



RECORDED & BROADCAST PRODUCTIONS CONSULTATION INFORMATION

This information sheet outlines the requirements of union consultation for performers and personnel seeking a Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) under the Entertainment Activities stream to work in recorded and broadcast screen productions in Australia.

These include but are not limited to local and foreign feature films, television series, mini-series, telemovies, documentaries, reality and variety programs, sports programs, television commercials, corporate videos, music videos, and any post-production, online content or broadcasts.

Performer means anyone who appears on-screen during a recorded or broadcast production. This includes, but is not limited to: actors in leading, supporting or cameo roles, stunt performers, presenters, hosts, voice-over artists, interviewees, or any person who appears on screen.

Personnel means anyone who is working off-screen in any capacity on a recorded or broadcast production. This includes, but is not limited to: producers, directors, cinematographers, heads of department, digital artists, production coordinators, hair and make-up artists, assistants, and other production and technical crew and support staff.

HOW TO APPLY

All performers and personnel seeking to work in Australia must apply for and be granted a Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) under the Entertainment Activities stream. The applicant's sponsor or supporter must consult with the relevant union when applying for this visa and, if required, apply for a Foreign Actor Certificate (FACS) from the Arts Minister.

1. MEAA CONSULTATION

We recommend lodging your application with MEAA as early as possible. The consultation process is straightforward if the application complies with union consultation requirements, the Fair Work Act, the Migration Regulations, etc. If the application does not comply or is complex, MEAA will advise accordingly and request further information or documentation.

MEAA accepts applications for union consultation through our online web form <https://www.meaa.org/imports-activity-visa/>

Please ensure you have the following documentation and information ready before submitting your online application:

A. APPLICATION DETAILS

- ☐ Sponsor/Supporter details (including contact name, street address, email, phone number)
- ☐ Visa applicant's full name (as on passport) and role
- ☐ Cover letter outlining the reason/justification for engaging the applicant

B. APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION

- ☐ Contract/Deal Memo (Australian Minimum weekly pay rates and conditions, including meals, per diems, etc.)
- ☐ Confirmation of return international airfares, accommodation, ground transport, etc.
- ☐ Applicant's resume/CV/IMDB profile
- ☐ Confirmation of applicant's professional membership (SAG-AFTRA, Equity UK, Irish Equity, etc.)

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C. PRODUCTION DOCUMENTATION

- ☐ Synopsis of the production
- ☐ Production schedule/itinerary for pre-production, filming, etc.
- ☐ List detailing all Australian on-screen roles, production/technical crew positions, and support staff

D. FILM & TELEVISION ACTORS (ONLY APPLIES TO SCRIPTED FEATURE FILMS AND TV DRAMAS)

- ☐ Regulation under which the application is being submitted to the **Foreign Actor Certification Scheme**
- ☐ Total number of Australian actors engaged in each of the following: Lead, Support, Cameo, Stunt, and Extras
- ☐ Finance plan detailing Australian budget, foreign finance, government or state subsidy and/or producers offset
- ☐ A copy of the script (strictly confidential)
- ☐ Line/scene count for all lead, support, and cameo/other roles in the script
- ☐ Detailed letter from Casting Agent/Director (if submitted as Exceptional Case under FACS)

Please note that MEAA reserves the right to request further information or require certain obligations about your application, e.g., safety reports, bond lodgment, adherence to animal welfare regulations, child labour laws, compliance with Indigenous protocols, etc.

For on-screen performers and off-screen personnel, the application must contain all requested documents and demonstrate that the Migration Regulations are met regarding Minimum rates of pay and conditions, the Net Employment Benefit, and Labour Market Testing where applicable.

For actors working in scripted film or television, the application must contain all requested documents, comply with the Foreign Actor Certification Scheme (FACS) Guidelines, and demonstrate that the Migration Regulations are met in regards to Minimum rates of pay and conditions, the Net Employment Benefit, and Casting Guidelines where applicable.

If you are applying for an actor based on exceptional circumstances under FACS, it may be necessary for the application to be considered by the National Performers Committee (NPC). Meetings occur monthly but can be convened for urgent and exceptional cases if required, provided a genuine need is put forward and the required documentation is provided.

Under certain circumstances, MEAA can provide written in-principle support, pending a complete application, if prima facie the information provided appears to comply with FACS Guidelines and the Migration Regulations, and a letter is required to secure finance or for some other genuine reason. This letter is **not evidence** of union consultation for the 408 visa.

MEAA will advise the sponsor in writing whether, in its view, the application complies with the union consultation requirements and guidelines, the FACS Guidelines, the Fair Work Act, and any other industrial agreements, policies, or standards of practice. That advice will be copied to Home Affairs and the Arts Minister (if applicable).

MEAA will provide a written response to all applications within 14 business days of being provided with all required documentation and information.

Any industrial enquiries regarding consultation requirements should be directed to the International Artist Services Officer via email: imports@meaa.org

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2. FOREIGN ACTOR CERTIFICATION SCHEME

A FOREIGN ACTOR CERTIFICATE IS ONLY REQUIRED FOR ACTORS APPEARING IN SCRIPTED FILMS OR TELEVISION SERIES.

Applications for actors to perform in a scripted film or television production being produced in part or fully in Australia are considered within the parameters of the [Foreign Actor Certification Scheme \(FACS\) Guidelines](#), and the actor is required to obtain a [Foreign Actor Certificate](#) from the Arts Minister.

All Arts Minister enquiries should be directed to the Desk Officer, Foreign Actor Certification Scheme:

Tel: 61 2 6271 1705
Email: foreignactors@arts.gov.au

3. DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

Applications for a [Temporary Activity visa \(subclass 408\)](#) must be made by the sponsor/supporter, and all documents must be lodged online with Home Affairs. These documents must include written evidence of union consultation from MEAA.

All Home Affairs and visa enquiries should be directed to [Temporary Activity visa \(subclass 408\) Entertainment Activities stream \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#).

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

MEAA recognises and respects your privacy. Information requested by MEAA is treated in the strictest confidence. It is requested only to the extent necessary for MEAA to advise the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Communications and the Arts by the provisions of the Migration Regulations regarding applications for a Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408). You can inspect the MEAA Privacy Statement at <https://www.meaa.org/privacy-policy>

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