



Scene City

Location Filming In Singapore

Overview

With a unique blend of Asian and Western influences, the Lion City is a thriving metropolis with a vibrant mix of cultures and ethnicities. From striking skyscrapers, to period shophouses and luscious greenery, Singapore's eclectic and contemporary architecture adds to its reputation as a 'City in a Garden', making it a one-of-a-kind place to make a film. Besides the architectural beauty, Singapore also has 350 parks including the world-famous Gardens By The Bay, and the Singapore Botanic Gardens - the only tropical garden to be honoured as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Singapore is also one of the most wired countries in the region, rapidly growing to become a significant technology hub in Asia. Singapore has also been a desirable place for big budget Hollywood productions such as 'Crazy Rich Asians (2018)', and most recently, episodes for season 3 of HBO's 'Westworld (2019)'.

In general, permits are not required for filming on streets and walkways in Singapore, as long as there is no obstruction to vehicular or pedestrian traffic. For usage of properties and/or locations, it is best to seek approvals and permissions directly from the owners. Please also inform nearby businesses or neighbours of your filming activities at least 3 working days in advance as a form of courtesy. It is also good practice to ensure that there is minimal disturbance caused during filming.

Non-Singaporean filmmakers seeking to film in Singapore are required to submit relevant documents to the Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

For a list of filming locations in Singapore, please refer to ['Singapore on Screen'](#)



Grand wedding scene from 'Crazy Rich Asians' that was shot in CHIJMES, Singapore

CONTENTS



- A. ABOUT THE SINGAPORE FILM COMMISSION**
04



- B. ENTERING SINGAPORE**
05



- C. CLEARING CUSTOMS**
07



- D. USING ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FOR FILMING**
08



- E. SECURING LOCATIONS**
11



- F. OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS**
14



- G. CONTACT DETAILS OF AGENCIES**

A. ABOUT THE SINGAPORE FILM COMMISSION

The Singapore Film Commission (SFC), part of the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), is charged with developing Singapore's film industry and nurturing filmmaking talent. It is advised by a committee comprising members from the film, arts and cultural community.

Since 1998, the SFC has supported more than 800 short films, scripts, feature films, as well as film-related events in Singapore that showcase homegrown talent and works. Some notable films by Singapore filmmakers include 'A Land Imagined' (Yeo Siew Hua), 'Ramen Teh' (Eric Khoo), 'POP AYE' (Kirsten Tan), 'Ilo Ilo' (Anthony Chen), the 'Ah Boys to Men' series (Jack Neo), and '881' (Royston Tan).

The Singapore Film Commission (SFC) facilitates location filming in Singapore. While we do not offer filming incentives or subsidies, nor do we conduct location recce, we have compiled this guide which we hope will help you in your filming.



On the sets of the film, 'Long Long Time Ago'

B. ENTRY INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN CAST AND CREW



Visas & Professional Visit Pass

Foreigners who do not require visas for entry and are visiting Singapore as tourists are given a 14-day or 30-day social visit pass upon arrival in Singapore.

Visitors would need to satisfy the following basic requirements before they are able to enter Singapore:

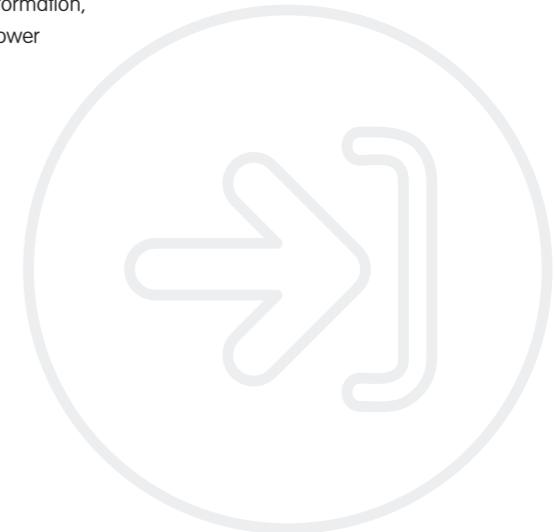
- Passport valid for at least 6 months;
- Confirmed onward/return tickets;
- Sufficient funds for their stay in Singapore;
- Entry facilities, including visas, to their next destination; and
- Visa, if applicable (list of countries that require visas to enter can be viewed [here](#))

Women who are 6 months or more than 6 months pregnant and intend to enter Singapore for social visits should make a prior application through the [nearest Singapore overseas mission](#).

