

# NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

## THE REVISED GUIDELINES FOR SHOOTING OF FOREIGN FILMS IN SRI LANKA

1. The National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka (hereinafter mentioned as the Corporation) under virtue of power vested in it under Act No. 47 of 1971 amended by Act. No. 45 of 1980 is the sole authority to grant approval for the production of foreign feature films/TV series, Co-productions, TV Commercials, and Documentation etc. in Sri Lanka.
2. Following are the amended set of Guidelines stipulated by the NFC for local shooting of the above categories of foreign films and Co-production films which are to be adhered to by the foreign production company and their local collaboration.
3. (a) No local shooting of a foreign films or Co-production shall commence without the prior approval of the Corporation. The Corporation shall if necessary, direct the Producer concerned to the relevant Ministry to obtain approval for shooting of a particular scenario. The Corporation shall charge a fee not exceeding US\$ 1000 – or its equivalent before such permission is granted.
4. (a) The producer of a foreign film will have to declare to the Corporation the quantum of foreign exchange that will be (the amount of funds to be) brought into Sri Lanka for (the purpose of) funding the production, together with a declaration of film equipment and raw materials brought in for the production which are to be exported. The funds so brought in shall be in hard currency and shall be converted, and encashed at a Bank in Sri Lanka, and such converted funds can be repatriated, in accordance with the existing rules and regulations of the Controller of Exchange.  
  
(b) The Corporation shall specify its charges for scrutinizing the script, Story Board of the foreign production and also the fee payable by the foreign production company or their local collaborator for utilizing the services of a foreign film crew other than the Producer, Director, Cameraman.

According to present rates the production company will have to remit the Film Development Fund with the following payments :

1. For approval of the Script/Story Board of
  - (a) Feature Films & TV series Rs 75,000/-
  - (b) Documentaries Rs 12,500/-
  - (c) Commercials Rs 40,000/-
  - (d) Co-productions Rs 60,000/-
2. For each expatriate Technician/Artists (Other than Producer, Director, Cameraman)
  - (a) Each additional foreigner hired Rs 2,000/-
  - (b) If, however, a Sri Lankan equivalent is hired for the full period, then for each such person Rs 100/-
  - (c) The Corporation Officer's fee per day Rs 400/-
  - (d) If a Sri Lankan equivalent is hired for part of the period Rs 1,000/-
3. The foreign party shall submit the synopsis and script of the film proposed to be made to the Corporation, which shall scrutinize some and may or may not grant approval with or without amendments thereto.

4. Where the location is a cultural or religious site no filming shall be done unless a representative of the Department of Archeology and/or the CENTRAL fund is present at the time of filming.

Similarly prior permission of Director Wild Life and Director Zoological Gardens, as the case may be, obtained in case of filming in wild life areas or National Zoological Gardens.

To carry out shooting of films in the Colombo and Kandy sites prior permission of Deputy Inspector General of Police of the range should be obtained.

5. The foreign producer or his local Agent shall intimate to the Corporation the foreign exchange component to be brought in to the country for the production of the film and submit a certificate to that effect, giving the name of the Bank to which the money has been credited. The Corporation shall determine whether this is an adequate amount to finance the production and shall inform the Exchange Controller. The local Agent shall comply with these formalities.
6. The foreign producer or his local Agent shall inform the Corporation of the names and professional capacities of the film Technicians and Artists whose services are to be utilized for the production of the film. The fees that are to be paid to them too shall be intimated to the Corporation. They should be insured for a minimum of Rs 100,000/- against any accident during production.
7. An officer will be appointed by the National Film Corporation to accompany the film crew to the sites, whose services, the producer is bound to accept till the production is completed. The expenditure in this regard will have to be borne by the Production Company.

In case of co-productions the local producer will be responsible for content of the production and adhered to the conditions stipulated.

8. After the film has been produced, the foreign party shall not release it for public screening unless the completed film is shown either to an authorized officer of the Corporation, for where it is completed abroad, to the Sri Lanka Embassy of that country, and a certificate obtained and forwarded to the Corporation of its suitability for public release.
9. The Corporation approving a script for production of a film does not indicate that they are bound for distribution of the film.
10. In case of Co-productions, at least 50% of the total number of Technicians and Artists employed should be Sri Lankans. Otherwise it will not be considered as a co-production but will be treated only as a foreign production. Exhibition of Sinhala dubbed prints shall be allowed only in the case of co-productions which fulfill the above requirements. Therefore when applying for release of Sinhala version prints the copies of agreements entered into with local Technicians and Artists should be handed over to the Corporation for inspection.
11. If the film is a co-production with Sri Lanka, the proceeds of the sale of film should be declared and be paid in Sri Lanka currency in which, such sale is negotiated.
12. This facility is promoted under Part 1 Section 4(d) (e) of the National Film Corporation Act No. 47 of 1971. As amended by Act. No. 45 of 1980.

We, hereby agree to follow the conditions imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka stated below concerning the filming of .....

- A) The Company's filming in Sri Lanka will be based on the attached script already submitted to the Sri Lanka Government along with the list of locations where the shooting will be done and the equipment that is proposed to be brought into the country on the understanding that it will be taken back at the time of departure. The Company will carry a carnet/bank guarantee to the value of the equipment, to be presented at Customs upon arrival in Sri Lanka.
- B) The Company will abide by the requirements outlined by the National Film Corporation / Department of Wild Life Conservation / BOI / Tourist Board or any other relevant government agency that would be supervising their project and will be accompanied by a representative of the said agency, throughout the product in Sri Lanka. (The Company will have to bear any stipulated costs by the government agencies involved in the project.)
- C) All film footage/video footage recorded in Sri Lanka will be submitted for preview and clearance by the National Film Corporation/Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation respectively, prior to the crew leaving Sri Lanka.
- D) The final edited version of the programme will be submitted to the Embassy/High Commission in ..... (country name) a week prior to broadcast and any objections raised by the Sri Lankan Embassy/High Commission will be suitably accommodated and/or a right of reply will be given to the Embassy/High Commission, in the same programme, in the event that they find any matter to be broadcast objectionable and affecting the national interest of Sri Lanka.
- E) All footage from the visit will not be used in any other broadcast without the prior consent of the Government of Sri Lanka and the following of the procedures as stated at (d) above.
- F) The local agents/Sponsors of this project in Sri Lanka will be Messrs. ....(name of the Sri Lankan/Foreign Company) who will be supporting our application and will be vouching for our adherence of the above conditions and will also be held liable to any breach of this understanding.

Name .....

Name of the Company .....