



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

**Gas shortage in WA –
Information for sponsors of 457 visa holders**

With the recent gas explosion at Varanus Island, Western Australia, peak industry bodies have advised that some businesses have now been affected by the gas shortage to the extent they are considering, or implementing, altered staffing arrangements.

It is important for relevant businesses to be aware of their obligations as sponsors of subclass 457 temporary skilled workers.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) reminds employers that all sponsorship obligations, including the requirement to meet the Minimum Salary Level (MSL), continue to apply even if a sponsored worker is stood down from their employment, if they remain in Australia.

Note that the MSL does not need to be met during any period that the sponsored worker is outside Australia and not working for the sponsor.

Other options available to subclass 457 sponsors if their business is disrupted and they need to consider a stand-down are:

- Withdrawal of sponsorship, including informing DIAC of this action. Affected workers would then need to find another business to sponsor them or leave Australia.
- Temporary stand-down of sponsored workers where arrangements are made for them to depart Australia until the disruption to business is over.

In cases where the employment of a sponsored worker is terminated, DIAC expects that all sponsors will ensure they comply with relevant Australian laws.

While normal transition arrangements will apply for affected sponsored workers, the Department will take the unusual circumstances into consideration in allowing 457 visa holders time to find alternative employment.

Further information

If you have any specific questions relating to your sponsorship arrangements during this period, phone the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on 131 881 or alternatively (08) 9415 9417 which is a direct line in our Perth office.