



What are “Continuous Hours” and how do they work?

“Continuous Hours” refers to a shooting day with no scheduled breaks for on-set crew (i.e. anyone who is called on the call sheet). It enables the production to work continuously from general crew call to camera wrap. Continuous Hours is also known as “French Hours”.

Continuous Hours is not a standard condition for Australian crew. The production must have a crew agreement in place that allows it. These agreements set out the conditions that must be in place for Continuous Hours to be worked.

How does Continuous Hours work?

Continuous Hours is a period from general crew call to camera wrap where there are no scheduled breaks for on-set crew.

These are the standard conditions that must be in place for Continuous Hours to be worked (these are set out in each crew agreement where Continuous Hours is allowed).

- If shooting goes over 10 hours, triple-time is payable until camera wrap. Otherwise normal overtime penalties apply.
- Unscheduled meal and rest breaks must be provided where possible.
- The producer must provide adequate facilities such as seating, toilets, and washing facilities in the immediate vicinity of the set for the whole day.
- A nurse must be available.
- A hot breakfast must be provided prior to general crew call time.
- Substantial craft services (which shall mean nutritious food, e.g. buffet, sandwiches, cheese, bread rolls and spreads, fresh fruit, yoghurt, tea/coffee/ juices) must be available to for extended periods from general crew call time until camera wrap.
- In some agreements, a grace period can apply at the end of the 10 hours. Grace must be called before the end of the 10 hours. If camera wrap happens after the grace period has expired, then triple-time applies from the end of the 10 hours.

If you are working on a production that is using continuous hours and the conditions listed above are not in place, call your local screen crew organiser via MEAA Member Central 1300 65 65 13.