



VISA ALERT

7 November 2011

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Accredited sponsor program offers priority processing for 457 visa applications

PRIORITY PROCESSING FOR ACCREDITED SPONSORS FROM 07.11.2011

:: NEW OPPORTUNITY

To become an accredited sponsor, your business will need to prepare and lodge a new Standard Business Sponsorship application.

Contact us for more details on how to become an accredited sponsor

From 7 November 2011, businesses with a long and positive history of dealing with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as well as an excellent record of compliance with workplace and migration laws will be able to apply for accredited sponsor status. This will qualify them for priority processing of all nominations and 457 visa applications: decisions will follow in a matter of days rather than the current median of 22 days.

To obtain accredited status on their Standard Business Sponsorship, qualifying employers must satisfy the following additional criteria:

- be a company or government agency with a minimum of A\$4 million turnover for each of the previous 3 years
- have Australian workers comprise at least 75% of their workforce in Australia
- be an active 457 visa sponsor for the past 3 years (with a break of no more than 6 months, which was not due to any sanction)
- have an approval rate of at least 97% for the previous 3 years
- have lodged a high level of decision-ready applications over the previous 2 years
- sponsored at least 30 primary 457 visa holders in the previous 12 months
- no adverse information is known about the employer based on DIAC or Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations monitoring. However, there is discretion to grant accredited sponsor status even though there is adverse information, especially in circumstances where the sponsor has been proactive in bringing to DIAC's attention an inadvertent failure to comply with a sponsorship obligation.

An accredited status sponsorship agreement is valid for 6 years, rather than the usual 3 years. Accredited sponsor status may be revoked by DIAC with loss of access to priority processing arrangements if the employer fails to maintain the additional characteristics outlined above.



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