



HACIENDO
NEGOCIOS
CON EL MUNDO

GUIDE TO FILMING IN CHILE

OPPORTUNITIES AND REGULATIONS

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
DEPARTMENT PROCHILE / 2024



INFORMATION ABOUT CHILE

Chile is a country that guarantees safety and tranquility for filming in public places. The territory, with four well-defined seasons, offers a huge variety of climates, presenting in different locations almost all the climates existing on the planet.

The time zone is similar to other countries in the Americas and with a few hours of difference with most European countries. In continental Chile, the time zone is GMT-4, while in Easter Island it is GMT-6. During daylight saving time, continental Chile has a GMT-3 time zone and Easter Island is at GMT-5.

The country is divided into 15 regions, which are further divided into 54 provinces, each of which is subdivided into communes or municipalities, administered by an autonomous public corporation, with legal personality and its own assets, called a municipality. Each of the 346 communes in the country has its own authorities and regulations to authorize the development of film productions.

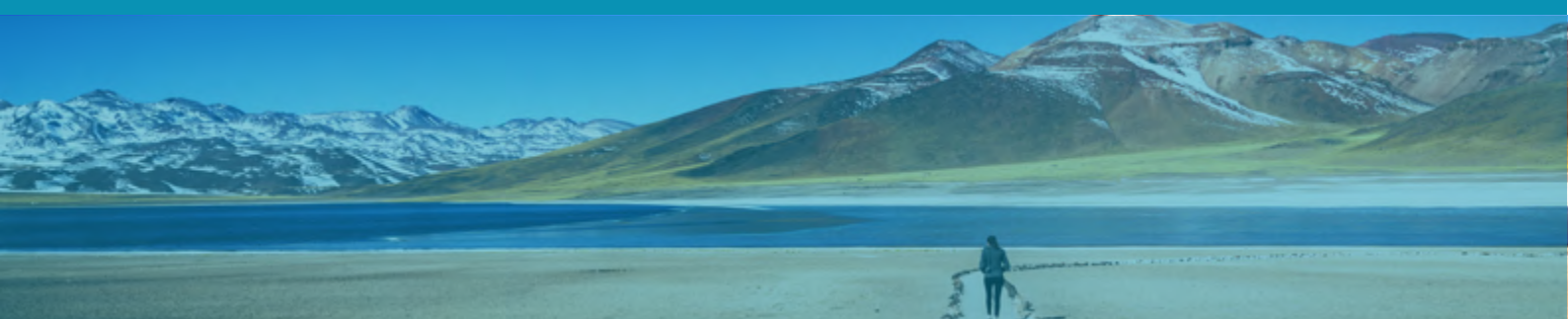
Chile is affiliated with the Temporary Admission (ATA) Convention, a customs document that allows the temporary duty-free entry of goods, exempt from import duties and other taxes such as VAT. The currency exchange is stable, and banks operate from Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, along with a national network of Redbanc ATMs, many of which are connected to the Cirrus or Plus networks.

In Chile, there is a high level of connectivity, with internet access and cell phone coverage practically in all areas of the country; it is also possible to use satellite phones, and landline telephony, which operates in all major cities, covers almost the entire national territory. In addition, Chile has a road network of more than 80,000 km (about 50,000

miles) throughout the country; the Pan-American Highway connects almost the entire national territory between Arica and Puerto Montt and, further south, the Austral Highway connects to Patagonia.

Filming projects conceived outside the country in Chile entails various legal requirements, such as work permits for foreigners, authorizations for the entry of equipment and materials or for the use of public and private locations, and other documents that may vary according to the specific needs of each shoot.

These procedures can be resolved by hiring production companies in the country; many of these have extensive experience in advising and supporting their foreign colleagues on various issues related to working in the national territory.



INCENTIVES

High-Impact Audiovisual Investments Support

As an incentive to attract audiovisual productions to Chile, the Production Development Corporation of Chile (CORFO) has the High-Impact Audiovisual Investments Support program.

The High-Impact Audiovisual Investment Support program –better known as IFI Audiovisual–, aims to increase the production of high-impact foreign audiovisual productions through a subsidy that contributes to increasing investment in this industry and strengthens the region's image internationally. Foreign legal entities responsible for the production of an audiovisual work, which takes place wholly or partially in Chilean territory, may apply for this program directly or through a co-execution agreement with a national production company.

In the latter case, the majority percentage of the investment must be provided by the foreign applicant company.

Applying productions must make a minimum relevant expenditure in the region of US\$200,000. Depending on the region where the project is carried out, the incentive cannot exceed 30% to 40% reimbursement of qualified expenses incurred by the beneficiary company, which includes location and equipment rental, cinematographic production services, catering, accommodation, transportation, fees, etc. The support has a maximum reimbursement limit of US\$3,000,000.

It is focused on Feature Films, television series, and content for OTT (Over the Top services).



