an applicant's **CRS rank drops after the AOR is issued** before the decision is made, due to changes in arranged employment resulting in a lower CRS score, AND the new score falls below the rank required for an invitation to apply on the day an applicant received an ITA, will such application still meet the criteria for continued processing?

**Answer:**

CRS rank is assessed at ITA and eAPR only. CRS is not re-adjusted due to a change of circumstances during the processing of an

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application, if the change in circumstances occurs after an Acknowledgement of Receipt (AOR) is issued. For example, if a change in arranged employment occurs after eAPR, then the CRS score assigned for it will not be re-adjusted.

Please note, however, that a change of circumstances after APR that results in the applicant no longer meeting the program eligibility criteria may result in a refusal of the application.

Please be advised that the assessment of an application is conducted on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the specific circumstances and the supporting documentation available to the officer. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate that they meet the requirements.
We trust that this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

**The Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

**From:**
**Sent:** [redacted] 15, 2025 6:33 PM
**To:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
**Subject:** Seeking clarification on the application of IRPA 11.2 (2) (b) - Express Entry CEC

[redacted]

I am **seeking clarification on the application of IRPA 11.2 (2) (b)** which states:

*Despite subsection (1), an officer may issue the visa or other document if, at the time the officer received their application, [...]*
*(b) the foreign national did not have the qualifications they had at the time the invitation was issued and on the basis of which they were ranked under an instruction given under paragraph 10.3(1)(h), but*
*(i) they met the criteria set out in an instruction given under paragraph 10.3(1)(e),*
*(i.1) they met the criteria for membership of a category established in an instruction given under paragraph 10.3(1)(h.2), if they were issued the invitation on the basis that they were eligible to be a member of that category, and*
*(ii) they occupied a rank that is not lower than the rank that a foreign national was required to have occupied to be invited to make an application.*

**Questions:**

1. 1. Does the **definition of "at the time the officer received their application"** in IRPA 11.2(2) refer strictly to the AOR stage, or does it apply to the entire **processing period,** including until the final decision is made regarding the application for permanent residence?
2. 2. Is an applicant **required to maintain their CRS score** at or above the minimum required for an ITA on the day an applicant received an ITA **throughout the entire processing** of the application (excluding Core/human capital points for age) to retain eligibility for processing?
3. 3. In cases where an applicant's **CRS rank drops after the AOR is issued** before the decision is made, due to changes in arranged employment resulting in a lower CRS score, AND the new score falls below the rank required for an invitation to apply on the day an applicant received an ITA, will such application still meet the criteria for continued processing?

I look forward to your clarification.

Regards

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**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**