

Working with supporting artists in 2022: what ADs need to know

The UK production industry is booming. A record £5.6b was spent making blockbusters in 2021, with the streaming wars adding to this unprecedented demand. While this is great news, it has led to an acute skills shortage, with people moving up the AD ladder quickly. To help, we've teamed up with Bectu to answer common questions on working with supporting artists in 2022.

Frequently asked questions

FAA agreement

Where does the FAA agreement apply?

The FAA agreement normally applies within 40 miles from Charing Cross (the "FAA zone"), unless the production is explicitly under a separate agreement (eg, with the BBC).

Where can I access the new agreement and rates?

To request a digital or hard-copy version of the full FAA agreement, please email LPD@bectu.org.uk.

When will the new rates expire?

The new rates are valid until 31 December 2022 and are updated in conjunction with Pact from 1 January each year.

How can I stay up to date with key information?

Negotiated changes will be disseminated to Bectu's and Pact's networks, including via EP.

Production obligations and liability

What documents should productions supply to supporting artists?

Productions should supply agents with certain documents that they can pass on to supporting artists. These typically include:

- > Artist release forms.
- > NDAs.
- > Pence forms (if applicable).
- > Covid-19 health declarations and policies (if applicable).
- > Data and privacy policies (if applicable).

Covid-19 rates

Are there separate rates for Covid-19-related fees?

Pact has agreed to support Bectu's [FAA Good Practice Guidelines for Availability Enquiries and Bookings of Supporting Artists](#), which outline a non-performance fee for testing days (equivalent to a half day's pay).

This guidance has largely become the industry standard. It recommends that workers in HETV or major motion pictures be paid the **full day rate** if they must:

- > Isolate before an engagement at the employer's request;
- > Quarantine following an engagement if required by the employer;
- > Suspend work for a Covid-19-related reason;
- > Visit an employer's site to be tested (unless this is included in prep); or
- > Stay at home to await a home visit for testing.

A worker who has to do any of these is unlikely to be able to take work elsewhere.

Lower budget productions should also try to pay all or most of the day rate. At the very least, workers should be paid 50% of their wage for a standard day (an FAA standard day is eight hours plus one hour for lunch). Supporting artists should be paid at least a non-performance call.

Helpful Bectu resources

- > [Film & TV 'need to know' page](#) – includes links to guidance on Covid-19-related terms and conditions (eg, payment for testing, isolation feed and hiatuses)
- > [Film & TV recovery plan](#) – a round-up of Covid-19 safety guidance from key industry bodies
- > [Rates page](#) – includes rates for ADs, runners and supporting artists
- > [FAA branch page](#) – includes links to:
 - The [FAA Respect Charter](#)
 - [FAA Covid-19 guidance to agents and productions](#)
- > [Welfare Policy](#) for the film & TV industry

AD best practices

What is the best way to ensure supporting artists are paid on time?

Under the FAA agreement, supporting artists must be paid by the following Friday. The agreement now takes into consideration e-chits and chitless systems, with Clause 12 requiring productions to:

- > Sign out supporting artists in the presence of an AD at the end of a call.
- > Give supporting artists details of their fee for the day.

This is intended to reduce delays, errors and omissions on chits, all of which delays eventual payment of supporting artists.

Productions can leverage technology to speed up the sign-in and out process and pay supporting artists on time.

The Casting Portal is an efficient and compliant way to pay your supporting artists on time, every time.

What must supporting artists be told at the availability stage?

The rate should always be included in an availability check (let supporting artists know that FAA/Pact rates and terms apply).

What must supporting artists be told at the booking stage?

At the booking stage, supporting artists must be informed of:

- > The type of engagement (Clause 7).
- > Transport information – if public transport is not available, the details of transport must be provided. If public transport is available, it must be running before and after a call (Clause 14).
- > The call time, estimated length of day, location and parking information.
- > Meals to be provided (in the absence of which a meal allowance should be paid).
- > Make-up and costume arrangements (Appendix B).

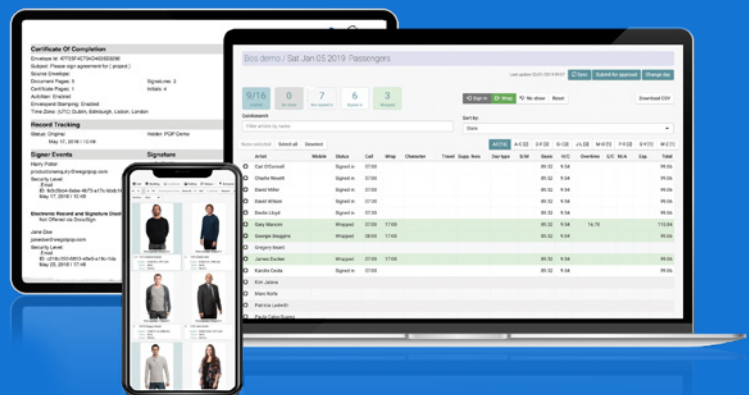
Ideally, supporting artists should also be informed of the size of the cast so that they can decide whether they're comfortable with the number of supporting artists who will be on set.

Supporting artists should also be informed of sickness provisions (including for Covid-19) in advance of calls. They should receive a minimum of full payment for the first day of sickness or symptoms should it occur. **Remember that the full pay cancellation cut-off is now 3pm the day before, not 5.30pm.**

In advance of the first day of work, all supporting artists should be provided with a written [statement of particulars](#), including notice of who the employer (ie, the engaging production) is.

Track and pay all of your supporting artists quickly and accurately with the Casting Portal

- ✔ Sign in and wrap artists digitally
- ✔ Calculate pay automatically
- ✔ Reduce your exposure
- ✔ Track your spend in real time
- ✔ Simplify the payment process



To see why the Casting Portal is the most widely adopted casting technology in the world, [contact us](#) or visit our [website](#).