

Overview of the “Location Filming Handbook: What Those Involved Need to Know to Expand and Attract Location Filming”

Provisional Translation

<Background of this handbook>

In August 2020 , relevant government ministries and agencies collaborated to improve the environment for location filming , and published the "Guidelines for the Smooth Implementation of Location Filming."

- After that, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry started a subsidy system to attract overseas productions to film locations (from the FY2012 supplementary budget), while the procedures for filming on location became smoother.

Issues that remain to be ironed out include low predictability regarding permits and licenses, and unclear contact points for inquiries.

- Therefore, starting in February 2024 , we will hold a "Practitioners' Roundtable on Improving the Location Filming Environment" to discuss the improvement of the location filming environment for domestic and international film productions in Japan.

The guidelines will be revised to improve

<Purpose of location filming and attraction>

○ Location filming has benefits that go beyond the profits of specific private businesses, and attracting filming locations to carry out location filming is also recognized as having a public interest element.

In addition to the economic effects and regional development through job creation, we will also promote the Japanese film industry by developing human resources and raising the technical level, and contribute to the development of Japan's natural environment.

It is also expected that promoting the city's cultural attractions to the world will lead to increased inbound tourism.

○For this reason, the government should work together to implement this policy as one that will contribute to Japan's medium- to long-term economic growth.

Issues to be addressed by the Japan Film Commission (JFC) /Film Commission (FC) (Chapter 2)

Raising awareness of JFC/FC

(publicizing at events, exposure in local media, etc.)

Unification of license and permit information

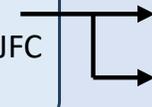
(Collecting and sharing information on laws and regulations related to licenses and permits, etc.)

Related ministries and agencies



Intellectual Property Strategy Promotion Office

JFC



FC

Producer etc.

Strengthening the JFC/FC system

(developing human resources with high language skills and expertise, etc.)

Information for overseas producers Provision and transmission

(supported works)
•Filming location information, etc.)

Requirements for local government and other licensing authorities (Chapter 3)

Disseminating and spreading the requirements of licensing agencies at licensing sites, and requesting smoother responses

To JFC/FC
Sharing of information on licenses and permits

Advice to producers, etc.
Information provision etc.

Facilitating efficient procedures

Points to be noted by producers, etc. (Chapter 4)

Understanding the basic systems related to location filming (contact points, licenses, etc.)

Conducting location filming based on compliance

Establishing a collaborative system with JFC/FC, local governments, and other licensing authorities

Understanding of local residents

<Main points of the revision>

○ Update of "Current status of licensing and approval needs and responses"

(Chapter 3, Section 3 (Pages 14-17))

- Describes the current status of responses from local governments and other licensing authorities to the needs of producers, etc. for licenses and permits.

(Example)

- If the area requiring a road use permit falls under the jurisdiction of multiple police stations within the same prefecture, permission must be obtained from the chief of one of the police stations. Sometimes that is enough.
- Photography at container terminals is not limited to weekends, and there are also cases where photography has been carried out on weekdays.

○ Clarifying contact points for location filming (Chapter 4 1 (pages 18-24))

- To clarify the contact points for location filming, the general contact point for location filming, the contact points for inquiries and consultations regarding filming in each region, and the contact points for inquiries and applications for major licenses and permits are listed.

General inquiry desk

(NPO) Japan Film Commission

Inquiries and consultation desks in each region

Regional Film Commission

License and permit inquiries and application desk

(Example)

- Road Use Permit Application → Jurisdictional Police Station
- Road Occupancy Permit Application → Jurisdictional National Highway Office (National Highways Managed by the National Government)
- Local Governments (National Highways Managed by Local Governments, etc.)

○ Clarifying the importance of compliance during location filming

(Chapter 4 2 (pages 24-26))

- In addition to obtaining the necessary permits and licenses, various laws and regulations (Subcontract Act, New Freelance Act, etc.) are also involved when conducting location shoots, and it is important to take preventative measures by implementing appropriate measures, such as preventing inconvenience to various stakeholders (external businesses, local residents, etc.).

