

## **Sectors Based Scheme**

Work Permits (UK) will be introducing a new low skilled work permit scheme on 30 May 2003. The Sectors Based Scheme (SBS) will operate in the food manufacturing (fish processing, meat processing and mushroom processing) and hospitality (hotel and catering) sectors. In order to ensure that the Entry Clearance process works smoothly, it has been decided that the quota for Sectors Based Scheme from 30 May 2003 to 31 January 2004 will be released as follows:

- 30 May 2003 - 7,500 for EU Accession Countries and 5,000 for Nationals of non EU Accession Countries
- 30 September 2003 - 3750 for Nationals of countries other than EU Accession Countries
- 30 November 2003 - 3750 for Nationals of countries other than EU Accession Countries.

The scheme will operate in the same way as the existing work permit arrangements. Permits will be available where employers can show that they have been unable to recruit resident workers in certain posts, which are below NVQ level 3, but they will only be issued in respect of individual overseas employees aged 18-30. A full list of posts covered by the schemes is contained in the employer guidance notes, which will be available soon. Subject to Parliamentary procedures, the cost of an SBS application will be £74, with the exception of those nationalities exempt from charging. A leaflet giving information on their rights, and contact numbers, will be issued to permit holders. The applications forms for SBS will be released at 00:01 (24hr) on 30 May.

If you have any enquiries, please do not contact the relevant business team until after 30 May. In the meantime, any queries should be directed to Work Permits (UK)'s Customer Relations Team on 0114 259 4074