



UK MODIFIES THE NATIONAL SHORTAGE OCCUPATIONAL LIST FOR WORK PERMITS

The UK Border Agency of the Home Office has recently announced changes in the national shortage occupational list for work permits.

Starting 18 July 2008, two new occupations will be added to the shortage list, while two occupations will be removed from the same list. Moreover, two occupational titles from the current shortage list had been amended.

The details of the modified list are as follows:

A. New Occupations Added

- Electricity Generation Engineers. These occupations relate only to the **electricity generating industry**:
 - Mechanical Engineer
 - Senior Project Mechanical Engineer
 - Project Mechanical Engineer
 - Electrical Engineer
 - Senior Project Electrical Engineer
 - Project Electrical Engineer
 - Senior Project Civil Engineer
 - Project Civil Engineer
 - System Health Engineer (Nuclear)
 - Design Engineer (Nuclear)
 - Work Cycle Planner (Nuclear)
 - Shift or Team Leader
 - Production Controller
 - Plant Process Engineer
 - Network Planners
 - Network Design Engineer

- Senior Project Control and Instrumentation Engineer
 - Project Control and Instrumentation Engineer
 - Senior Project Control Engineer
 - Central Control Room Supervisor
 - Assistant Engineer (Shift Operations)
 - Performance Engineer
 - System Infrastructure Engineer
 - Assistant Chemist
 - Reactor Physicist
 - Assistant Reactor Physicist
 - Assistant Physicist
- High Integrity Pipe Welders

Employers in the UK need not conduct a recruitment search within the European Economic area for all the occupations in the shortage list, but may recruit from anywhere in the world.

B. Occupations Removed

The following occupations will be removed from the shortage list effective 18 July 2008:

- CAA Licensed Aircraft Engineers
- Consultant posts in:
 - Geriatric Medicine and
 - Rehabilitation Medicine

CAA licensed aircraft engineers are removed from the list since there is no supporting labour market research and there is evidence that most applications for aircraft engineers are not submitted under the shortage occupation category.

The occupation for consultants in geriatric and rehabilitation medicine is being removed upon the recommendation of the NHS workforce review team.

Work permit applications received for the above posts on or after 18 July 2008, will now be subject to a full resident labour market test. Employers will be required to submit evidence that the posts have been advertised, with full details of the persons who applied and were interviewed, and why resident workers were not considered suitable. However, work permits will be issued for these occupations, only if the employer does not find any qualified resident candidate or European Union candidate to fill the vacancy, after advertising these posts.

C. Occupation Titles Amended

Upon the recommendation of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the NHS workforce review team, the occupation titles for chartered quantity surveyor and pharmacist on the current shortage list were amended to take effect immediately to read as:

- Quantity Surveyor; and
- Pharmacist (including Pre-Registration Pharmacists).

The UK Border Agency will publish a revised national shortage occupation list for work permits once these changes have come into effect.

SOURCE : UK Border Agency

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