○ Addition of examples of points to keep in mind when filming foreign works in Japan (Chapter 4, section 3 (page 26))

(Example)

- There are some foods that cannot be eaten for religious reasons (considerations for location meals, etc.) (Required)/There are cases where rules such as no eating or drinking and no shoes are not followed.

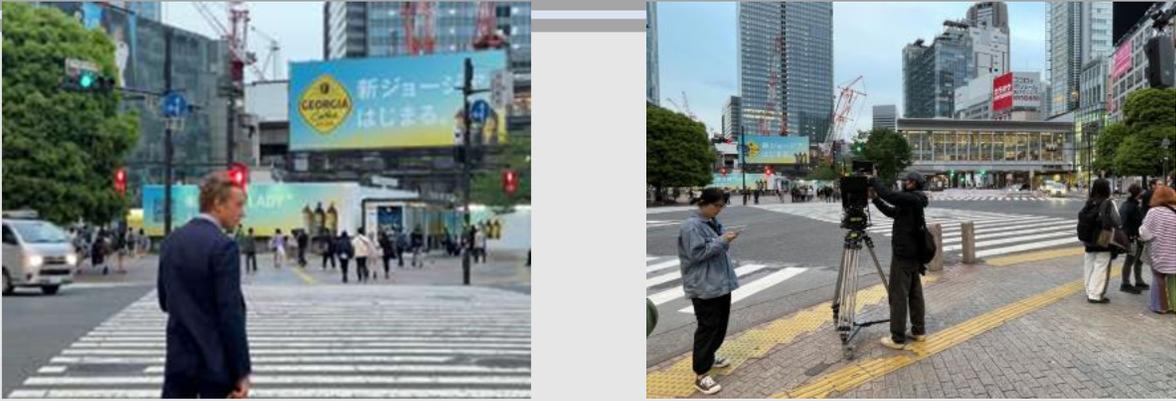
<Main points of the revision>

○ Creation of a "Collection of Case Studies Related to Location Filming" (Attachment)

- To increase the predictability of permits and licenses, past filming examples (28 in total) are posted for locations with high demand for filming (Shibuya Scramble Crossing, Shinjuku Kabukicho, airports, etc.) and areas and locations where special filming is possible (car action scenes, explosion scenes, etc.) .

(Example of listing)

○ Examples of filming at locations with high demand for filming (Shibuya Scramble Crossing (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) [permission for road use])

<p>Filming scene</p> 	
<p>Filming Overview</p>	<p>Filming period: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 5:00-7:00 Scene: Walking scene Number of performers: 1 (50 extras) Number of staff: 80 Traffic controllers: 6 (only around the camera)</p>
<p>Where to apply</p>	<p>Jurisdictional police station</p>
<p>Support FC</p>	<p>Tokyo Location Box</p>
<p>The contents of the filming Adjustment period</p>	<p>Approximately 20 days before the shoot with two meetings.</p>
<p>Filming request details from production companies, etc. (①)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We want to shoot a walking scene at Shibuya Scramble Crossing •We would like to discuss the allocation and operation of the film crew (cast, extras, staff)
<p>Request from the police station regarding ① (②)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Staff should wait in a position that does not reveal that they are a film crew. •Simulate the movements and placement the day before filming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not block pedestrians or vehicles. •If spectators gather and cause traffic congestion, stop filming.
<p>Response of production companies etc. to ②</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Staff will wait like regular passersby •The camera will be set up so that it doesn't feel like it is filming the performers or extras, but two staff members will be stationed around the camera. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We agreed to the prohibition of road closures and the suspension of filming in the event of an emergency.
<p>Final filming conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Photography is permitted with the above measures. •Filming time will be between 5:00 and 7:00

<Main points of the revision>

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(Example of listing)

- Examples of filming at locations with high demand for filming
(Reference: Shibuya Scramble Crossing (open location set))

In 2019 , in response to the attraction of domestic filming for "Tōjingai Tantei Tokyo MISSION ,” an open location set of Shibuya Scramble Crossing was created in Ashikaga City, Tochigi Prefecture (it became a permanent set in June : Photography is permitted by paying a usage fee.)



