Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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s.19(1)

Archived: June 2, 2025 2:51:20 PM
From: [redacted] / Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Wed, 26 Mar 2025 17:43:13
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: TR: Seeking clarification re recent SOWP eligibility effective date - REP-2025-0220- Due 18-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

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:
We would like to seek clarification from you regarding the recent SOWP policy effective date: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/open-work-permit-spouses-dependent-children.html

The online instructions show two different timelines:

- * Policy is effective as of January 21, 2025 at 5:00 UTC
- * If you apply before January 21, 2025 the application will be processed as per the old policy.

Open work permits for family members of foreign workers

Changes to eligibility

As of January 21, 2025, at 5:00 UTC, the eligibility requirements will change for open work permits for family members of workers.

If you apply before January 21, 2025:

- We'll continue to process **all** applications that were received before January 21, 2025.
  - Applications received before January 21, 2025, will be processed under the previous eligibility criteria.
- If your open work permit was already approved and hasn't expired, it stays valid.

Question:

- * What is the difference between these two timelines? Between Jan 21 UTC 5:00 v Jan 20 UTC 12:00, which one is the accurate one when calculating application submission date? Can an applicant submit their application by Jan 21, 2025 5:00 UTC and still be assessed under the old SOWP policy?

Answer:

Please note the correct time is 5:00 A.M. UTC[redacted]21.

We hope this information is of assistance.

Sincerely,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 21 janvier 2025 17:01

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[redacted]: Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration (IRCC) [redacted]

Objet : Seeking clarification re recent SOWP eligibility effective date

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[redacted]

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Appreciate your response on this matter.

Thank you,

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