

Supplementary Seasonal Employer (SSE)

The SSE scheme is designed to help employers that have seasonal labour issues. It gives approved employers the ability to employ people that have changed their visitors visa to an SSE visa.

The employer does have to go through an accreditation process, the application form is accessible by clicking [here](#). The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is consulted in the employer approval process. It is important that any employer that is wanting to become an approved SSE employer has good engagement with MSD. Those employers who have RSE status are likely to find the approval process easier because the processes have similarities.

In the application the employer must provide what period that they want to be able to employ people on an SSE visa and how many staff they require. The period can be no longer than six months. This can also be split into shorter periods, i.e. 3months for picking and three months for summer work. MSD need to support the number of workers that you are requesting.

If this option is going to be considered, then applying to become an SSE employer should be completed in advance of the period when the staff are required. i.e. if staff are wanted for harvest then the application should be filed in January.

The SSE visa was called a Transitional Recognised Seasonal Employer (TRSE) prior to 2010. One of the issues that employers have had with both schemes is the number of people who have applied for the visa has been low. The industry can counter this by utilising the Labour Attraction Strategy to promote the type of visa and get more workers applying for the visa. This will only work if we have a reasonable number of employers obtaining approved employer status. Employees applying for this visa do need to be in New Zealand on a visitor's visa. If people enter New Zealand with the sole purpose of obtaining an SSE visa, they may be denied entry at the border.

Common Questions and Answers:

- Do employers need to hold RSE Status to apply for SSE?
 - No, any employer can apply
- Can workers apply for an SSE visa before they arrive in New Zealand?
 - Workers must be **onshore** on a visitor visa to apply for the SSE work visa
- How long does it take for the employer to get SSE visa status?
 - In 2019, 90% of applications were completed within 50 calendar days
- How long does it take for an employee to get an SSE visa?
 - In 2019 the SSE visa's were being processed in a similar time to the Variation of Conditions visa - 3 to 5 days
- Do you need to provide accommodation and pastoral care?
 - No
- How much does it cost?
 - For the employer it is \$290 including GST
 - For the employee it is \$495 including GST