

22 July 2021

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Content Productions in Phase 2 – Heightened Alert (22 July 2021 to 18 August 2021)

Permitted Services for Phase 2 – Heightened Alert/Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) Codes

- 1) **Q: My company'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: Companies 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 MTI](#), 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 companies 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 during Phase 2 – Heightened Alert? What about freelancers?**

A: For Phase 2 – Heightened Alert, companies 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 15 personnel on location; and
- b. No more than 10 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time.
- c. 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 limitations:

- a. No more than 15 personnel on location; and
- b. No more than 10 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time.

- c. 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 2 pax with masks on.

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

Filming or recording of “live” singing is limited to no more than 2 singers (out of the 10 onscreen talent/performers) unmasked at any given time, for companies registered with IMDA. For those not registered with IMDA, only companies with SSIC codes starting with 59 may proceed after notifying IMDA (form available under Resources section of the Filming in Singapore page).

These singers must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person. Even if the singing performers are masked, they count towards the cap of 2 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 (indoors or outdoors) without any further approval or official letter from the IMDA. Please ensure that permission by location owners has been obtained, provided that the location is permitted to continue/resume operations in Phase 2 – Heightened Alert.

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 9.

4) Q: Photographers are allowed to resume services in Phase 2 – Heightened Alert. Do the Mandatory Safety Rules apply to photography productions, including pre-wedding photoshoots?

A: Photography companies (i.e. registered with ACRA under SSIC codes beginning with 742) are permitted to continue/resume businesses in Phase 2 – Heightened Alert. While these companies 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 limitations:

- a. No more than 15 personnel (including photographer, talents and/or clients) on location; and
- b. No more than 10 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 involving members of a household, there should be no more than 10 persons being featured in the photo from the same household. All other non-commercial photoshoots involving a mix of households (e.g. pre-wedding shoots) are subject to the prevailing social gathering group sizes permitted (no more than 2 pax). All large group family photos comprising several households should be deferred.

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

For photography in event settings such as weddings and solemnizations, please refer to Question 5.

5) 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 companies (i.e. registered with ACRA under SSIC codes beginning with 742) are permitted to continue/resume businesses in Phase 2 – Heightened Alert. While these companies 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.

6) 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 companies conducting media content production activities, including filming of presentations/panel discussions, with strictly **no** on-site audience. 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 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](#). Work-related events (conferences, seminars, Annual General Meetings etc) should adhere to MOM's [Safety Management Measures](#).

Rules for Production

7) Q: Currently, companies registered with IMDA can operate with no more than 30 personnel on location, including no more than 10 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time. What happens after I register? Will exceptions be granted, and will this limit be increased at a later part of Phase 2 – Heightened Alert?

A: From 22 July 2021 to 18 August 2021, media companies should continue to take note of the following rules:

- a. All content productions may proceed with **no more than 15 personnel on location, including no more than 10 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary)**, at any given time.
- b. Companies registered with IMDA may proceed with **no more than 30 personnel on location, including no more than 10 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary)**, at any given time.
 - Filming or recording of “live” singing is limited to no more than **2** singers (out of the 10 onscreen talent/performers) unmasked at any given time, for companies registered with IMDA. For those not registered with IMDA, only companies with SSIC codes starting with 59 may proceed after notifying IMDA (form available under Resources section of the Filming in Singapore page). These singers must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person.
- c. Unmasking dispensations are to be kept strictly to the fixed cast of onscreen talent/performers (not interchangeable with other non-onscreen performing roles) for the entire production.
- d. No on-site audiences should be present on location; all personnel should comprise only talent/performers (i.e. cast), crew, and staff.
- e. There should not be more than 2 distinct visitors per day for occupied households under social gathering rules, which may affect filming. (refer to Question 18).

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

If you have been notified by IMDA of your registration, you are not required to re-register as we would have your details noted. Registration for new companies will be suspended till after 18 August 2021.

8) Q: Currently, for companies not registered with IMDA that are involved in other content productions, there should be no more than 15 personnel on location, including no more

than 10 onscreen talent/performers (who may be unmasked if necessary), at any given time. Will this limit be increased at a later part of Phase 2 – Heightened Alert?

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

Companies carrying out content production should take note of the following rules:

- Filming or recording of “live” singing is limited to no more than **2** singers (out of the 10 onscreen talent/performers) unmasked at any given time, for companies registered with IMDA. For those not registered with IMDA, only companies with SSIC codes starting with 59 may proceed after notifying IMDA (form available under Resources section of the Filming in Singapore page). These singers must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person.
 - a. Unmasking dispensations are to be kept strictly to the fixed cast of onscreen talent/performers (not interchangeable with other non-onscreen performing roles) for the entire production.
 - b. No on-site audiences should be present on location; all personnel should comprise only talent/performers (i.e. cast), crew, and staff.

9) Q: Currently, only companies registered with IMDA for higher manpower limits, or non-registered companies under SSIC codes beginning with 59, may conduct productions with filming or recording of “live” singing. No more than 2 onscreen talent/performers may sing unmasked at any given time, and they must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person. Will this limit be increased at a later part of Phase 2 – Heightened Alert?

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

No exceptions will be granted during this period of heightened alert.

Please note that for the entire production, unmasking dispensations 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: Is the Mandatory Safety Rules applicable for indoor shoots or outdoor shoots?

A: The [Mandatory Safety Rules](#) applies to all shoots – indoors or outdoors.

11) Q: How should productions handle the provision of masks for onscreen talent? These talents won't be able to wear masks after makeup is done. Are make-up artists allowed to work during this period?

A: The use of face shields is recommended for onscreen talents 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.

Makeup-artists are considered crew in a media content production setting.

12) 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 talents? What about people interviewed on the streets?

A: Yes, radio presenters or voice talents 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.

- Filming or recording of “live” singing is limited to no more than 2 singers (out of the 10 onscreen talent/performers) unmasked at any given time, for companies registered with IMDA. For those not registered with IMDA, only companies with SSIC codes starting with 59 may proceed after notifying IMDA (form available under Resources section of the Filming in Singapore page).

These singers must observe a 2-metre safe distancing from the next person. Even if the singing performers are masked, they count towards the cap of 2 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 vox pops, doorstep, or street interviews with members of the public, the interviewees cannot be unmasked.

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.

13) 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.

14) 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 between individuals at all times, including during meals and breaks. They should have their meal breaks at their workplace individually.

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.

15) 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](#).

16) Q: It is noted that all personnel should maintain a 1-metre safe distancing from the next person. Would it be possible to have short or transient contact with fellow talent/crew for the purpose of production, such as carrying out certain scenes, setting up equipment, etc.?

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

17) Q: If the filming location identified is a business whose SSIC is not under the [Permitted Services List](#) in Phase 2 – Heightened Alert, 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). 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.

18) Q: In Phase 2 – Heightened Alert, each household is allowed up to 2 distinct visitors per day. Does this rule apply to productions taking place in residences?

A: Productions can take place in households, subject to the Phase 2 – Heightened Alert visitorship rules (including talent/crew) i.e. only 2 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](#).

19) Q: Can productions now take place in parks or open areas?

A: Filming requests in gardens, parks and nature reserves managed by the National Parks Board 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. Companies 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.

20) 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](#).

Others

21) Q: Are media conferences covered under the Mandatory Safety Rules? What Safety Management Measures govern media conferences?

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
- Conducted wholly in an indoor seated area.

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

For the conducting of vox pops, doorstep interviews, or street interviews, IMDA [Mandatory Safety Rules](#) apply. Please refer to Question 12 under Rules for Production in the FAQs above.