



TSS VISA - PLANNING FOR IMPACTS ON TIMING

In contrast to 2014/15 when Government processing for a 457 visa took a few weeks, current processing times for a TSS/457 Visa have extended to 8 to 10 months. Under the new TSS Visa program, it is now mandatory to obtain police certificates from each country the visa applicant has spent 12 months in over the past 10 years. More rigorous Labour Market Testing requirements can also cause delays in the process. Accredited sponsorship can be an effective way to accelerate the nomination and visa process, as well as planning ahead for Labour Market Testing and police certificate requirements.

ACCREDITED SPONSORSHIP

Accredited Sponsorship is a more rigorous assessment by the Department of Home Affairs of eligible businesses to upgrade their Standard Business Sponsorship to accredited status.

Benefits include:

- Streamlined nomination processing and priority visa processing - usually within 1 week.
- An extended sponsorship validity period of 6 years rather than 5 years under Standard Business Sponsorship.

To apply, your business will need to be either:

- **Australian Trusted Traders** | An Australian business with at least 75% of its workforce in Australia.
- **A publicly-listed or private company** with an annual turnover of at least AUD\$4million in the last 2 years. The business must also be an active 457/TSS sponsor with a non-approval rate of less than 3% and a particular percentage of Australian workers.
- **A Commonwealth, State and Territory agency** with at least 75% of Australian workers.

Interstaff can assist your business to determine if it meets the requirements for Accredited Sponsorship and to prepare and manage the application process on your behalf.

You can also plan for the time it takes to undertake the new labour market testing requirements and obtain mandatory police certificates.

LABOUR MARKET TESTING

Businesses will need to ensure adequate time is factored in to conduct mandatory Labour Market Testing (LMT). This includes:

- Ensuring positions are advertised prior to the commencement of the application process.
- Ensuring advertisements are published for the required time-frame.
- Record keeping of all advertisements including copies of advertisements and payments for advertising.
- Recording LMT responses so they can be presented as part of the TSS application.

POLICE CERTIFICATE TIMEFRAMES

Police certificate processing times and complexity vary from country to country.

For example:

Australia	UK	USA	Other countries
2 to 3 weeks.	2 to 4 weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 to 3 weeks for citizens.• 3 to 4 months for non-citizens.	Lengthy timeframes possible due to requirements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper-based applications.• Finger-prints.• Power of Attorney.• The requirement to obtain a letter from the Immigration Department prior to applying.

A waiver of a police certificate requirement is only granted under very limited circumstances and will require an applicant to demonstrate the extensive lengths taken to obtain the certificates.