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INCENTIVES

Audiovisual Investment Fund

The Ministry of Cultures, Arts, and Heritage (MINCAP), through the Council of Arts and the Audiovisual Industry (CAIA), has the Audiovisual Investment Fund. Through this call, they aim to encourage international investment in associative audiovisual productions by allocating partial resources for pre-production, production, and/or post-production stages in Chile.

For this purpose, the fund provides financing of up to 35% of the total cost of pre-production, production, and/or post-production services executed in Chile, on the condition that the remaining financing is provided by a foreign production company. The support has a maximum reimbursement limit of \$200,000,000 Chilean pesos.

This fund encompasses projects in feature-length and short films, in the genres of fiction, documentary, experimental, and animation. It also includes the production of video games but expressly excludes advertising projects.



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VISAS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING IN CHILE

Law No. 21.325 on Migration and Foreigners

contemplates, among others, the following residence permits and work authorizations:

Permit to work as a tourist.

As a rule, tourists cannot work in the country. Notwithstanding the above, the National Migration Service of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, in its offices in Santiago and in the Provincial Governorates, may authorize work in qualified cases for a maximum period of 30 days, extendable as long as the Tourist Permit remains valid.

This authorization must be personally processed by the tourist in Chile before said department, attaching the respective employment contract or, failing that, it can be processed by the local employer, who will need a notarized power of attorney from the interested party authorizing the processing of this procedure.

For this authorization and for each extension, a fee equivalent to 150% of the value corresponding to the visa subject to contract must be paid, according to the nationality of the applicant.



For more details, visit:

www.serviciomigraciones.cl



Table of fees according to country and type of visa:

www.serviciomigraciones.cl

Visa for Artists Working for Less than 90 Days.

Artists coming to Chile for work stays of 90 days or less must obtain the corresponding permit from the Department of Immigration. This authorization must be processed by the representative or producer of the contracted artist(s) before the Immigration Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

Requirements for requesting work authorization for artists:

- Having a Chilean artistic representative or producer.
- Applying for a tourist visa at the respective Chilean consulate when there is no exemption agreement for this visa.
- Demonstrating artistic quality.

The Artistic Representative or Producer must request a work permit from the Department of Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior in Chile.



For more information, visit:

www.extranjeria.gov.cl

NATIONAL CUSTOMS SERVICE

Customs Procedures, Equipment and Materials Temporary Import

Temporary Admission is the customs procedure that allows entry into the national territory, for a determined period, of foreign goods clearly identifiable, without losing their status as such. By retaining their foreign status, these items are exempt from the taxes that would be levied on their importation.

The period of temporary admission will depend on the nature of the merchandise but is granted for a maximum period of one year. With a reasoned request from the consignee, this period can be extended for the same period by the regional director or the customs administrator who granted the benefit, or by the director of the National Customs Service in subsequent extensions.

Equipment and other materials for a film project may be considered merchandise that, in qualified cases and by reasoned resolution, enter as exempt from the payment of the temporary admission fee determined by the director of the National Customs Service. Regarding this matter, the latest interpretation is contained in the [Legal Report No. 7/2012 of the National Customs Service](#), which establishes qualified situations in which the exemption from the fee will apply for merchandise entered under temporary admission.

At the end of the temporary admission period, the articles must be subject to another regime, which may be re-exportation, importation, or re-destination (the latter, exceptionally).

The procedure for temporary admission can be carried out throughout the year on the Customs website and at the Customs Regional Directorates and Administrations offices. From abroad, the person must submit the cargo to the customs of their country and carry out the procedure for the temporary exit of the product.

More detailed information can be found in the [Customs Ordinance document, Book II](#) and [Legal Norms, Chapter 3: Entry of Goods](#).

Professional Equipment Import

Customs Law in Chile allows, through the [Exempt Resolution No. 6,125](#) –which establishes the list of goods included within the concept of luggage– the entry into the country of “objects exclusively for the exercise of professions or trades, used,” and details a list of items that can be entered without declaration, including personal laptop computers; portable video cameras and their corresponding accessories; mobile phones; portable, digital, or other types of cameras and their corresponding accessories, and others.

To temporarily import items that do not constitute traveler’s luggage, foreign tourists or Chilean residents abroad may enter the country, for up to 90 days, goods not included in the concept of traveler’s luggage for use in the country, and subsequently return them abroad.

Temporary entry will be formalized by signing the [Temporary Admission Declaration of Tourist Effects document](#) provided by the National Customs Service.

Goods requiring visas, certifications, or authorizations for importation are all those that, according to current legislation, must undergo control before their importation and the beginning of customs procedures by any state agency.



Use of ATA Carnet

For the entry of larger filming and technical equipment, it is recommended to use the ATA Carnet, which is operational in national customs. Professionals from countries not yet incorporated into the ATA system should send details of the equipment that will be brought in.