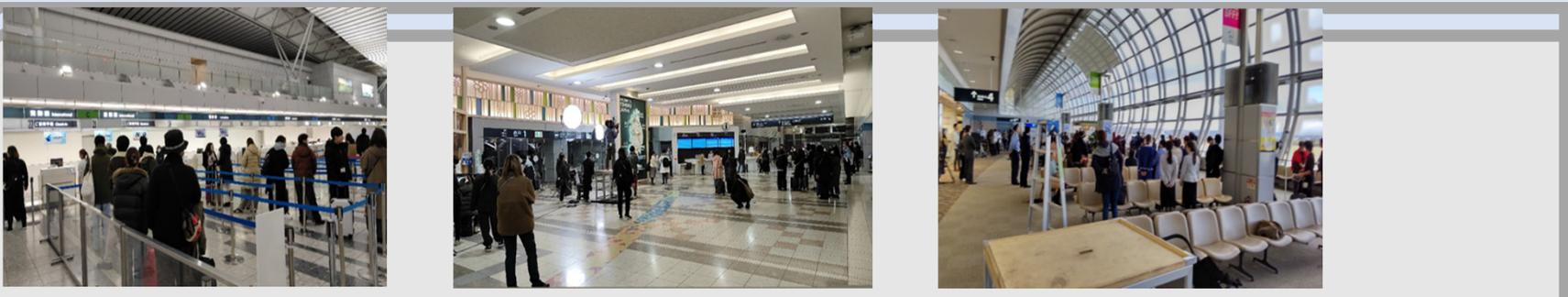
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○ Creation of a "Collection of Case Studies Related to Location Filming" (Attachment)

(Example of listing)

○ Examples of filming at locations with high demand for filming

(Sendai Airport (Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture) * Government managed airport (concession airport))

<p>Filming scene</p>	
<p>Filming Overview</p>	<p>Filming period: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:00 to 17:15 Saturday, December 2nd 03:30 to 12:30 Filming location: Airport occupation scenes (filming at information counters, check-in counters, international waiting rooms, etc.) Number of performers: 10 (maximum) Extras: 30 (maximum) Number of staff: Approximately 50</p>
<p>Where to apply</p>	<p>Airport operator</p>
<p>Support FC</p>	<p>None (application directly from production company)</p>
<p>The period of the filming content adjustment</p>	<p>Approximately 1 month (4 adjustments)</p>
<p>Filming request details from production companies, etc. (①)</p>	<p>We would like to take photos at the following locations at Sendai Airport for 3-4 days, in the daytime between flights, and from night to early morning. <Between flights in the daytime and at night (10 PM - 6 AM)> •Exterior view from the front and from the runway •In the arrival lobby on the 1st floor •1st floor arrival entrance and exit table, road •2nd floor departure lobby and near the station entrance •Observation deck <Nighttime photography (10 PM - 6 AM)> •Baggage claim area •Departure waiting area •3rd floor rest area, restaurants, etc.</p>
<p>Request from the airport office regarding ① (2)</p>	<p>The entire process will be led and witnessed by the airport company or the national government (airport office).</p>
<p>Response of production companies etc. to ②</p>	<p>As per the conditions</p>
<p>Final filming conditions</p>	<p>•Photography is permitted with the above measures.</p>

<Main points of the revision>

○ Creation of a "Collection of Case Studies Related to Location Filming" (Attachment) (Example of listing)

○ Examples of photography involving special filming situations (In front of a commercial facility in Hiroshima Prefecture (outdoors))

Filming scene



Filming Overview

Filming period: Saturday, March 5, 2011 * After the explosion filming ends at 8:30 , the commercial facility will be opened at 10:00 after professional cleaning to remove dust.
Filming location: Explosion scene
Number of performers: 60 (10 stunts, 50 extras)
Number of staff: 100
Number of security guards: 7 (plus 10 police officers due to road closures)

