



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 pre or post production, online content or any other type of broadcast or streaming.

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 anyone else who appears on screen.

Personnel means anyone 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 submitting your application to 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, and related regulations. If the application does not comply or is complex, MEAA will provide guidance and request any necessary additional 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 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.)

PHONE

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PO Box, 723 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

1300 656 513

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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
- Safety Report completed by an Australian Graded Safety Supervisor
- Names of Australian Heads of Department who have been engaged

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 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 *ethnic or other special requirement* under FACS)
- Statement outlining the character the actor will play, including age range, accent, and nationality.

Please be aware that MEAA reserves the right to request additional information or impose specific requirements regarding your application, such as safety reports, bond lodgment, adherence to animal welfare regulations, child labor laws, and compliance with Indigenous protocols, among others.

Departments where the engagement of experienced and qualified local crew is crucial for ensuring production safety and compliance with local laws and regulations include Safety, Stunts, Locations, Assistant Directors, Special Effects, Intimacy Coordination, Production, and Accounts/Payroll. Depending on the scope of the production, it may also be appropriate to engage local crew in other departments, such as Art (Art Director), Costume (Costume Supervisor), Hair & Makeup, Grips, and Lighting.

For both on-screen performers and off-screen personnel, the application must include all requested documents and demonstrate compliance with the Migration Regulations concerning minimum rates of pay and conditions, the Net Employment Benefit, and, where applicable, Labour Market Testing.

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

If you are applying for an actor under exceptional circumstances as per the FACS Guidelines, the application may need to be considered by the National Performers Committee (NPC). While meetings are typically held monthly, they can be convened on an urgent basis for exceptional cases, provided a genuine need is demonstrated and all required documentation is submitted.

Under certain circumstances, MEAA can provide written in-principle support, pending a complete application, if the initial information provided appears to comply with the FACS Guidelines and Migration Regulations. This letter may be issued to secure financing or for another legitimate reason. However, please note that this letter does not serve as evidence of union consultation for the 408 visa.

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MEAA will inform 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 relevant industrial agreements, policies, or standards of practice. This advice will also be copied to Home Affairs and the Arts Minister, if applicable.

MEAA will respond to all applications in writing within 14 business days of receiving all required documentation and information.

All industrial inquiries regarding consultation requirements should be directed to the International Artist Services Officer via email at imports@meaa.org.

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 entirely 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

The sponsor/supporter must apply for a Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408), 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 [the 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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