



Continuous Hours (MPPA)

Continuous Hours (or ‘French hours’) mean there is no designated unpaid meal break during the shooting day, other than as may be reasonably required for health and safety reasons.

Process

The Motion Picture Production Agreement (MPPA) does not include a provision to work continuous hours, so a producer must request a variation from MEAA to use Continuous Hours.

MEAA seeks direction from members on the production by running a vote on whether or not to agree to the producer’s request. Members generally consider whether they think the production has the capacity to provide adequate meals and breaks to crew during Continuous Hours.

If members approve the request, a deed between the producer and MEAA is drawn up and signed.

Who is covered

Continuous Hours apply to on-set crew, i.e. someone who is part of the shooting crew or required to start work with the shooting crew on set, nominated on the call sheet.

Conditions

The deed includes conditions that must be applied as part of any Continuous Hours day.

Notice

You must be given at least 48 hours’ notice of the use of Continuous Hours and changing back to standard hours.

Breaks and Rest Periods

Meal and rest breaks must be provided and taken in consultation with the Employee’s Head of Department.

Facilities

Adequate facilities such as seating, toilets, and washing facilities must be provided in the immediate vicinity of the set for the duration of the day.

Health and Safety

A nurse is to be available to all crew as required.

Meals

Hot breakfast (or meal appropriate for the time of day) will be provided prior to crew call.

Meals provided during Continuous Hours will be kept hot (where appropriate and when requested) and readily accessible.

Substantial craft services (nutritious food, e.g. buffet, sandwiches, cheese, bread rolls and spreads, fresh fruit, yoghurt, tea/coffee/ juices) will be available and accessible for extended periods from general crew call time until camera wrap.

Overtime and penalty rates

Any day where Continuous Hours are worked, reasonable endeavours must be used to avoid requiring work beyond the 10th hour.

Overtime is payable in accordance with the normal MPPA overtime rates, however there is an additional overtime penalty that applies when Continuous Hours go longer than 10 hours.

During Continuous Hours, any time worked after the end of the 10th hour of shooting until camera wrap is paid at triple time.

After camera wrap, penalties revert back to normal overtime based on the whole time worked that day.

Monday – Saturday	Time and a half for the first 2 hours, double time up to 12 hours
Sunday	Double time up to 12 hours
Any day exceeding 12 hours (or 13 hours on overnight location)	Triple time
Continuous Hours: shooting that continues past 10 hours until camera wrap	Triple time

Rates

The producer must also agree to pay, at a minimum, the MEAA recommended MPPA rates.

If you have any questions, please contact MEAA’s Member Services Team on 1300 65 65 13.