



NEW POLICY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE RECRUITMENT OF OVERSEAS NURSES

The Philippine Embassy in London has reported that effective August 14, 2006, the United Kingdom Home Office will no longer include general nurses in the shortage occupation list but will retain only those with specific fields of specialization. This new policy will mean that employers in the United Kingdom (both the NHS and independent health providers) will have to advertise first and prove to the Home Office (Work Permit UK) that they cannot fill the vacancy with UK or EEA applicant or that no resident nationals are considered suitable.

The new policy, however, does not cover foreign nurses who belong to the following areas of specialization which are still included in the shortage occupation list:

- Nurses employed or engaged in the NHS at band 7 or 8 of Agenda for Change, or those employed or engaged in one or more of the following specialties:
 - Audiology
 - Sleep/Respiratory Physiology
 - Neurophysiology
 - Cardiac Physiology
 - Operating Theatre Nursing
 - Clinical Radiology
 - Pathology
 - Critical Care

The following skills are still included in the shortage occupation list:

- Midwives
- Railway Engineers
- Structural/Bridge Engineers
- Transportation and Highway Engineers
- CAA Licensed Aircraft Engineers
- Veterinary Surgeons

United Kingdom Health Minister Lord Warner announced earlier that the NHS no longer needed to hire foreign junior nurses in view of the reported expansion of the UK nursing workforce. The move to delist the general nurses from the shortage list was intended to ensure a career for UK residents and newly trained nurses. NHS employers clarified, however, that the change would not affect the nurses currently working in the UK.

Source:POLO LONDON
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