

Verification of responsibilities and privileges knowledge

Introduction This policy outlines the Citizenship Act 1977 requirement that an applicant have a sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges attached to New Zealand citizenship.

Note:

Required for all grant types except Western Samoan and GRSPEC.

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Verification of responsibilities and privileges knowledge, Continued

Legislation

Citizenship Act 1977 Section 8 Citizenship by Grant Section 8(2)(d) of the Citizenship Act 1977 requires an applicant to satisfy the Minister that the applicant has:
'sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges attaching to New Zealand citizenship'.

Exception

The Minister has decided not to have regard to the responsibilities and privileges requirement for minors who are under 14 years of age.

Knowledge of responsibilities and privileges The applicant must have a 'knowledge of' the responsibilities and privileges, rather than apply this knowledge in practice. See checklist - [Checking responsibilities and privileges for citizenship by grant](#).

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Legislation,

Demonstrating knowledge

How an applicant should demonstrate their knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges

Section 24 of the citizenship application form provides a means for applicants to detail their understanding of the responsibilities and privileges of New Zealand citizenship.

When completing section 24 of the application form, an applicant may refer to some or all of the responsibilities and privileges included in the citizenship booklet, or provide other examples of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship.

Responsibilities and privileges schedule

An assessment of whether an applicant has a sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship should be based, in the first instance, on the information contained in section 24 of the application form.

An applicant who indicates their knowledge of two responsibilities and two privileges of citizenship should be considered to have a sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges attaching to New Zealand citizenship.

To be included on a schedule, an applicant must demonstrate that they are clearly able to meet the requirement.

Doubt

If the applicant has a limited knowledge of English, and there is some doubt about whether the applicant completed the responsibilities and privileges section of the form personally, contact the applicant or arrange an interview to enable a further assessment to be made.

Applicants assessed as having insufficient knowledge

An applicant who is initially assessed as having an insufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship should be given the opportunity to provide additional information to demonstrate that they have a sufficient knowledge.

If an applicant is subsequently assessed as having an insufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, then the application must be referred to the Minister of Internal Affairs as a submission.

Note:

If this requirement is not clearly met by the applicant, see policy - [Grant of citizenship by reason of exceptional circumstances and public interest](#).

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Legislation links

[Citizenship Act 1977](#)

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