The information in this section is accurate at the time of publishing i.e. 31st August 2019. For the latest information, please refer to the websites of Ministry of Manpower (MOM) at [www.mom.gov.sg](#) and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) at [www.ica.gov.sg](#).



On the sets of the film, 'When Ghost Meets Zombie'



B. ENTRY INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN CAST AND CREW

Work Pass Exempt Activities

Eligibility

Foreigners can enter Singapore and perform certain activities for short durations (less than 60 days) without a Work Pass. Foreigners who are exempted from Work Pass requirements would include those performing activities currently exempted under the Professional Visit Pass (PVP) Scheme administered by the ICA. The list of Work Pass Exempt Activities can be viewed [here](#).

e-Notification for Work Pass Exempt Activities

Foreigners performing Work Pass Exempt Activities are required to submit an [e-Notification](#) to inform MOM before engaging in these activities. They can perform these activities for the duration of their short term visit passes subject to a maximum of 60 days. Beyond that, they will need to obtain a [Work Pass](#). Those carrying out Work Pass Exempt Activities without notifying MOM can be prosecuted under the [Employment of Foreign Manpower Act](#).

In addition, the waiver of Work Pass requirement does not exempt foreigners from having to comply with other specific legal requirements (see full list [here](#)) in Singapore.

C. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Exposed Films & Used Tapes

If you are bringing in rushes/exposed film, please write in to the Singapore Film Commission at SFC@imda.gov.sg, for a letter to facilitate clearance at Customs.

Please have the following details ready:

- Name of Person carrying the footage
- Passport Number
- Flight Number
- Date of Arrival
- Purpose of Film/Tapes
- Number of Reels/Tapes

Film & Video Equipment

Film & video equipment for on-location filming may be brought into Singapore under these conditions:

- If you are working with a local company, you can use the [Temporary Import Scheme](#). If you are not working with a local company, you can use an [ATA Carnet](#).
- Please produce your ATA Carnet upon entry/exit for endorsement of the documentation.

For more information about using the ATA Carnet and the countries that recognise it, please visit the International Chamber of Commerce [website](#).



On the sets of the film, 'When Ghost Meets Zombie'



D. USE OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FOR FILMING IN SINGAPORE

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1. Filming with Deactivated or Blank Firing Weapons

The production company may work with a local licensed company to provide deactivated or blank firing weapons for filming.

If the production company intends to import the deactivated or blank firing weapons, they must write in to the Police Licensing and Regulatory Department (PLRD) of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) to request for approval to import. The request should include the type of the weapons to be imported, quantity, duration of use in Singapore, how it will be stored and how it will be brought into Singapore. An enquiry can be sent to spf_licensing_feedback@spf.gov.sg or via letter addressed to the following:

**OC Licensing, Arms and Explosives Division
Police Licensing & Regulatory Department
Police Cantonment Complex**
391 New Bridge Road #02-701
Police Cantonment Complex
Singapore 088762

The production company will be required to engage a forwarding company to import or export the deactivated or blank firing weapons. The forwarding company will do the necessary inward and outward declaration.

During the importation of the deactivated weapons, the forwarding companies are required to bring the weapons to PLRD for an inspection. Once the deactivated or blank firing weapons had been inspected and approved, the forwarding companies will then be allowed to transport the weapons to the designated storage location.

Licenses will be required for the import, export and possession of deactivated or blank firing weapons. Licenses to import, export and store explosives will also be required for the blank cartridges for blank firing weapons. The storage of the weapons and blank cartridges has to be in an approved armoury (e.g. Auxiliary Police Forces like [Certis CISCO](#), [AETOS Security](#)). For licences to possess deactivated or blank firing weapons and blank cartridges, the licensee will have to be a Singapore Citizen.

SFC's letter of facilitation for filming must be produced to PLRD during application.

Approval from the owner of the property where filming is to be carried out must be obtained.

Approval from PLRD must be obtained for each filming session where the licensed deactivated or blank firing weapons are to be used. The production company shall write in to OC Licensing, Arms and Explosives Division at least 7 working days before the filming session for approval. Brief information on the storyline, location of filming, intended period of filming and details of deactivated or blank firing weapons to be used, are to be provided.

