



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Skills Assessment Criterion as a Validity Requirement from 1 January 2010 for Onshore GSM Visas

From 1 January 2010, applicants seeking to apply for the following onshore GSM visas will be required to have a suitable skills assessment before submitting an application:

- Skilled - Independent (Residence) Visa (Subclass 885)
- Skilled - Sponsored (Residence) Visa (Subclass 886)
- Skilled - Regional Sponsored (Provisional) Visa (Subclass 487).

Applications that do not include a suitable skills assessment will be invalid and returned to the applicant, or where applicable, the authorised recipient. The application will not be eligible for a visa decision.

All occupations eligible for migration under the above visa subclasses will be required to meet this requirement. The change is supported by an amendment to the *Migration Regulations 1994*. The change will affect applications lodged on or after 1 January 2010.

Due to this change, applicants will no longer be able to provide evidence that they have applied for a skills assessment in their nominated occupation with the relevant assessing authority as allowed pre 1 January 2010. Applicants **must** have obtained a suitable skills assessment in order to lodge a valid visa application and for it to be considered by the department.

Remember, a suitable skills assessment means a skills assessment issued by the relevant assessing authority stating that your skills are suitable to perform the tasks required as part of your nominated occupation. The occupation you are assessed for must be the same occupation as stated in your visa application.

If you have any questions regarding the skills assessment process, these should be directed to the relevant assessing authority.

See: [Australian Skills Recognition Information \(ASRI\)](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

I am about to apply for an onshore GSM visa. Will I be required to have a suitable skills assessment before applying?

If you are applying for either a Subclass 487, 885 or 886 visa on or after 1 January 2010, you will need to have obtained a suitable skills assessment in order to lodge a valid visa application. More information on how to obtain a skills assessment is available on the department's website.

See: [Australian Skills Recognition Information \(ASRI\)](#)

Why am I now required to have a suitable skills assessment before applying?

It is now a requirement that an applicant has a suitable skills assessment in order to be able to lodge a valid application for specified onshore GSM visas. This change has been made to ensure that applicants seeking to migrate to Australia have the necessary skills to perform in the occupation they have nominated and can successfully compete for work in their field. Requiring an applicant to already have a suitable skills assessment before applying will also bring the requirement in line with offshore GSM visas where a suitable skills assessment outcome is required at time of application.

I applied for a skills assessment but the assessing authority did not rate me as suitable. What do I do?

If you do not receive a positive skills assessment for the occupation you have nominated for migration, you will not be able to lodge a valid application if you intend on applying for either a Subclass 487, 885 or 886 visa. You should contact the department as soon as you are aware that you have not been issued with a suitable skills assessment by the relevant assessing authority to discuss your options and ensure that you remain lawfully in Australia.

The department can be contacted on 1300 364 613 or online.

See: [Contact Us](#)

If you have any questions regarding the skills assessment outcome, you should contact the relevant assessing authority to discuss them. These details are available on the department's website.

See: [Australian Skills Recognition Information \(ASRI\)](#)

What happens if I am unable to obtain a suitable skills assessment before my current visa expires?

If you are intending to apply to migrate to Australia, you should apply for a skills assessment as soon as you are able to do so. You should contact the relevant assessing authority well in advance of your intended application date to determine what is required, that you are eligible to apply and how long the assessment will take.

If it looks like you are unable to obtain a suitable skills assessment outcome before your current visa expires, you should contact the department as soon as possible to discuss your options and to ensure that you remain lawfully in Australia. Options that may be available to you include finding an alternative visa option to remain lawfully in Australia or departing Australia and applying through the offshore GSM streams.

The department can be contacted on 1300 364 613 or online.

See: [Contact Us](#)

I have applied for my skills assessment but have not yet applied for my GSM visa. Am I able to apply if I provide evidence that I have applied for a skills assessment for my nominated occupation?

No. From 1 January 2010, unless you have obtained a positive skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority in your nominated occupation, you are not able to apply for a GSM visa. If you do seek to apply, your application will be invalid and returned to you. A decision on your application will not be made by the department.

This requirement applies to all applications for an onshore GSM visa (excluding subclass 485 and 887 visas).

My application to migrate to Australia under the GSM program has not been accepted as I did not have a suitable skills assessment before I applied. I applied after 1 January 2010. What should I do?

If the department has returned your application as it is not valid, you should contact the department as soon as possible to discuss your options and to ensure that you remain lawfully in Australia. Possible options the department may discuss with you, depending on your individual circumstances include:

- making a valid GSM application after you have obtained a suitable skills assessment
- seeking an alternative visa option if you are unable to meet the requirements of lodging a valid GSM visa application
- departing Australia.

The department can be contacted on 1300 364 613 or online.

See: [Contact Us](#)

How does the change to the skills assessment criterion becoming validity requirement affect my Subclass 485 visa application?

The above changes to the skills assessment validity requirements only affect Subclass 487, 885 and 886 visas - your Subclass 485 visa application is not affected. You are still able to demonstrate at time of application that you have either applied for or have already received a suitable skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority.