



OPERATIONAL BULLETIN: OPS-2017-25

TITLE: Arctic Cruises and Work Permit Exemptions

Date of Issue: 2017-07-13	Mode(s): All	Target Audience: National	Area of Interest: Travellers
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Details:

The purpose of this Operational Bulletin is to clarify work permit exemptions under R186 for crew members and other employees on Arctic cruise ships if the ship is foreign-owned and not registered in Canada, and is engaged primarily in international transportation.

Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has recently amended its work permit exemption policy under R186(a) to include employees aboard these vessels who are in occupations that provide an enhanced experience for passengers, such as lecturers, geologists, or naturalists. Additionally, IRCC International Mobility Worker Units (IMWUs) has issued a number of positive work permit exemption opinions with regards to these types of positions. IRCC has clarified that the above position now qualify under R186(a) as these individuals meet the general qualifying criteria in that their remuneration is outside of Canada, the employer's location and accrual profits are outside of Canada, there is no intent to enter the Canadian labour market and their activities fall within an international scope. With this in mind, officers are asked to consider the positive IMWU opinions when rendering their decision. Please see: <http://cicintranet.ci.gc.ca/connexion/tools-outils/temp/work-travail/permit-permis/business-affaires/index-eng.aspx> for additional information on business visitors under R186(a).

Officers are also reminded that individuals may be eligible and may choose to request entry into Canada under a part of the new Global Skills Strategy (GSS) initiative, which provides work permit exemptions for individuals in professions that fall under NOC skill type 0 (executive, managerial) or skill level A (professional), if the work to be performed is of short duration. Please see: http://atlas/pb-dgp/res/bulletins/bso-asf/2017/prg_2017_26_eng.asp for more information.

Please Note: Despite the work permit exemptions, Arctic cruise ship operators may still choose to apply for Labour Market Impact Assessments before work permit applications are made. Should they decide to do so, officers should process such work permit applications as usual.



Actions required by frontline staff:

- Officers and Superintendents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with this Operational Bulletin.

Contact Information:

Traveller Processing Unit, Traveller Operations Division, Border Operations Directorate, Operations Branch

If you have any further questions, please forward them through the regional Corporate and Program Services Divisions, which (if required) will then send an email to the Port of Entry Operations' generic inbox: [CBSA-ASFC Ops Travellers-Voyageurs](mailto:CBSA-ASFC_Ops_Travellers-Voyageurs).

Approved by:

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Effective Date: 2017-07-13

Updated: N/A

Additional bulletins: http://atlas/ob-dgo/res/bulletins/bs0-asf/index_eng.asp