

19 August 2021

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Content Productions from 19 August 2021 [Updated from 10 August 2021 version]

Permitted Services from 19 August 2021/Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) Codes

- 1) Q: My business entity's primary business (in ACRA) doesn't fall under the SSIC codes in the [Permitted Services List](#), but we are working on motion picture/TV productions. What should we do? Can my employees or representatives be hired by production houses as crew or talent?**

A: Business entities currently not under the Permitted Services List but providing services (including manpower such as performing talent) to content productions can apply for an exemption (general/time-limited) [with MTL](#), stating clearly the production company they are engaging with, and the production title. Please note the type of exemption will depend on the duration and requirements of the production.

For employees or representatives from these business entities who are hired separately by production houses as third party crew or talent (i.e. on a freelance basis), please see Q2 below.

- 2) Q: Are independent and student filmmakers allowed to resume production activities from 19 August 2021? What about freelancers?**

A: From 19 August 2021, business entities with SSIC codes under the [Permitted Services List](#) can continue/resume business activities. Freelancers or independent filmmakers that carry out business using their full name (as reflected in NRIC) may proceed as long as their activity is stated in the [Permitted Services List](#), while complying with the Mandatory Safety Rules and the following limits:

- a. No more than 50 personnel on location, including no more than 20 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time.
- b. For the entire production, only the same fixed cast of onscreen talent/performers may unmask when needed. This is not interchangeable with other non-onscreen roles.

Students from Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) are to check with their respective IHL on the advisory on filming activities, as these will take precedence.

Please note that if the IHL has been allowed to resume filming activities, only those students from graduating cohorts, who are required to produce or participate in a film as part of their examination requirements and/or coursework for graduation, will be allowed to resume filming activities with the following limits:

- a. No more than 50 personnel on location, including no more than 20 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time.
- b. For the entire production, only the same fixed cast of onscreen talent/performers may unmask when needed. This is not interchangeable with other non-onscreen roles.

All other IHL student productions not related to graduation requirements should abide by the prevailing regulations and safe management measures, e.g. up to 5 pax with masks on.

All filmmakers carrying out production work should comply with the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#).

Filming or recording of “live” singing is allowed with no more than 2 singers (out of the total onscreen talent/performers) unmasked at any given time, and must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person. If all personnel have “cleared status” on set of shoot day, there is no cap to the number of singers permitted for the shoot (matched to total onscreen talents limit).

- a. An individual is considered vaccinated i.e. “cleared status” if he/ she has been: a) fully vaccinated, i.e. has received the full regimen of Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty, Moderna or WHO Emergency Use Listing vaccines, with an additional two weeks for the vaccine to be fully effective, b) recovered from COVID-19, or c) has obtained a negative result on a pre-event test taken in the past 24 hours before the expected end of the event.

Even if the singing performers are masked, they count towards the cap for singers. If the singing requires the talent singing face to face, they are to observe more than 2-metres safe distancing.

3) Q: Are official IMDA letters required for productions to proceed?

A: Production companies whose SSIC codes are under the [Permitted Services List](#) can continue/resume operations including filming activities (indoors or outdoors) without any further approval or official letter from the IMDA. Please ensure that permission by location owners has been obtained.

Production companies might wish to point location owners to the [IMDA’s advisory on resumption of media content production](#).

For productions with “live” singing, please refer to question 6.

Rules for Production

4) Q: Will exceptions be granted for business entities registered with IMDA for manpower limits, and will this limit be increased at a later date?

A: Any further changes to the limits will be communicated via IMDA’s advisory [here](#).

IMDA is no longer administering registrations as all media productions can operate at the current allowable limits.

5) Q: Will the overall permissible manpower limits be increased at a later date?

A: IMDA will monitor the situation. Any change to the limit will be communicated via IMDA’s advisory [here](#).

6) Q: Filming or recording of “live” singing may proceed with no more than 2 pax singing unmasked or capped at the 20 onscreen talent limits if all 50 personnel (talent/performers/crew) have “cleared status”. Will this be relaxed later?