During filming, the applicant must put up visible signage or notices at strategic locations to warn members of the public of on-going filming activities involving the use of deactivated or blank firing weapons. The weapons in transit must be kept out of sight in the vehicle from public view. When parked, the conveying vehicle carrying the weapons should not be left unattended and there should be unobstructed line of sight to ensure that the weapons are secure.

Police must be informed immediately (dial 999 or head to the nearest police station to file a report) in the event of loss of weapons.

The licensee must be present on-site to guide the use of the weapons, and to ensure that only authorised personnel have access to the weapons. If more than 4 weapons are used, armed escorts will be required for the duration when the weapons are out of the armoury. If four or less weapons are used, no armed escorts are required but the licensee must engage sufficient manpower (minimum 1 staff to 2 weapons) to oversee the security of the weapons on-site.

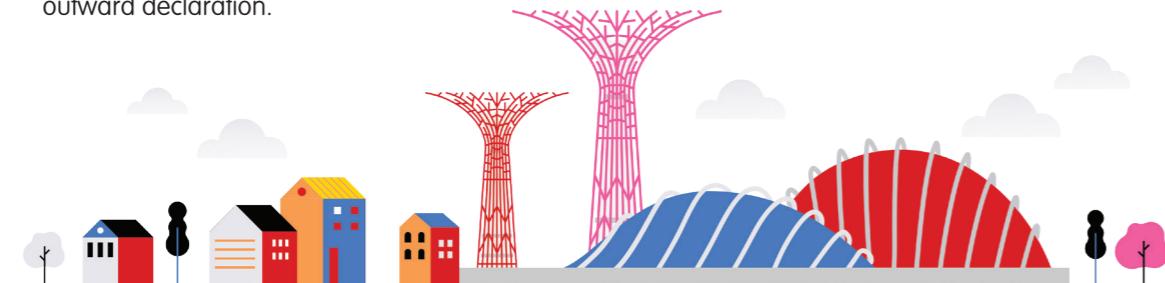
2. Filming with Dummy Weapons (i.e. Imitation or Toy Weapons)

The production company may work with local prop supplying companies or purchase the dummy weapons from local retail shops for filming.

If the production company intends to import the dummy weapons, they may write in to the Police Licensing and Regulatory Department (PLRD) to request for approval to import. The request should include the type of the dummy weapons to be imported, quantity, duration of use in Singapore, how it will be stored and how it will be brought into Singapore. An enquiry can be sent to spf_licensing_feedback@spf.gov.sg or via letter addressed to the following:

**OC Licensing, Arms and Explosives Division
Police Licensing & Regulatory Department
Police Cantonment Complex**
391 New Bridge Road #02-701
Police Cantonment Complex
Singapore 088762

The production company may engage a forwarding company to import or export the dummy weapons. The forwarding company will do the necessary inward and outward declaration.



D. USE OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FOR FILMING IN SINGAPORE

During the importation of the dummy weapons, the forwarding companies are required to bring the weapons to PLRD for an inspection. Once the dummy weapons had been inspected and approved, the forwarding companies will then be allowed to transport the weapons to the designated storage location.

Approval from the owner of the property where filming is to be carried out must be obtained.

A representative of the filming crew or the production company must inform PLRD (in writing or email) at least 7 working days before the filming session. Brief information on the storyline, location of filming, intended period of filming and type of dummy weapons to be used, are to be provided.

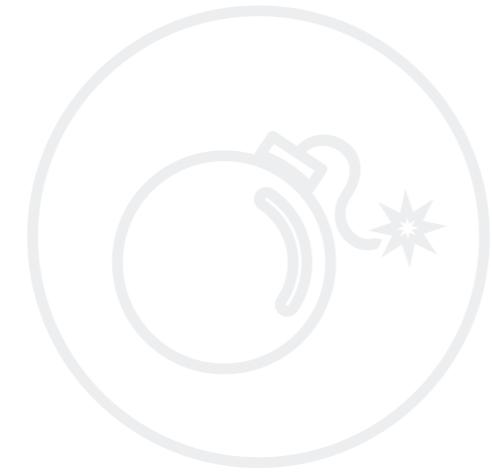
During the filming, it is a good practice to put up visible signage or notices at strategic locations to inform members of the public on the filming.



Action scene being shot for the 'Ah Boys to Men' film series.

