

## Filipino Migrants Forum

### Does The New TRA Skills Assessment Policy Qualify You For Migration?

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Except for nine occupations in five countries including the Philippines which may also be assessed by the VETASSESS led consortium, Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) is the skill assessing body authorised by DIAC to assess over 170 trade and non trade occupations in the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) for purposes of migration. It has the sole discretion to determine whether the skill of an applicant in those occupations is suitable for the purpose of migration.

TRA 's proposed policy guidelines for skills assessment known as Migration Assessment Policy (MAP) will replace the Uniform Assessment Criteria (UAC) on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008.

#### A. General Information on TRA Guidelines

The basic Skill Stream table below from TRA will replace the Skill Pathways table.

	Skill Stream A – Australian			Skill Stream B – International	
Skill Category 1 Training/ Recognition	Formal Vocational Training <sup>1</sup>	Formal Skills Recognition <sup>1</sup>	ATRC <sup>2</sup> Criteria	Formal Vocational Training <sup>3</sup>	Formal Skills Recognition
Skill Category 2 Employment	900 Hours <sup>4</sup>	3 Years <sup>5</sup>	Determined by CTC	4 Years <sup>6</sup>	
<b>Primary Occupation</b>					
Additional Requirements	Supervisor			Vocational Education Teacher	
Secondary Qualification	Not Mandatory			AQF Certificate IV <sup>7</sup> or Formally Recognised Qualification <sup>8</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Australian Quality Training Framework AQTF compliant training /assessment resulting in an AQF Certificate III or above as applicable

<sup>2</sup> Issued to specified metal and electrical trades under the Tradesmen's Rights Regulation Act 1946 (TRR Act) (Cth)

<sup>3</sup> Of comparable international standard

<sup>4</sup> In addition to completion of formal vocational training

<sup>5</sup> Where an AQF Certificate III (or above as applicable) is awarded following completion of an AQTF compliant workplace assessment

<sup>6</sup> Inclusive of time spent undertaking formal training to a maximum of 1 year

Each Skill Stream is based on either an Australian qualification or non-Australian qualification and requires compliance with BOTH Skill Category 1 (qualification) and 2 (work experience) as follows:

- the applicant (you) will need to satisfy the minimum requirements listed in the Skill Stream that applies to you for purposes of suitable skills assessment under the General Skilled Migration.
  - a) Those with Australian Qualifications will fall under Skill Stream A (read below).
  - b) Those without Australian Qualifications will fall under Skill Stream B (read below).
  
- In all cases the applicant (you) will be required to satisfy and provide evidence to support your nominated occupation in regard to both
  - I) Training or Recognition (Qualifications) (Skill Category 1), and
  - II) Employment or Work Experience under (Skill Category 2)
    - Employment or work experience can take place before, during or after the formal training or formal skills recognition.

***(A) Skill Stream A - Australian Qualification***

Skill Category 1 – Formal Qualifications:

a) Vocational Training: has been obtained inside or outside Australia but must be in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) and result in the award of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate III or above applicable to the nominated occupation

OR

b) Skills Recognition: has been obtained inside or outside Australia but must result from completion of a compliant workplace assessment and result in the award of an AQF Certificate III applicable to the nominated occupation, and issued by an Australian RTO if the assessment is obtained overseas

Skill Category 2 – Employment or Work Experience

1) Under Vocational Training (Category 1(a) above), the threshold is 900 hours of work experience.

OR

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<sup>7</sup> Skill Stream A

<sup>8</sup> Skill Stream B

- 2) Under Skills Recognition, where an AQF III is awarded (through workplace assessment, Category 1(b) above), the threshold is 3 years of work experience.
- Employment or work experience in any case must include a skill level transition and must not include workplace training which is part of the curriculum and undertaken in the premises of the training provider.

***(B) Skill Stream B – Non-Australian Qualification (International)***

Skill Category 1 – Formal Qualifications:

- a) Vocational Training - Overseas formal vocational training must consist of structured curriculum delivered by an educational institution where tuition fees have been paid and must result in the award of a formally recognised qualification, applicable to the nominated occupation, e.g. Certificate III or Diploma
- b) Skills Recognition - must result from completion of a workplace assessment conducted by an organisation accredited by an authorised governing body whose standards can be independently verified by TRA and resulting in the award of a formally recognised qualification applicable to the nominated occupation or be confirmed by a recognised industrial or occupational licence

Skill Category 2: Work Experience or Employment

The threshold is 4 years. It must include a skill level transition. If you have completed formal vocational training, you may claim a maximum of 1 year credit towards the required 4 years of employment or work experience

***C. Additional Requirements for Supervisors***

There are additional work experience requirements for supervisors.

*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 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 Australia, 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)*

*Readers of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper are invited to send their comments to “The President, Filipino Migrants Forum” c/o Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, by email at [info@iargel.com.au](mailto:info@iargel.com.au) or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by post to Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.*