

FOREIGN IMMIGRATION FOR ENTERTAINERS – a quick reference

information is general and subject to change

ABOUT FOREIGN IMMIGRATION FOR ENTERTAINERS

When a single country OR a multi-country tour is booked, the demands are great and strong organization is a must. What should be at the top of the list? IMMIGRATION AND VISA REQUIREMENTS! Start early!! Learn what might be required for legal entry into the foreign country – do you need a work permit or a work approval? Are Consulate issued visas required? What do you do??

The importance of allowing time is key to a successful tour and immigration processing. Requirements often change and vary per country. Verify with promoter(s) and consulates to see if visas are needed for travel. Visas may not be needed for tourism and businesses purposes, but remember you will be working – entertainers may need visas. Being caught by authorities can have long-lasting consequences that just aren't worth it.

GLOBAL ACCESS' TOP 5 TIPS for a smooth immigration process:

1. Maintain validity of all passports for more than six (6) months from last date of stay - per country
2. Verify passports have enough of blank 'visa' pages required - addendum pages do not count
 - Blank facing visa pages are a must!!
3. Keep on file scanned copies of the signed passport ID page and a current photo (taken less than 6 months)
4. Establish contact with foreign promoters/sponsors **START EARLY** – as processing times vary per country
 - Last minute actions can be VERY costly!
5. Verify visa requirements – per nationality and per Foreign Consulate location

EXTRAS:

6. **Obtain 2nd passports**
 - Holding a second passport is beneficial for individuals who frequently travel internationally. Allows the individual to keep one passport while they travel, with the second passport to be available for visa processing for your next trip abroad.
7. **Keep organized**
 - Verify & keep track of passport data is being submitted for each traveler or immigration approvals, to which country (NEVER ASSUME, could be very, costly with big setbacks)
- Re: Tour personnel with a criminal history background can often prove to be burdensome. Noted countries which require special government processing include: *Australia, Canada, England, Japan and New Zealand* - if convictions are deemed equivalent to the foreign country's national statutes. Required documentation can include providing: a current National/FBI Certificate, Court Docket(s), and/or written/legal correspondence. This can become a situation that must be attended to.

MOST COMMONLY ADDRESSED CHALLENGES INCLUDE:

- Are passports valid, undamaged and are there enough blank 'visa' pages?
- Late personnel changes
- Can applicant apply at a Consulate in a country different than their nationality?
- Does the applicant have to be in legal work permit status in the country where applying for the visa?
- Can the Consulate process the visas with such a small window of time?

With the advancement of technology and identity verification, computerized databases are being implemented in various ways – which include: government databases, biometrics, updated passport booklets, advanced arrival notification as well as some countries requiring in-person consulate visits.

BASIC IMMIGRATION / PROMOTERS

- Contact Promoter/Sponsor/Petitioner early – ask for their respective immigration requirements & procedures
- ****VERY IMPORTANT****
 - > Email Promoter/Sponsor/Petitioner promptly - provide specified immigration requirements and group's foreign tour dates prior to destination country
- Learn how long it takes to get the foreign approval document

FOREIGN IMMIGRATION – DEALING WITH PROMOTERS and/or AGENTS:

ASK the promoter/sponsor/petitioner

- **WHO** is financially responsible for re: immigration costs (might be per written agreement)
 - > may include: Government filing fees, Country's Consulate visa fees, or 3rd party visa agents
- **WHAT** type of visa is required to work in country & how long for promoter to obtain approval/authorization
 - > if you are advised to enter as tourist - says enter as tourist – you should verify if work permit/visas are required
- **IF** Consulate visas are required once approval is issued by foreign country
 - > Ask for clarification, can be confused advisement – e.g. Promoters may say they are taking care of visas, this does not mean you won't have to apply for visas at the consulate

VERIFY

- **IF** tour members require Consular processing
 - > **NOTE:** visa requirements are specific to nationality
 - > Go to the Consulate's website (Consular / Visa Services)

IF CONSULAR VISAS REQUIRED – notes:

- Each Country has different visa issuance requirements
- Each Consulate location (per the same country) can vary with requirements and processing times
- Initial queries to Consulate – should be:
 - Obtaining list of documentation required
 - Obtaining Consulate application forms & proper visa fees
 - What are the Consulate Processing time(s):
 - If Applicant must apply in person
 - Does Applicant have to apply at the Consulate jurisdictional to Applicant's residential address

~ ABOUT OUR ENTERTAINMENT VISA SERVICES ~

Global Access Entertainment Worldwide, Inc, established in 1992, is a dedicated, experienced entertainment visa service specializing in the international live concert industry. As the artist's immigration liaison, we work with Tour and Production Managers as well as Artist Representatives and Promoters. We assist at the start of the process – by accessing the tour's visa Let us know who we can assist you and your group – large or small.

GLOBAL ACCESS

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