

International Mobility Workers Unit (IMWU):

Helping employers and supporting a worker's smooth entry into Canada



What is the IMWU?

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)'s IMWU provides opinions at no cost to Canadian employers on whether you and the temporary foreign worker you want to hire can be exempt from the following requirements:

- [Labour Market Impact Assessment \(LMIA\)](#);
- [work permit](#).

Who can request an opinion?

You or your representative can request an opinion if the worker is:

- located outside of Canada;
- from a [country whose nationals do not require a visa to enter Canada](#); and
- [eligible to apply for a work permit at the port of entry \(POE\)](#).

What are the benefits?

There are more than 60 LMIA and work permit exemptions. We can help you determine whether you are eligible.

A positive IMWU opinion can lead to a more predictable outcome for the worker, and provides supporting documentation to assist the Border Service Officer's (BSO) final decision.

How do I request an opinion?

Email IRCC.DNIMWU-UMITRN.IRCC@ic.gc.ca and include the following:

- a copy of the biographic data page of the worker's passport;
- supporting documentation such as:
 - » a letter explaining the details of the company and staffing needs;
 - » a job offer or employment contract;
 - » the worker's curriculum vitae (CV);
 - » the worker's diploma, if applicable;
 - » any other relevant documents according to the selected exemption code.
- a complete [request form \[IMM 5686\]](#);
 - » the [LMIA exemption](#) or [work permit exemption](#) code that is most relevant to your hiring situation.

The total size of the email cannot be larger than 4 MB.

What happens next?

If the IMWU provides a positive opinion:

- provide the worker with a copy of the letter you received to present to a BSO at the POE upon their arrival in Canada.
- the BSO makes the final decisions on:
 - » the LMIA exemption, work permit exemption or both;
 - » the temporary foreign worker's admissibility into Canada.

For more information

IMWU: canada.ca/ircc-workers-unit;
Employer toolkit: canada.ca/hire-immigrants.