The ATA Carnet is an international customs document that allows the duty-free temporary admission of goods, exempt from import duties and other taxes, such as VAT, in more than 80 countries. It has been used by companies with the backing of international agreements for over 40 years, becoming a true “passport” for commercial product samples, goods participating in fairs, exhibitions, and similar events, as well as articles and equipment for professional work in areas such as press, radio, cinema, theater, sports events, and others.

The Santiago Chamber of Commerce (CCS) has been designated by the National Customs Service as the issuing and guaranteeing entity of the ATA Carnet in Chile. The CCS is part of a worldwide network of ATA entities, led by the International Chamber of Commerce.

The advantages of the ATA Carnet are to streamline and simplify procedures with Chilean and foreign customs; to allow for the “anticipation” of customs procedures at a predetermined cost and to temporarily import goods, using a single document, in more than 80 countries, and to transit through the ATA chain countries as many times as necessary during its one-year validity period.

To obtain this document, you must:

- a. Fill out the [ATA Carnet application form](#), available at www.ccs.cl
- b. Present the corresponding supporting documentation.
- c. Declare the details and value of the items you need to bring in.
- d. Pay a fixed amount for issuance.
- e. Provide a guarantee, which can be recovered once the ATA Carnet is returned in good condition.

For the audiovisual sector, it is possible to request benefits or exemptions from current tax regulations. These franchises correspond, on the one hand, to the release of specific tax burdens on an activity that is intended to be incentivized and, on the other hand, to [agreements to avoid double taxation](#), restricting the payment of taxes to only one of the countries signing those agreements, according to various criteria determined in the agreements.

AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK SERVICE (SAG)

Chile has a strict public policy regarding the protection of its phytosanitary barrier. The Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) is the official body responsible for supporting the development of agriculture, forests, and livestock through the protection and improvement of the health of animals and plants.

To prevent the introduction of diseases or pests from abroad that may affect the country's animals or plants and seriously damage agriculture, phytosanitary and zoo sanitary controls have been established at border points, which operate at entry points into the country by land, air, or sea. At these control points, products, means of transportation, passenger luggage and crew, and commercial loads of forestry and agricultural products are inspected to verify compliance with [SAG regulations](#).

Every person entering the country must complete the SAG form. Fruits, seeds, vegetables, or unprocessed animal products; firearms, ammunition, or explosives; and any type of illegal drugs cannot be brought into Chile.

Explosive Material for Special Effects Import

The execution of special effects in the audiovisual sector is governed by the [Law No. 17.798 on Arms Control](#) and is assimilated to the regulations governing the importation and use of pyrotechnic material (fireworks).

Makeup Material and Prosthetic Special Effects Import

The importation of makeup products, once they have entered the country, requires authorization from the Regional Ministry of Health Office (SEREMI), the body that controls the standards governing cosmetic products in Chile. A detailed list of each product must be provided, specifying its use; if the health authority deems it necessary, product analysis may be requested. For purchases exceeding US\$ 500, a customs agent must be hired.

The mentioned authorization must be submitted to the National Customs Service, the authorized body to retain the shipment and charge, if applicable, the warehousing fee.

Regarding prosthetic special effects products, if their use is not directly on the skin, they do not require authorization from the health authority for entry into the country.

Special Effects Production

The technician in charge of film special effects involving firearms and explosives in Chile must have an explosives handler license, granted by the General Directorate of National Mobilization (DGMN) in accordance with Law No. 17.798 on Arms Control, valid for two years.

For the execution of the effect, a permit must be requested at least 10 days in advance from the supervisory authority, which currently corresponds to the Chilean Carabineros.

[The Supplementary Regulations for Law No. 17.798 on Arms Control and Similar Elements](#) contains relevant information for the audiovisual sector regarding the storage and transportation of pyrotechnic devices for film and television, and indoor pyrotechnic devices.

According to these regulations, the purchase and use of pyrotechnic devices must consider coordination with suitable facilities for their storage (magazines). Regarding the facilities, it is important to note that for the operation of explosives used in the audiovisual sector, the use of mobile magazines is authorized. These are “those that can be transported from one place to another on transport vehicles. Their construction must be completely enclosed and non-combustible, internally lined with non-ferrous material, with metal access doors. They can also be manual transport boxes for minor tasks” (Article 233, subparagraph d).

Article 234 defines that “surface mobile explosive depots, mainly used by small miners, construction companies, and contractors, will consist of two boxes.”

Firearms

In Chile, real firearms cannot be used in the audiovisual sector. Only blank-firing firearms or real firearms modified for blank firing can be used in filming. Firearms modified for blank firing are inspected upon entry into the country by the supervisory authority –Chilean Carabineros– and the DGMN.

In the event of needing to carry firearms, a free transit permit must be obtained from the corresponding supervisory authority.

RELEVANT CONTACTS

How to coproduce with Chile

<https://www.cinemachile.cl>

ProChile

<https://www.prochile.gob.cl>

Raúl Vilches: rvilches@prochile.gob.cl Yerko

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Film and Television Producers Association (APCT)

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