

Getting your critical workers to New Zealand

INFORMATION FOR THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

NOVEMBER 2021

This is a guide for meeting the requirements to travel to New Zealand. New Zealand citizens and permanent resident visa holders do not need to apply for a border exception or a visa.

1 Request border exception for an 'other critical worker'

APPROX. 2 WEEKS

Employers or their agents can apply for a border exception to bring a worker into New Zealand, if they meet the criteria as an 'other critical worker'.

Exceptions are short term (less than six months), long term or time critical for delivery of an approved major infrastructure project.

See the [list of approved projects](#).

Employers must [complete the form on this page](#) to seek an exception.

For further information contact classexceptions@mbie.govt.nz.

2 Apply for a visa

APPROX. 2 WEEKS

If the border exception is approved, INZ will email your employee directly.

Your employee must apply for a visa and they must check visa requirements of any countries they will transit through on their way to New Zealand.

Vouchers for staying at a [managed isolation facility](#) can be booked at the same time the employee applies for a visa.

3 Secure a managed isolation allocation voucher

AVAILABILITY LIMITED
TRAVEL MAY BE DELAYED

All travellers to New Zealand (except eligible passengers from quarantine-free countries) must complete a stay in managed isolation or quarantine.

A voucher must be secured from the [Managed Isolation Allocation System online portal](#).

If the system is showing no available spaces, continue checking.

If your preferred date is not available you may be eligible to apply for time sensitive or group allocation.

3a MIQ construction group allocation requests (60 places per month available from June – March 2022)

The places are for critical workers whose work is essential for infrastructure and building projects of national and regional significance, and they have unique experience and technical or specialist skills not readily available in New Zealand. To apply, visit [this page on the Construction Sector Accord website](#).

Applications will be reviewed and prioritised by an independent panel.

3b MIQ time sensitive allocation requests

To seek a [time sensitive travel allocation](#), travellers must be unable to book the preferred date in the Managed Isolation Allocation System, and have received an endorsement from a relevant Government agency.

Travellers can only seek this allocation if travelling to New Zealand for work purposes, to undertake time sensitive tasks in specified areas of work, that will have significant consequences, whether human, social, environmental, economic or for New Zealand's international relations.

4 Get a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure

A pre-departure negative COVID-19 test result is required for travellers to New Zealand, except those from Antarctica and most Pacific Islands.

See [Pre-departure testing](#) on the MIQ website for more information.

See [Overseas vaccinations](#) for new vaccination requirement for non-New Zealand citizens.

IF GRANTED

GO TO STEP 2

IF GRANTED

GO TO STEP 3

IF SECURED GO TO STEP 4
– NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST

IF NOT SECURED
SEE STEPS 3A AND 3B

IF SECURED GO TO STEP 4

IF NOT SECURED, TRY STEP 3 AGAIN