Where to apply

Jurisdictional Fire Department Headquarters (Fire Department)

Support FC

Hiroshima Film Commission

The contents of the shoot Adjustment period

November 2010 to March 5, 2011 (Saturday)

Filming request details from production companies, etc. (①)

•Filming an explosion scene outdoors in front of a commercial facility in Hiroshima Prefecture

Conditions from the Fire Department (fire station) for ① (②)

When using fireworks, the following notification must be submitted:

- Submitting a notification for launching or setting up fireworks (excluding toy fireworks)
- Submit an evacuation route map
- Submit emergency contact information
- Submit an emergency response flow chart

•Check the explosives when they are brought in the day before and on-site to check the explosives installation on the day.

*In this case, since this is not within the scope of places (such as theaters and department stores) designated by the fire chief (fire station chief) as places requiring approval for smoking, the use of open flames, and the bringing in of items that are dangerous for fire prevention, there is no need to submit an application for approval to lift the prohibitions.

Response of production companies etc. to ②

•Submit the above

After checking the amount of explosives, the following additional instructions were given as a loud noise like an earthquake was expected, and were implemented by the FC .

Explain again about the loud noise to the municipal hospitals that have already made arrangements.

Notify security at all surrounding buildings

Contact large commercial facilities that are not adjacent to the filming location.

(Final : 13 adjacent facilities, 9 large commercial stores, 11 shopping streets with 750 stores,

(Explanatory meeting for the FC support group consisting of the Bus Association, 2 Taxi Associations , 5 route bus companies, and 29 companies, associations, and government agencies from various industries)

Final filming conditions

•Photography is permitted with the above measures.

(Reference) Members of the Working-Level Panel on Improving the Location Filming Environment (as of February 1, 2024)

1. Private businesses, etc., or related parties of such organizations

Daisuke Otsuka, MGR (Regional Exchange), Business Promotion Department, Tourism Business Headquarters, JTB Corporation
Okimasa Oshida, Representative Director, Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan
Yoshitaka Sugihara, Director and Public Policy Officer, Netflix
Ruriko Sekine, Secretary General, Japan Film Commission (NPO)
Katsunori Tanaka, Section Chief, Tokyo Film Commission, Regional Development Department, Tokyo Location Box
Shogo Toyama, Chairman, Japan Institute of the Moving Image
Daiji Horiuchi, President and CEO, Kadokawa Daiei Studios Inc.
Tosifumi Makita, Deputy Secretary General, Visual Industry Promotion Organization (NIPO)
Chizuru Matsuzaki, Coordinator, Osaka Film Council

2. Experts in law, content, or other related fields

◎Takashi Uchiyama, Professor, School of Cultural Policy Studies, Aoyama Gakuin University
○Yuji Ogihara, Attorney, GT Tokyo Law Office

3. Officials from relevant ministries and agencies or local governments

Deputy Director-General of the Intellectual Property Strategy Secretariat, Cabinet Office
Chief of the Traffic Management and Control Division, Traffic Bureau, National Police Agency
Chief of the Broadcasting Content Overseas Distribution Promotion Office, Information and Communications Works Promotion Division,
Information Distribution Administration Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Chief of the Prevention Division, Fire and Disaster Prevention Agency
Director of the Policy Planning Division, Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice
Chief of the Cultural Exchange and Overseas Public Relations Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Counselor (Arts and Culture) of the Agency for Cultural Affairs
Chief of the Content Industry Division, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Policy Planning Officer, Policy Division, Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Chief of the Cultural and Historical Resources Utilization Promotion Office, Tourism Resources Division, Japan Tourism Agency
Chief of the National Parks Division, Natural Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Chief of the eSports and Creative Promotion Division, Strategic Sales Bureau, Industry and Economic Affairs Department, Gunma Prefectural
Government

◎: Chair, ○: Deputy Chair (Titles omitted)