



**WORK PERMITS FOR
SPOUSES OF SKILLED
WORKERS**

[August 2018]

Work Permits for Spouses of Skilled Work Permit Holders

Spouses or common-law partners of **skilled** people coming to Canada as foreign workers may themselves be authorized to work without first having an offer of employment. See [here](#) re C41 exemption.

A dependent spouse is eligible to apply for an open work permit if the principal foreign worker

- holds a work permit that is valid for a period of at least six months, or, if working under the authority of section R186 without a work permit, presents evidence that they will be working for a minimum of six months;
- is employed in an occupation that falls within National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill levels 0, A or B (which generally include management and professional occupations and technical or skilled trades [see the [NOC website](#)]);
- physically resides or plans to physically reside in Canada while working.

In call cases please confirm with IRCC.

The spousal applicant should submit all the supporting documents, including

- a letter from the principal foreign worker's current employer confirming employment or a copy of their employment offer or contract; and
- a copy of the principal foreign worker's last three pay slips.

There are other requirements—please confirm with IRCC.

Remember: you must also provide proof of your marital or common-law status.

[Application form](#)

This guide is an overview only—please consult IRCC for all programs and details.



Please note IRCC rules and regulations can be updated at any time. Be sure to clear your cookies and cache to get the most up-to-date documents and checklists as you complete your application.

This guide cannot be relied upon from a legal perspective. I/CAN provides information—[not advice](#). This information is gleaned from IRCC's website. Before proceeding, verify all information with IRCC.