



# Guidelines for LONO Application

---

## OFFER AND APPLICATION

1. There is an offer of work in the entertainment industry.
2. The worker, or the company offering the work, applies online for a **Specific Purpose or Event Visa**.
3. The producer or production company must also fill in the 'Supplementary Form' part of the **Performing Artists, Entertainers and Entertainment Industry Personnel Work Visa Application** form. They must upload this completed 'Supplementary Form' to the workers online application.

## CONSULTATION WITH EQUITY NEW ZEALAND

4. In order to show the application meets the requirements of the NZ Government in respect to overseas performers Immigration NZ requires:
  - a. the company consults with us, and
  - b. for us to not object to the overseas national being given a work visa. If we do not object, we provide evidence of this through a Letter of Non-Objection (LONO).

However, a LONO is not required if the worker:

- will be in New Zealand for 14 days or less
- is working on an official co-production that's been certified by the New Zealand Film Commission
- is working for an entertainment industry accredited company.

## EVIDENCE FOR PERFORMING ARTISTS (EXCLUDING MODELS)

5. Immigration NZ policy states that employers/production companies/promoters must provide, and visa and immigration officers must be satisfied with, the following evidence and information:
  - a. the applicant is of international distinction, or particular ethnic significance, or is manifestly essential to the presentation or production; or
  - b. the applicant's engagement does not put at risk the engagement of New Zealand entertainers or professionals in equivalent work unless the wider benefits to be obtained from the applicant's employment outweigh the loss of job opportunities for New Zealanders; or
  - c. they have given appropriate consideration to engaging available New Zealand entertainers or professionals.

6. Evidence must be provided as to the need for the Performer to be imported. Examples of appropriate evidence is given here:

REASON FOR IMPORTING PERFORMER	ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE
The applicant is of international distinction	Evidence of the applicants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• past work</li> <li>• awards received</li> <li>• international acclaim</li> </ul>
The applicant is of particular ethnic significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the role requires a character of a particular ethnicity, and</li> <li>• that the applicant meets that requirement, and</li> <li>• that it was not possible to cast anyone of that ethnicity in New Zealand during casting rounds run here. Please provide details of these casting rounds.</li> </ul> <p>Note: There are a number of Australian, US and UK-accented actors and actors competent in performing with those accents in NZ, so accent requirements are unlikely to be not considered sufficient.</p>
The applicant is manifestly essential to the presentation or production	This category may be relevant where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the particular individual is central to the work and it could not be possible for it to be played by anyone else i.e. they are doing a cameo role and playing themselves, or</li> <li>• where the performer's role in the production is central to the financing of it.</li> </ul> <p>The evidence for this category will depend on why they are manifestly essential.</p>
The applicant's engagement does not put at risk the engagement of New Zealand entertainers or professionals in equivalent work unless the wider benefits to be obtained from the applicant's employment outweigh the loss of job opportunities for New Zealanders	Evidence of 'wider benefits' could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of jobs New Zealand performers will receive, contingent on the applicant's engagement.</li> <li>• Other benefits to New Zealand performers which could include the applicant's engagement in workshops and local industry events (note: Equity New Zealand can facilitate these).</li> </ul>
They have given appropriate consideration to engaging available New Zealand entertainers or professionals	Evidence that a casting round has been held in New Zealand, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZ casting director's name;</li> <li>• the character breakdown sent to agents;</li> <li>• List of agents contacted;</li> <li>• List of agents suggestions;</li> <li>• List of those auditioned;</li> <li>• List of those recalled;</li> <li>• Reasons why each actors were not cast.</li> </ul>



## EVIDENCE FOR MODELS

To facilitate the consultation process Equity asks for the following information:

- A letter outlining the reason for importing the overseas model including:
  - Full name of the model applying as completed on the Immigration NZ Form 1187;
  - The expected dates of arrival and departure in NZ as completed on the Immigration NZ Form 1187;
  - Evidence of International Distinction or Merit: Adequate evidence that the applicant is of international distinction or merit by providing 5 tearsheets and a CV;
  - Letter of invitation from NZ Agent;
  - Proof of Repatriation;
  - Reciprocity Agreement;
  - That there is an actual placement of a NZ model with the International agent within 12 months unless there is a good reason for this not to occur e.g., a model cannot afford to pay for the trip, the agency is of such a size or location, that there is no benefit to the model, the models health or safety is put at risk due to health epidemics, etc
- Letter of agreement from overseas agent.
- Proof of one Confirmed Booking.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

7. To apply for a LONO, please complete the Application for Letter of Non Objection and email it to [mail@actorsequity.org.nz](mailto:mail@actorsequity.org.nz).
8. You should begin discussions with Equity as early as possible. Equity has 3 working days to process the application; the three working days are calculated from the date the required evidence is provided to Equity.
9. Where Equity does not object to the application, we will provide a LONO.
10. Where Equity objects to an application, we have 3 days to notify Immigration New Zealand of this. Immigration NZ will then consult with the parties to attempt to resolve the dispute. If resolution cannot be reached Immigration NZ will then refer the dispute to the Minister of Immigration.

## CONSULTATION FEE

Overseas performers are subject to a processing fee.

Rates PER PERFORMER are:

- NZ\$40.00 + GST for cultural or large groups
- NZ\$160 + GST for standard processing (three-day turn around)
- NZ\$320 + GST for urgent processing (one-day turn around)

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Provision of all information to Equity is treated with strict confidentiality.