

ARE YOU AN ENGINEER APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE?

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Engineers in various areas of specialization are listed in the new Skilled Occupations List (SOL) that will take effect on 1 July 2010. These engineering occupations include, but are not limited to, Chemical engineer; Materials engineer; Civil engineer; Geotechnical engineer; Structural engineer; Transport engineer; Electrical engineer; Electronics engineer; Industrial engineer; Mechanical engineer; Production or plant engineer; Mining engineer; Petroleum engineer; Aeronautical engineer; Agricultural engineer; Biomedical engineer; Engineering technologist; Environmental engineer; Software engineer; Telecommunications engineer; Telecommunications Network engineer; Aircraft maintenance engineer (avionics); Aircraft maintenance engineer (mechanical); Aircraft maintenance engineer (structures) and Ship's engineer.

Before lodging the visa application for permanent residence under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) scheme, applicants must obtain suitable skills assessment from the relevant skills assessment body authorised by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The Engineers Australia (EA) is the skills assessing body for engineers unless it is ICT related (i.e. Software Engineer), in which case the Australian Computer Society is the skills assessing authority.

Applicants for skills assessment with EA are generally required to achieve a minimum score of 6 in each of the 4 modules of Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking of the

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) in either the general or academic modules.

Exemptions to the IELTS test are considered by EA if the applicant is native English speaker or has completed an Australian engineering qualification or Masters degree or PhD level program at an Australian university.

If you are an overseas qualified engineer, you will generally be required by EA to submit a competency demonstration report (CDR) regarding three career episodes as part of your skills assessment. However, you may be able to obtain exemption from preparing a CDR if your professional engineering qualification is recognised by the Washington Accord for Professional Engineers or your engineering technology qualification is recognised by the Sydney Accord, unless you nominate an occupation based on work experience rather than a qualification.

Please note, due to the new SOL coming into effect 1 July 2010, changes may occur regarding skills assessment authorities and applications.

This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Australia has a scheme that requires persons who give immigration assistance to be registered as migration agent. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising migration solicitor and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of

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Imelda Argel is the author of TIPS on GSM visas, the recipient of the inaugural NSW FAWAA (Filipino- Australian Women's Achievement Award) for her outstanding achievements in corporate practice and entrepreneurship, and the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (NSW Chapter) Achievement Award for law and community service. More information is available at www.iargel.com.au. You can contact the author by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by appointment at Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.