

RISK BRIEF

FRAUDULENT WORK EXPERIENCE FOR FIJIAN FORESTRY WORKERS

7 June 2023
RV_RB_2023_PAC_103

KEY POINTS

This document highlights a potential risk of fraudulent work experience letters submitted for Fijian Forestry workers.

A fraudulent work experience letter from the **Commercial information** was identified in five AEWV applications for Fijian national forestry workers with a job offer from one New Zealand employer.

All of the AEWV applications were triaged as high risk with Risk rule M0919¹ for fraudulent skills and/or experience documentation triggered. Of the five AEWV applications, four have been approved. Risk treatments conducted in the four applications were not sufficient to have detected the document fraud. The applications were processed in line with General Instructions² for AEWV applications.

Risk and Verification (R&V) will update the risk advice for M0919 risk rule to highlight the heightened risk of fraudulent work experience from Fijian forestry workers and recommend direct verification checks with the issuing authority.

ANALYSIS

Pacific Verification team (VT) identified as part of a Risk Treatment Referral for an Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) application that false and misleading evidence of work experience was submitted in support of the visa application.

The AEWV application was for a Fijian national with a job offer for a Forestry Worker position (ANZSCO code 841311) with New Zealand employer – **Commercial information**

¹ <http://inzkit/publish/RiskAdvice/M0919.htm>

² <http://inzkit/publish/visapak/visapak/#78144.htm>

The fraudulent letter from the Commercial information was submitted as evidence of the applicant meeting the work experience requirement of the Job Check.

Pacific VT further reviewed AEWV applications supported by the New Zealand employer with the following findings:

Commercial information

- Holds High Volume employer accreditation Commercial information until 06 July 2024
- Approved Job Check Commercial information for 50 Forestry Worker positions
- Minimum approved work experience for Job Check is six months planting experience with tree seedlings
- 31 AEWV applications have been received this Job Check of which 25 applications have been approved

Findings from the 31 applications

- Of the 31 AEWV applications, five applications³ were found to have submitted letters from the Commercial information
- Commercial information have confirmed that they do not have any records that they have provided training to the applicants and that the letters were forged
- Four applications have been approved and the clients are onshore

Fraudulent Work Experience letters

Characteristics of the fraudulent letters⁴ observed:

- The letters are dated 02 May 2022 and signed by Privacy of natural persons
- The letters state that the applicant has six- or twelve-months experience planting on their Forestry Estates and is proficient in the “two cut manual planting technique required to plant Pinus Radiata”.
- The file name of the letters begin with Commercial information and usually followed by the applicant’s name e.g. Commercial information – First name Last name.pdf

Risk treatments

- All of the applications⁶ were triaged High risk
- Risk rule M0919 for fraudulent documentation provided for skills and/or experience triggered on all applications
- Risk treatments conducted in the four approved applications included internet search, application file examination and correspondence with New Zealand employer. No direct checks with Commercial information were done to have detected the document fraud.
- The applications were processed in line with General Instructions (GI) for AEWV applications. GI recommends quick verification in the first instance for High-Risk applications and Immigration Officers (IO) must consult with a Technical Advisor (TA) to proceed with intermediate verification.

³ Refer to Appendix 1

⁴ Refer to Appendix 2

⁵ Commercial information confirmed that Privacy of natural persons is a current employee of Commercial information

⁶ Excludes two AEWV applications still in gathering information stage Privacy of natural persons

Other Potential Risks

- It is observed that primary email contact for the five applications is Privacy of natural persons which appears to be the email contact for Privacy of natural persons
- Out of the 31 AEWV applications, the primary email contact for 17 applicants is Privacy of natural persons while 14 applicants have the primary email contact as Privacy of natural persons

Knowledge Gaps

- It is unknown whether Commercial information is aware that the letters were fraudulent

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. R&V to update risk advice for M0919 risk rule to highlight the heightened risk of fraudulent work experience from Commercial information and recommend direct verification checks with the issuing authority.
2. R&V will refer this risk brief to Compliance through the National Prioritisation Process to assess the four clients who are onshore and assess any potential involvement of the New Zealand employer.
3. R&V will refer via NPP for AERMR consideration.
4. R&V to advise BVO via Te Karere of the risk and steps taken.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Details of five applicants with the fraudulent work experience letter

Client Name	Client Number	Status
Privacy of natural persons		Onshore
Privacy of natural persons		Onshore
Privacy of natural persons		Onshore
Privacy of natural persons		Onshore
Privacy of natural persons		Offshore

APPENDIX 2

Fraudulent Work Experience Letter for CN Privacy of natural persons

Privacy of natural persons

Fraudulent Work Experience Letter for Privacy of natural persons

Privacy of natural persons

ADMINISTRATION

Production

	<i>Author:</i>	<i>Review:</i>	<i>Released:</i>
	Privacy of natural persons		
<i>Role</i>	Verification Officer – Pacific		Risk and Verification Manager
<i>Date</i>	07/06/2023		12/06/2023
<i>Phone</i>			

RVTG

<i>RVTG Required</i>	<i>Date sent to RVTG</i>	<i>Outcome of RVTG</i>	<i>Description of Change</i>
Choose an item.	Enter date here.	Choose an item.	

Document Control

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Author:</i>	<i>Description of Change</i>

Dissemination List

[This needs to include groups outside of the [Te Karere distribution list](#) who you intend to send this report. If the report is not appropriate for Te Karere then this will also need to state who the report is going to and how it will be disseminated]

Link to shared location

[MAKO link or link to verification toolkit where the report will be stored]

Document Handling Instructions

Security Procedures

This document (and any attachments) are for risk assessment purposes only and may not be used evidentially. This document must be handled, stored and transferred in accordance with the security procedures applicable to its security restriction as detailed in the [MBIE Security Hub](#).

Dissemination

Requests for further dissemination of this document should be directed to the Author, a manager within the Risk & Verification Network, or Risk & Verification Central, and include a reason for the further dissemination. It must not be disseminated to other work areas or agencies without the prior authorisation from a manager within the Risk & Verification Network. No attachments to this document can be reproduced without prior authorisation from a manager within the Risk & Verification Network.

Copying

This document may not be copied without authorisation from a manager within the Risk & Verification Network. Information in this document may only be incorporated in other documents or otherwise used, subject to the conditions in the Handling Instructions and provided that such use does not lessen the degree of protection afforded this information.

Official Information Act 1982

This document remains the property of MBIE. The release of information contained in the document may prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

Privacy Act 2020

This document may contain information relating to individuals that is covered by the principles of the Privacy Act 2020. Accordingly, this document should be protected by use of the above security measures to safeguard against its loss, or unauthorised access, use, modification or disclosure.