



Producer Notice

Details on changes to the 457 visa programme

Friday 21 April 2017

Information

APL has received further details on the abolition of the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). DIBP has clarified that:

- the occupation categories commonly used by our industry under the general 457 visa programme, Pig Farmer (code 121318) and Agricultural Technician (code 31111), are listed on the Short-term Skilled Occupation List (STSOL)
- applications for new visas and new sponsorship arrangements under the existing Pork Labour Agreement will continue to be considered by DIBP until otherwise advised
- applications made under the standard 457 programme will also continue to be considered against eligibility criteria. However, 457 visas granted after 18 April 2017 off the STSOL list can only be granted for two years. There will be one onshore extension allowed after that for a further two years
- any existing Pork Industry Labour agreements remain in effect. DIBP will contact parties to existing agreements in due course to discuss any impacts. DIBP is still working through what impacts, if any, there might be.

The placement of the Pig Farmer and Agricultural Technician occupational categories on the STSOL only is a regressive move that will affect our industry’s ability to access skilled workers from overseas under what remains of the 457 programme, and its replacement, the Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) visa. The STSOL listing means TSS visas will be granted for only two years (with one onshore two-year renewal available).

The pathway to permanency for STSOL occupations has been severely restricted, if not eliminated. **APL is still seeking clarification from DIBP on this point.**

DIBP has released two fact sheets outlining the reforms and timing of some of the changes:

[Fact sheet one: Reforms to Australia’s temporary employer sponsored skilled migration programme – abolition and replacement of the 457 visa \(447KB PDF\)](#)

[Fact sheet two: Reforms to Australia’s permanent employer sponsored skilled migration programme \(494KB PDF\)](#)

Further information is available at www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement.

Key APL Contacts

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