



Changes to the skills assessment criterion for certain onshore General Skilled Migration applicants nominating a trade occupation – 12 March 2010

From 12 March 2010, all applicants applying for either a Skilled—Regional Sponsored (subclass 487) visa, Skilled—Independent (subclass 885) visa or Skilled—Sponsored (subclass 886) visa will be able to use an existing suitable skills assessment to lodge a valid visa application. This will allow applicants nominating a trade occupation for the above visa subclasses to provide a skills assessment predating 1 January 2010 and is in line with the minister's announcement on 8 February 2010.

This change should alleviate the concerns of international students and stakeholders regarding the amendments introduced on 1 January 2010. These amendments required onshore General Skilled Migration applicants who nominated a trade occupation to provide a skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010 to make a valid application. This is no longer the case and the department will accept pre 1 January 2010 suitable skills assessments from 12 March 2010.

To confirm if your existing skills assessment is suitable for the purpose of applying for either a subclass 487, 885 or 886 visa, please contact the department on 1300 364 613.

If you are yet to obtain a skills assessment and wish to do so, you should contact the relevant assessing authority as soon as possible. It is important that you are assessed under the right skills assessment process for the visa and occupation you intend to apply for. For details on the relevant assessing authority for your occupation and what it involves, please see:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/asri/>

If you have any questions regarding the specific requirements of the visa you intend to apply for, please contact the department on 1300 364 613.

Note: It is important that you are assessed under the correct skills assessment process for the visa you intend to apply for. Some skills assessment processes can take a number of months to complete and you should determine well in advance which assessment you should undertake.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they apply for the correct assessment. This can be done in consultation with the relevant assessing authority for your occupation and also the department.

Frequently asked questions

Why is the change being introduced to allow applicants for permanent migration to use an existing skills assessment?

Potential applicants expressed concern with the requirement that they provide a skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010 if nominating a trade occupation as a number already held a suitable skills assessment issued before this date. The change has been introduced to allow applicants who have already obtained a suitable skills assessment to use this at the permanent migration stage.

This change relates to applicants applying for either a subclass 487, 885 or 886 visa.

Does this mean I will be able to use an existing skills assessment to lodge a valid visa application?

If you already hold a suitable skills assessment dated before 1 January 2010, and you are nominating a trade occupation, you are no longer required to obtain a further skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010 in order to lodge a valid visa application.

Your existing skills assessment, should it be suitable, can be used to apply for permanent residency.

Suitable skills assessments dated after 1 January 2010 will continue to be accepted.

What does the department mean by a suitable skills assessment?

When applying for a subclass 487, 885 or 886 visa, your skills assessment must be suitable for this purpose. A suitable skills assessment in general would be an assessment issued by the relevant assessing authority

for your nominated occupation and suitable for the purposes of permanent migration.

If you are unsure if your skills assessment is suitable, you should contact the department on 1300 364 613 to discuss its suitability.

Please note that a provisional skills assessment obtained as Step 1 of the Job Ready Program, should your occupation be assessed by Trades Recognition Australia (TRA), is only suitable for the purpose of obtaining a subclass 485 visa and cannot be used to apply for a subclass 487, 885 or 886 visa.

An unsuitable skills assessment will result in your application being deemed invalid and it will not be assessed by the department for a decision.

Who should I contact about my skills assessment and whether or not it is suitable for the purposes of applying for a subclass 487, 885 or 886?

It is important that you apply for the right skills assessment for your nominated occupation and intended migration outcome.

For details on the specifics of the assessment itself, you should contact the relevant assessing authority. Details are located at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/asri/>

To determine the specific requirements of the visa you intend to apply for, including the suitability of the skills assessment you are looking to obtain, please contact the department on 1300 364 613.