



## **IMMIGRATION POINTS SYSTEM**

- The Government unveiled a new immigration system in March which will have implications for hospitality businesses – particularly in London and other major cities – who employ large numbers of casual, temporary foreign staff.
- The system is designed to make it easier for highly skilled workers in specific sectors to enter the UK, but more difficult for those with low or no skills entering from outside the EU. The new system will take effect from summer 2007 and replaces the previous managed migration scheme.
- The system will award points to individuals wishing to enter the UK to work and a minimum number of points will be required to obtain entry clearance. The points awarded will be based on qualifications, work experience and language skills and will be used to support decisions on applications.
- Applicants will be sorted into one of 5 categories and a priority placed on their application accordingly:
  - **highly skilled:** workers with the most to contribute and generate wealth
  - **skilled:** those with job offers for key jobs such as nursing or teaching
  - **low skilled:** limited numbers to fill specific temporary labour shortages
  - **students**
  - **temporary:** allowed to work for limited period

Applicants in all categories except those deemed 'highly skilled' will need a sponsor and a job offer before they can enter the country.

### ***Implications for Licensed Retailers***

- The managed migration scheme allowed low skilled workers to enter the country to fill specific labour shortages, and the needs of the hospitality industry were specifically recognised in that. This scheme will now come to an end, with employers being encouraged to fill these gaps with workers from the EU and Eastern Europe who do not need specific permission to work here.
- Employers, particularly London, may find it more difficult to find suitable temporary or casual staff and this may have an impact on wage rates and recruitment.
- Employers are liable for a £2,000 fine for each worker employed illegally or who overstays their temporary permission to work.

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