



Sponsors’ responsibility when sponsoring non-Australian citizens

Any person who needs access to Australian Government Classified resources is required to hold a security clearance that has been recognised by the Australian Government.

To be eligible for a security clearance, an individual must be an Australian citizen and have a checkable background.

In accordance with Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF), Policy 12: Eligibility and suitability of personnel, a sponsoring entity can request either of these eligibility requirements be waived, on the condition that a risk assessment has been conducted and there is an exceptional business case.

Sponsors can follow the below processes as appropriate for non-Australian citizens

Before a non-Australian citizen can undergo an Australian security clearance process, their sponsor must submit a Citizenship Eligibility Waiver

When there is significant national interest or an exceptional business requirement for a non-Australian citizen to access classified resources, an SVA013 Citizenship Eligibility Waiver can be submitted to AGSVA by the sponsoring entity. This waives the citizenship eligibility requirement to hold an Australian security clearance, allowing AGSVA to conduct a vetting assessment or to recognise and transfer a security clearance held in a Five Eyes country.

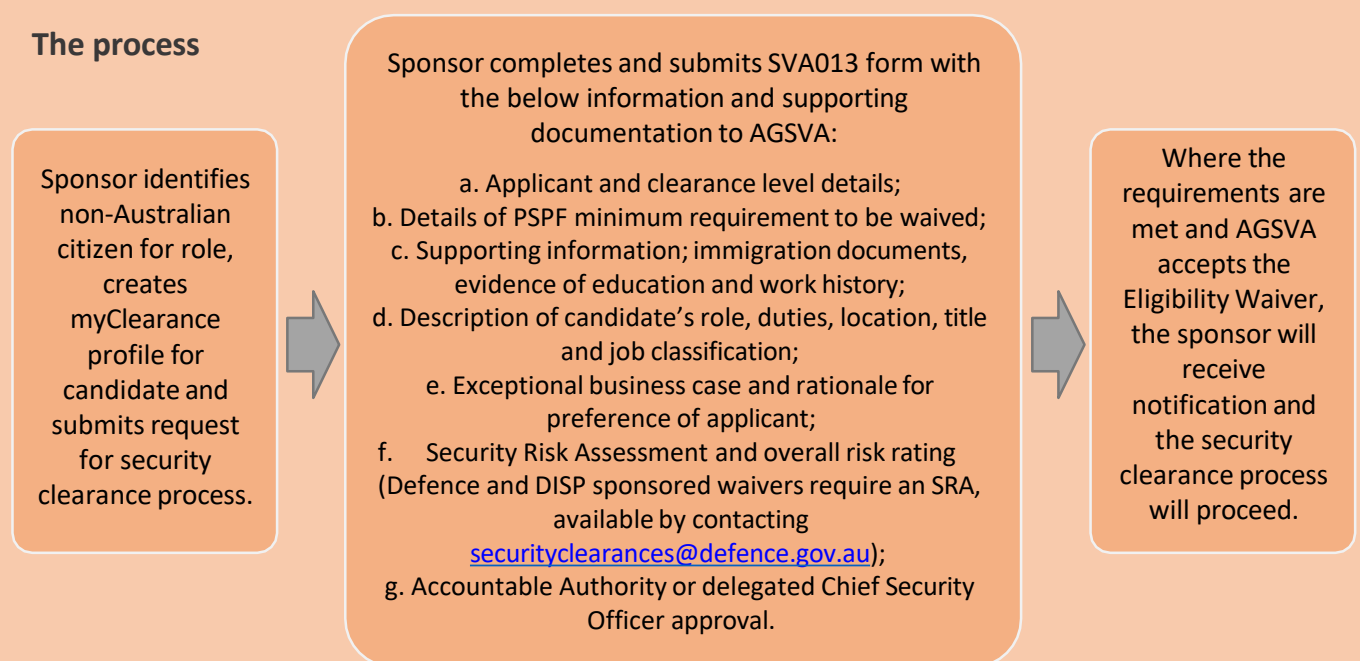
A waiver does not act as or guarantee that the individual will be granted an Australian security clearance.

