

## Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Circular

Department for Work and Pensions

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# HB/CTB A10/2011

### ADJUDICATION AND OPERATIONS CIRCULAR

<b>WHO SHOULD READ</b>	All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff
<b>ACTION</b>	For information
<b>SUBJECT</b>	End of the Worker Registration Scheme

### Guidance Manual

information in this circular does affect the content of the HB/CTB Guidance Manual. Please annotate this circular number against *paragraph C4.59 – 4.62*.

### Queries

If you

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## End of the Worker Registration Scheme

- 1 Since 1 May 2004 nationals from Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (A8 nationals) have, subject to certain exemptions, been required to register their employment with the Home Office's Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) in order to be treated as workers. If subject to the scheme they could only claim HB/CTB when in registered employment. Once they had completed 12 months' registered employment they were no longer subject to the scheme. Self-employed A8 nationals were not subject to the restrictions.
- 2 The WRS ended on 30 April 2011. This means that from 1 May 2011, A8 nationals
  - are no longer required to register their employment to be treated as workers, and
  - can claim HB/CTB as jobseekers (provided they have claimed income based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)))
- 3 After 1 May 2011 A8 nationals will be able to retain their worker status in the usual way, for example because they are temporarily unable to work due to an illness or accident. Special transitional rules apply to those still subject to the scheme as at 30 April 2011.
- 4 A8 nationals who arrive in the UK on or after 1 May 2011 can apply for JSA(IB), and therefore HB/CTB, if they are here to seek work but must satisfy the second part of the habitual residence test, i.e. show that they are habitually resident in the UK.
- 5 The Worker Authorisation Scheme for nationals from Bulgaria and Romania (A2 nationals) remains in place after 30 April 2011.