

IMMIGRATION HEALTH AND DISABILITY SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NOW

What medical certificate should the applicant use?

A full medical examination is required for applicants who intend to visit or stay in NZ for more than **24 months**. In this instance use the **Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1007) dated March 2005**.

Applicants who intend to visit or stay in NZ for 24 months or less are not normally required to complete a full medical certificate.

Applicants who intend to visit or stay in NZ for more than 6 months (but less than 24 months) and who are a citizen of a country that is not a '*low incidence country for TB*' or in the last five years they have spent a total of three months or more in a country that is not a '*low incidence TB country*', will be required to undergo a chest x-ray. In this instance use the **Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1096)**.

IN LATE AUGUST 2005

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Note:

The Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate dated March 2005 will be withdrawn from circulation but the Immigration Service will continue to accept it up until 28 November 2005.

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 2005

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Applicants who intend to visit or stay in NZ for more than 6 months (but less than 12 months) and who are a citizen of a country that is not a 'low incidence country for TB' or in the last five years they have spent a total of three months or more in a country that is not a 'low incidence TB country', will be required to undergo a chest x-ray. In this instance use the **Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1096)**.

GENERAL

Is there a different Medical and X-ray Certificate for Residence and for Temporary applicants?

All applicants who are required to complete a full medical certificate will use the same form - Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1007).

What are the new requirements?

The main changes to the health screening requirements are:

In late August

- A revised Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate to support the new health screening framework. The main differences in the revised medical certificate (compared with the current certificate dated March 2005) are:
 - additional compulsory blood tests for applicants 15 years and older – HIV, Hepatitis B, full blood count, serum creatinine, liver function
 - assessment for critical developmental delay, particularly in children
 - assessment for impaired cognitive performance, with screening compulsory for applicants aged 70 or more.

From 28 November 2005

- A new assessment criteria for determining an applicant's *Acceptable Standard of Health* will be in place and people wishing to visit or stay in New Zealand for more than 12 months (at present it is 24 months) will be required to complete a medical certificate.

For how long is their medical clearance valid?

The Department of Labour reserves the right to ask for a medical certificate at any time. However, once an applicant has been assessed as having an acceptable standard of health, they will normally have a clearance for two years, provided the applicant's health status remains unchanged.

Do they need to provide medicals for their immediate family members if they are not included in the application?

No.

Do women need to have a chest x-ray if they are pregnant?

No, pregnant women do not need to undergo a chest x-ray.

Do their children need to have a medical and chest x-ray?

Children are also required to complete a medical certificate if that is a requirement of their application. However only persons from the age of 11 are required to have a chest x-ray and normally children under 15 are not required to undergo blood tests.

Will the individual need another chest x-ray for their residence application even though they have completed the temporary entry chest x-ray for TB?

Yes, they are required to have another x-ray as part of their full medical. This is because the temporary chest x-ray shows only whether or not they have had TB while the full chest x-ray is more comprehensive and will identify other medical conditions, if they exist.

Why have the health and disability screening requirements changed?

More robust screening of potential migrants' health is required to protect New Zealand's public funded health and education services.

What other changes have been made to immigration health screening?

Tightening of health and disability screening for migrants began in April 2004 with a requirement for international students to have a chest x-ray for tuberculosis (TB). This requirement was extended in November 2004 to include applicants for visitor and work visas. In April 2005, those who applied under the working holiday schemes were also included.

Who has the Department of Labour consulted with regarding implementation of the policy?

The Department's Immigration Service consulted with general practitioners in New Zealand and overseas, as well as with organisations and agencies such as the Ministries of Health and Education, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, the Medical Association and immigration consultants.

Where do I go for more information?

The internet at www.immigration.govt.nz. Or email health@dol.govt.nz

In New Zealand you can telephone, free, our call centre on 0508 558 855.