A: IMDA will monitor the situation. Any change to the limit will be communicated via IMDA's advisory [here](#).

An individual is considered vaccinated i.e. "cleared status" if he/ she has been: a) fully vaccinated, i.e. has received the full regimen of Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty, Moderna or WHO Emergency Use Listing vaccines, with an additional two weeks for the vaccine to be fully effective, b) recovered from COVID-19, or c) has obtained a negative result on a pre-event test taken in the past 24 hours before the expected end of the event.

7) Q: Is the Mandatory Safety Rules applicable for indoor shoots or outdoor shoots?

A: The [Mandatory Safety Rules](#) applies to all shoots – indoors or outdoors. If the production takes place where members of the public might be present, please ensure to cordon off the production set or area. Any person who is not working on the production should not be allowed to crowd around the filming area.

8) Q: How should productions handle the provision of masks for onscreen talent? These talent won't be able to wear masks after makeup is done. Are production crew such as make-up artists and sound crew allowed to be in close proximity?

A: The use of face shields is recommended for onscreen talent that have done their makeup. These should be taken off only right before a take, and must be put back on immediately in between takes. When the take is completed, they should put on their masks. Personnel in close contact with unmasked talent (e.g. makeup, sound crew) are strongly encouraged to wear masks with face shields, and reduce close contact as soon as possible. For onscreen talent, please maintain a 1-metre distance from the next person where reasonably practicable. Please refer to the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#) for details.

9) Q: It is noted that news presenters are able to perform their work without wearing masks. Can this be applied to radio presenters or voice talent?

A: Yes, radio presenters or voice talent may remove their masks only right before a take, and must be put back on immediately in between takes, as well as after the take is completed. For onscreen talent, please maintain a 1-metre distance from the next person where reasonably practicable.

Filming or recording of "live" singing is allowed with no more than 2 singers (out of the total onscreen talent/performers) unmasked at any given time, and must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person. If all personnel have "cleared status" on set of shoot day, there is no cap to the number of singers permitted for the shoot (matched to total onscreen talent limit).

- a. An individual is considered vaccinated i.e. "cleared status" if he/ she has been: a) fully vaccinated, i.e. has received the full regimen of Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty, Moderna or WHO Emergency Use Listing vaccines, with an additional two weeks for the vaccine to be fully effective, b) recovered from COVID-19, or c) has obtained a negative result on a pre-event test taken in the past 24 hours before the expected end of the event.

Even if the singing performers are masked, they count towards the cap for singers. If the singing requires the talent singing face to face, they are to observe more than 2-metres safe distancing.

Please note that for the entire production, unmasking dispensation are to be kept strictly to the same fixed cast of onscreen talent/performers. This is not interchangeable with other non-onscreen roles.

10) Q: Who is deemed as qualified to be the health and safety officer for the production? Must the health and safety officer be a police officer/medic from outside the production crew?

A: The health and safety officer is appointed by the production company to ensure that all health and safety measures detailed in the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#) are being adhered to. Members of the production crew could be appointed for this role.

11) Q: How should production personnel (cast/crew) consume their meals while filming on location? Where can they consume if in public?

A: Talent and crew must not congregate to eat and should continue to observe 1-metre safe distancing, including during meals and breaks. They should have their meal breaks at their workplace in accordance with rules pertaining to social gathering at the workplace.

Production companies should also ensure that all personnel observe the following while doing so:

- a. Meals should be packaged individually with disposable packaging/utensils;
- b. Staggered meal times to reduce the interactions between personnel and prevent congregation; and
- c. Personnel should dine quickly and leave the space in a clean state after they have consumed their meals.

Refer to the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#) on how to implement this.

12) Is there an available template for the health and safety declaration as detailed in the Mandatory Safety Rules?

A: The format of the declaration could be designed by the production crew, and must cover the information outlined in the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#).