The authority to waive an eligibility requirement is held by a Commonwealth entity's Accountable Authority, as per the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013. This authority can be delegated to the entity's Chief Security Officer.

In Defence, the Accountable Authority is the Secretary of Defence, delegated to the Chief Security Officer (First Assistant Secretary, Defence Security Division). Defence eligibility waivers must be approved by the relevant Group Head or Service Chief, prior to submission to the Chief Security Officer via AGSVA.

Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) companies cannot accept security risk on behalf of the Commonwealth. Where an eligibility waiver is required for a DISP employee, the contract manager is to first obtain approval for the waiver from the relevant Group Head or Service Chief, who will then escalate the waiver to the Chief Security Officer of Defence for final endorsement, via AGSVA.

The process



Security clearances granted by Five Eyes countries may be eligible to be recognised and transferred to an Australian security clearance

When a non-Australian citizen requires access to classified resources, they hold a current national security clearance issued by a Five Eyes country, the sponsor may request to recognise and/or transfer the security clearance to Australia.

Sponsors can request a security clearance recognition via myClearance by providing the details of the issuing country and agency once the clearance subject's profile has been created.

Once the Citizenship Eligibility Waiver has been approved using the process above, AGSVA will contact the Five Eyes country and agency to confirm the status of the foreign security clearance, and update the clearance subject's myClearance profile accordingly



Department of Defence sponsors, or those supporting Defence contracts, have the option to request temporary recognition of a foreign national security clearance using the international visits process

Non-Australian citizens travelling to Australia on Defence business may have their foreign national security clearances temporarily recognised by AGSVA (up to 12 months), when that country holds a Security of Information Agreement (SIA) with Australia.

Confirmation of the traveller’s foreign security clearance level must be provided by the appropriate (NSA/DSA/CSA) authority, prior to submission to AGSVA.

Similarly, Australian members of Defence travelling overseas may have their Australian security clearance temporarily recognised by the foreign country, when that country hold a Security of Information Agreement or Arrangement (SIA) with Australia.

These requests can be submitted to AGSVA for authorisation and submission to the appropriate point of contact.

For further information please contact securityclearances@defence.gov.au



Important information regarding Eligibility Waivers

Sponsors are required to complete and submit annual reviews for all waivers, confirming the ongoing requirements and to ensure risk mitigation strategies remain fit for purpose.

Waivers are role-specific, non-transferable, finite and subject to review. The waiver applies only while the clearance holder remains in the position for which the waiver was granted. To transfer a waiver to a new position, a review must be completed and submitted with an updated risk assessment.

While a sponsor may waive an eligibility requirement, this does not guarantee that the clearance subject will be found suitable to hold an Australian security clearance. This will be determined by AGSVA.

Where the accountable authority has waived the citizenship or checkable background requirements, the number of personnel in the entity with active waivers and the type of waivers are [reportable under PSPF, Policy 5: Reporting on security](#).



Managing access to AUSTEO (Australian Eyes Only) information

The Australian Government Security Caveat Guidelines make it clear that AUSTEO is strictly for Australian citizens. The guidelines make provision for the originating agency to reconsider application of the AUSTEO caveat and where appropriate, sanitise AUSTEO material to allow releasability to non-Australian citizens. The sanitised information cannot be released to non-Australian citizens without agreement from the originating agency.

Section C.3.2 of PSPF [Policy 9: Access to information](#) states that, ‘If there is a business need to share AUSTEO information with a person who is not an Australian citizen, the originator can, on a case-by-case basis, reconsider application of the AUSTEO caveat to its information and, if warranted, apply a different caveat or classification to that information (e.g. the AGAO caveat or REL caveat). For guidance on reclassifying information, see section C.2.6 of PSPF [Policy 8: Classification system](#).’

For further information on Eligibility Waivers please visit <https://www.agsva.gov.au>

