

New Work Permit Changes – What do I do now?

MRCI is continuing with the campaign to **stop** some of the new changes regarding work permit holders, especially those who are made redundant.

If you are a work permit holder (permit before 1st June 2009) and you are only renewing an existing work permit, you are not affected in any way by these new changes.

Please find below some information to assist permit holders who are made redundant or put on short-time working hours.

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A. Work Permit Holders Made Redundant

- If you are made redundant and find a new job you need to apply for a **new** work permit
- When you do this you need to pass the Labour Market Needs Test. This means that your new job needs to be advertised for
 - **8 weeks** with FÁS/EURES
 - **6 days** in the local and national media
- The Work Permits Section is officially giving people **three months** to apply for a new work permit.

Please see link to the Work Permit Section below for the official guidelines:

<http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/redundant.htm>

Despite these new redundancy rules, the Work Permits Section has also stated that they will consider applications for new permits **without** a Labour Market Needs Test, **for those who are made redundant**, on a case-by-case basis according to their individual merits. Therefore, if you are made redundant you can **try** submitting:

- A new work permit application,
- With a cover letter requesting that your application is considered **without** the new Labour Market Needs Test requirement. Make sure you include information in the cover letter that might help your request, for example:
 - If you have a Long Term Residency/Citizenship Application, state this in the letter and give in a copy of your letter from the Department of Justice confirming that the application has been lodged.
 - Other information may be that you are the sole earner for a spouse and/or dependent in Ireland.
- If you are unable to find a full-time position you can also try submitting a work permit application for a part-time position

There are no guarantees, but you can try.

If you have queries or have difficulties contact the Migrant Rights Centre **01-8897570**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. It **VERY important** for you to keep your Stamp 1 **up to date**.
If you are made redundant and your Stamp 1 is going to expire, go to your local GNIB officer and ask for an extension.
2. If the job from which you were made redundant is on the list of ineligible job categories, you can apply for a new work permit for a job on the ineligible list as well as the eligible list.
3. If you have not been made redundant, but are simply moving jobs, there has been no change to the policy for this, so you can change employer provided that:
 - you have worked with your initial employer for a period of 12 months (some exceptions could be less)
 - you apply for a new permit for the same employment sector or in any eligible employment sector.You do not need to do the Labour Market Needs test.
4. If your spouse/dependent is holding a spouse/dependent work permit which is due to expire while you are still seeking another job they can try to renew their work permit provided that you explain the situation in writing to the Work Permits Section. There are no guarantees it will be renewed.
5. If you are a Green Card holder who has been made redundant you need to apply for a new Green Card. If you were in a job that is now ineligible for a Green Card permit, you can still apply for a Green Card for that job as long as you obtain a 2-year job offer.

B. Short time Renewals

- The Work Permits Section will consider applications for the renewal of work permits received for employees placed on short-time working hours
- Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The Department may consider applications for short time work if they think the salary is “sufficient” to support you / your family. This should be around €200 per week

C. More Information

More information on the changes, including how they affect new work permit applications for people entering Ireland for the first time after 1st June 2009, is available at:

- www.entemp.ie – Employment Permits “What’s New” see link: (<http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/whatsnew.htm>)
- See also MRCI summary of the changes, available at www.mrci.ie (click on ‘News and Events’).