13) Q: All personnel should maintain a 1-metre safe distancing from the next person where reasonably practicable. Would short or transient contact with fellow talent/crew for the purpose of production be allowed?

A: There should only be brief and momentary contact amongst personnel, who must maintain 1-metre safe distancing throughout the production where reasonably practicable. We understand that for the purpose of performing their roles, onscreen talent/performers may have close contact during the filming of scenes where required.

Locations

14) Q: If the filming location identified is a business whose SSIC is not under the [Permitted Services List](#) in the current phase, can production still take place?

A: Businesses not permitted to operate must apply to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for a time-limited exemption [here](#) if they wish to use their premises for content production purposes. Filming in such premises may be allowed, subject to the permission granted by the establishment and the ability to comply with the Mandatory Safety Rules (e.g. maintaining a safe distance of at least 1-metre between all individuals during production, where reasonably practicable). This includes planning for the limited number of personnel on set at a time, due to space constraints.

Businesses not permitted to operate should not use such filming as a reason to conduct their business activities which had not been allowed to operate onsite. Doing so could be a breach of the [COVID-19 \(Temporary Measures\) \(Control Order\) Regulations 2020](#) (“Control Order”), for which upon conviction of a first offence the penalty is a fine of up to a maximum of \$10,000, imprisonment of up to a maximum of 6 months, or both. The operator may also be disqualified from government grants, loans, tax rebates and other assistance.

15) Q: From 19 August 2021 onwards, each household is allowed up to 5 distinct visitors per day. Does this rule apply to productions taking place in residences?

A: Productions can take place in occupied residences, subject to the prevailing visitorship rules (including talent/crew) i.e. only 5 distinct visitors per day. Only talent or cast members are allowed to remove their masks during and in between takes. All content production should comply with the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#).

16) Q: Can productions now take place in parks or public spaces?

A: Filming requests in gardens, parks and nature reserves managed by the National Parks Board (NParks) will be assessed based on factors such as the location, proposed filming hours, and whether the crew can observe safe-distancing measures. Please note that as far as possible, filming is to be done on weekdays during off peak periods, and to limit crew numbers and hours to minimise crowding. Business entities can submit their applications via the NParks website, at least 2 weeks prior to their production: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/request-to-film-on-location-form>.

Filming in open areas will be subject to the permission of the respective location owners, where required. If the production takes place where members of the public might be present, please ensure to cordon off the production set or area. Any person who is not working on the production should not be allowed to crowd around the filming area.

17) Q: Can productions take place in locations managed by Town Councils (e.g. HDB common areas such as void decks)?

A: The production company must submit an application to the relevant Town Council well in advance of their production, including a letter of facilitation from IMDA, and an acknowledgement that they agree to abide by IMDA’s prevailing [Mandatory Safety Rules](#). Filming activities can commence only after approval is granted by the Town Council.

For all requests for an IMDA facilitation letter, please write to sfc@imda.gov.sg and include project details using [this template](#).

Photography and Event Coverage

18) Q: Photographers are allowed to resume services from 19 August 2021 onwards. Do the Mandatory Safety Rules apply to photography productions, including pre-wedding photoshoots?

A: Photography business entities (i.e. registered with ACRA under SSIC codes beginning with 742) are permitted to continue/resume businesses from 19 August 2021 onwards. While these business entities do not fall under the media SSIC codes beginning with 58 to 63, they may proceed with their production projects (commercial and non-commercial shoots) with the following limits:

- a. No more than 50 personnel (including photographer, talent and/or clients) on location, including no more than 20 persons (talent/persons to be photographed who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time.

Freelancers or independent filmmakers that carry out business using their full name (as reflected in NRIC) may proceed as long as their activity is stated in the [Permitted Services List](#), while complying with the Mandatory Safety Rules.

For all photoshoots, the talent/persons in the photo may only unmask during a shot and must promptly put the mask back on in between and after the shot. There should only be brief and momentary contact amongst the talent/persons for the shot, who must maintain 1-metre safe distancing after the shot.

