

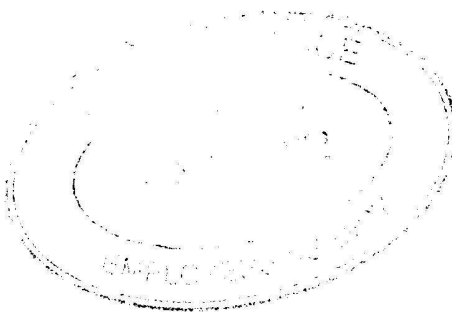
Circular No. 17/2002

To each CEO

Health Boards/ERHA

Voluntary Hospitals

Mental Handicap/Specialist Agency



DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
CHILDREN
AN ROINN
SLÁINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Shaping a
Healthier Future

Subject: New Arrangements for the Issue of Work Permits

In response to recent negative developments in the labour market, the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment has introduced new arrangements for the issue of Work Permits with effect from 2 April 2002.

The new approach aims to make sure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that Work Permits are issued only in circumstances where an Irish worker is unable or unwilling to accept the job and that the job is then offered to the wider European Economic Association (EEA - which comprises the European Union, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) labour market before a non-EEA national is recruited. The requirement to offer the job to the EEA labour market prior to recruiting a non-EEA national is being implemented by requiring that all job vacancies are advertised by FAS for a four week period before an application can be made for a Work Permit.

In view of the current serious shortages of healthcare personnel, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has exempted key medical, health and social care professionals from the FAS rule as set out on the schedule attached.

To avoid uncertainty as regards membership of these professions and ensure consistent application of the new Work Permit rules, it will be necessary to furnish a copy of the letter of validation from the appropriate designated authority of the relevant overseas qualification (or in the case of medical or nursing personnel a letter of registration) in order to avail of the exemption and allow the Work Permit application to be processed.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has agreed to a streamlined processing procedure for the issuance of Work Permits in such circumstances. Hence, any application for a Work Permit in respect of one of the designated medical, health and social care professions will be processed within 15 working days of receiving a complete and valid application, including the validation/registration letter as appropriate. In order to enable the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to distinguish applications in respect of health and social care personnel and consequently, to ensure their speedy processing, "Health

Hawkins House Dublin 2
Teach Haicin Baile Átha Cliath 2
Telephone (01) 635 4000 VPN112
Fax (01) 635 4001

Professional" should be clearly written across the top of every application form sent (see example attached). Any applications received under this procedure without the necessary letter of validation/registration will be returned to the employer in question.

It is not envisaged that these new arrangements will lead to any additional delays in obtaining Work Permits for health and social care personnel given the new validation arrangements for therapy personnel and radiographers as set out in Circular No. 8/2002 dated 6 February 2002 and the streamlined processing procedure to be undertaken by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment as outlined above.

You should note that work is ongoing to extend the terms of the existing fast-track Working Visa/Work Authorisation system to a broader range of medical, health and social care professionals and you will be kept informed of any new arrangements once they are finalised.

William Beausang

William Beausang
Personnel Management and Development
26 March 2002

Professions

The Designated Authority/Registration Body responsible for the validation of qualifications

Medical Practitioner

Medical Council of Ireland

Dentist

The Dental Council

Nurse

An Bord Altranais

Diagnostic or Therapeutic Radiographer

Minister for Health and Children

Dietitian

Minister for Health and Children

Occupational Therapist

Minister for Health and Children

Orthoptist

Minister for Health and Children

Medical Physicist

Minister for Health and Children

Psychologist

Minister for Health and Children

Speech and Language Therapist

Minister for Health and Children

Biochemist

Minister for Health and Children

Audiologist

Minister for Health and Children

Social Worker

National Social Work
Qualifications Board

Medical Scientist

Academy of Medical Laboratory
Sciences

Physiotherapist

Irish Society of Chartered
Physiotherapists

Pharmacist

Pharmaceutical Society of
Ireland

ECG Technician

***N/A –employer's letter will
suffice***

Neurophysiological Measurement Technician

***N/A –employer's letter will
suffice***

Cardiac Catheterisation Technician

***N/A –employer's letter will
suffice***



**Department of
Enterprise, Trade
and Employment**

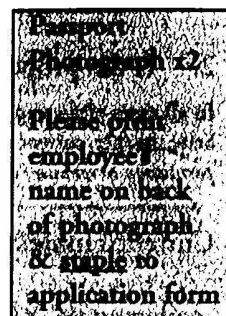
Roinn Fiontar
Trádála agus
Fostaíochta

Work Permits Section
Davitt House
Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
Ireland

Tel 353 1 631 3308 / 3333
Lo-call 1890 201 616
Fax 353 1 631 3268
Web www.entemp.ie

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

Application by Employer for a Work Permit to Employ a Non-EEA (European Economic Area) National



The EEA comprises the Member States of the European Union together with Iceland, Norway & Liechtenstein

Details to be TYPED IN or printed in **BLOCK CAPITALS ONLY**, all sections to be completed fully. Incomplete forms will be returned. (See checklist)

PART ONE Particulars of Employer

1. Registered name of employer's business _____
2. Trading as (if different from above) _____
Address _____

3. (a) Employer's Registered No. (obtain from Rev. Comms) _____
(b) Company's Registered No. (if applicable) _____
(Tax Clearance Certificate may be requested)
4. Nature of employer's business _____

5. Tel No. _____ Fax No. _____
E-mail address _____
6. No. of EEA nationals employed _____ (EEA nationals include Irish employees)
No. of non-EEA nationals currently employed _____