

## Filipino Migrants Forum

*Is the visa applicant able to obtain a suitable skills assessment?*

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Skills assessment is a subject which is of interest to anyone who has a friend or relative intending to apply for a permanent resident visa under the skilled migration scheme.

First of all, an applicant under the skilled migration scheme must nominate an occupation from the Skilled Occupations List (SOL). The nominated occupation will depend on which occupation closely describes his or her profession, trade or duties, regardless of the position title.

Secondly, the applicant must obtain his or her skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority in Australia before lodgment of the visa application. The visa application will be invalid if no skills assessment is attached to it.

*What is a skills assessing authority?*

A skills assessing authority is the organization authorised by the Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) for the purpose of assessing the nominated occupation of an applicant. It assesses an applicant's skills by comparing the skills of the applicant to Australian standards.

The relevant assessing authority for each occupation for the purpose of skills assessment for migration is listed opposite the SOL. Generally, there is only one assessing body worldwide for each occupation, except for accountants. All assessing authorities are located in Australia.

Most assessing authorities require the applicant to meet the Australian standard of a degree, diploma or trade certificate for their nominated occupation in order to get a "suitable" skills assessment.

The organization which undertakes the skills assessment for a particular occupation is usually the same organization that sets the standard for entry into the trades or professions of persons who undertake their training in Australia. For example, tradespersons are assessed by Trades Recognition Australia, engineers by the Institution of Engineers Australia and accountants by CPA Australia.

In most cases there is a required minimum education or training standard for recognition. It may be a degree, diploma or trade certificate depending upon the nominated occupation to be assessed. Some require minimum related work experience and standard of English proficiency in addition or in lieu of formal education and training.

In those cases where formal educational qualifications are required most assessing organizations use a publication called the “Country Education Profile” to determine relevant or comparable qualifications.

*This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino lawyer and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, an Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957. More information is available at [www.iargel.com.au](http://www.iargel.com.au)*