If photoshoots are taking place outdoors or in locations where members of the public might be present, please ensure to cordon off the photoshoot/production area. Any person who is not working on the photoshoot/production should not be allowed to crowd around the area.

For non-commercial photoshoots such as family portraits, the persons to be photographed can be from a mix of households, subject to the 20 person limit from 19 August 2021 onwards. Make-up services for such non-commercial photoshoots are allowed to resume based on prevailing guidelines for personal care services, as stated in [MOH's circular](#), and [ESG's advisory](#).

Please note that the above activities and unmasking dispensation are only allowed for photography business entities listed under SSIC codes beginning with 742. All professional photoshoots are to comply with the [Mandatory Safety Rules](#).

For professional photography in event settings such as weddings and solemnisations, please refer to Q19.

19) Q: What are the rules that apply to photo-taking by professional photographers at different events e.g. weddings, MICE event pilots, work-related activities?

A: Photography business entities (i.e. registered with ACRA under SSIC codes beginning with 742) are permitted to continue/resume businesses from 19 August 2021. While these business entities do not fall under the media SSIC codes beginning with 58 to 63, they may proceed

with photo-taking at events in line with the prevailing capacity limits and guidelines for each event.

Should persons be permitted to unmask for photo-taking purposes based on the respective event guidelines (which take precedence), they may only unmask during a shot, and must promptly put the mask back on in between and after the shot. There should only be brief and momentary contact amongst the talent/persons for the shot, who must maintain 1-metre safe distancing after the shot.

Please refer to MTI's website [here](#) for event settings, such as "Marriage solemnisations and wedding receptions" and MICE.

20) Q: My event involves filming of speakers/panellists with a moderator on-stage. Will my event need to comply with the Mandatory Safety Rules? What if I have on-site audiences as well?

A: The [Mandatory Safety Rules and FAQ](#) apply to all business entities conducting media content production activities, including filming of presentations/panel discussions, with strictly no on-site audience, and for the purpose of broadcast only. On location, all personnel should comprise only talent/performers (i.e. cast), crew, and staff. If the production takes place where members of the public might be present, please ensure to cordon off the production set or area. Any person who is not working on the production should not be allowed to crowd around the filming area.

Digital recording and/or live streaming of productions, performances, presentations, or events with on-site audiences should adhere to the respective regulations: NAC's [Safety Management Measures for live performances](#) and STB's [Safety Management Measures for MICE](#), and MOM's [Safety Management Measures](#) for work-related events (conferences, seminars, Annual General Meetings etc). Please also see Q21 for Media Conferences and Q22 for Public Speaking.

Others

21) Q: Are media conferences covered under the Mandatory Safety Rules? What Safety Management Measures govern media conferences? What about interviewing people on the streets?

A: Media conferences are defined as a meeting or gathering in person that is:

- Attended mainly by recognised reporters, or intended mainly for recognised reporters to attend;
- Organised for the primary purpose of distributing information to, and answering questions from, 2 or more providers of radio, television, newspaper and other mass media services so as to obtain publicity for a particular matter; and
- Held in a place where the interviewee must be seated or standing generally in a fixed position (not roving around) and is at all times at least 3 metres away from any recognised reporter or any other attendee at the conference.

The detailed Safety Management Measures regarding media conferences is available in the [COVID-19 \(Temporary Measures\) \(Performance and Other Activities – Control Order\)](#).

Please note that for vox pops, doorstep, or street interviews with members of the public, the interviewees must remain masked.

22) Q: What are the guidelines on public speaking for permitted enterprises?

- A: For public-speaking business events, the speaker/presenter must be:
- a. Seated or standing generally in a fixed position (not roving around);
 - b. At least one metre away from other speakers/presenters; and
 - c. At least 3 metres away from any other attendee at the business event.

The detailed Safety Management Measures regarding public speaking is available in the [COVID-19 \(Temporary Measures\) \(Performance and Other Activities – Control Order\)](#).

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