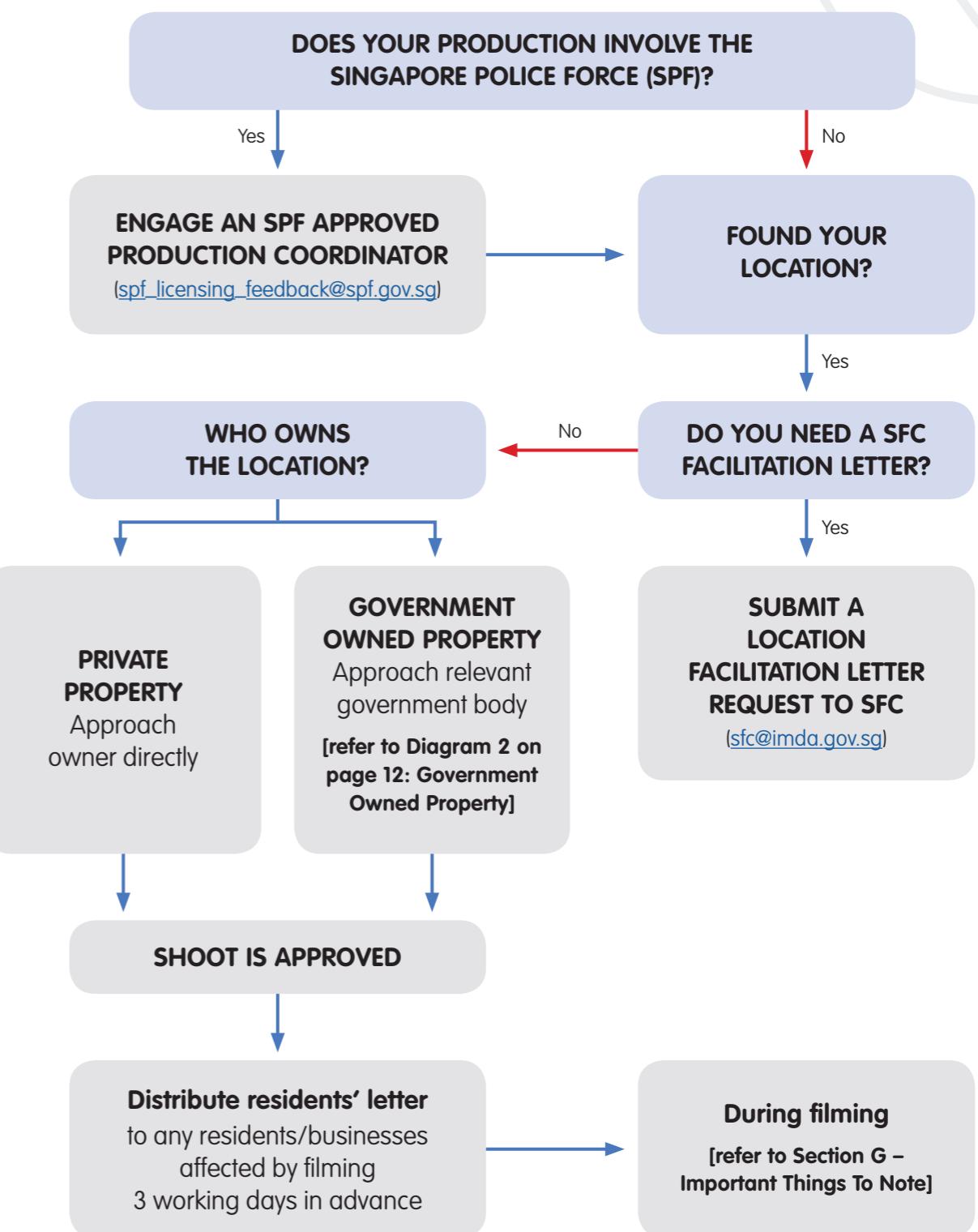
3. Processing Time

The normal processing time for an application for Arms and Explosives licence for deactivated or blank firing weapons is 7 working days from the receipt of the application and the necessary supporting documents. Please visit the SPF's [website](#) for details on the Arms and Explosives licence. Should there be any need for clarifications, please contact the PLRD at +65 6835 0000 or email spf_licensing_feedback@spf.gov.sg.



E. SECURING LOCATIONS FOR FILMING

DIAGRAM 1: OVERALL PROCESS

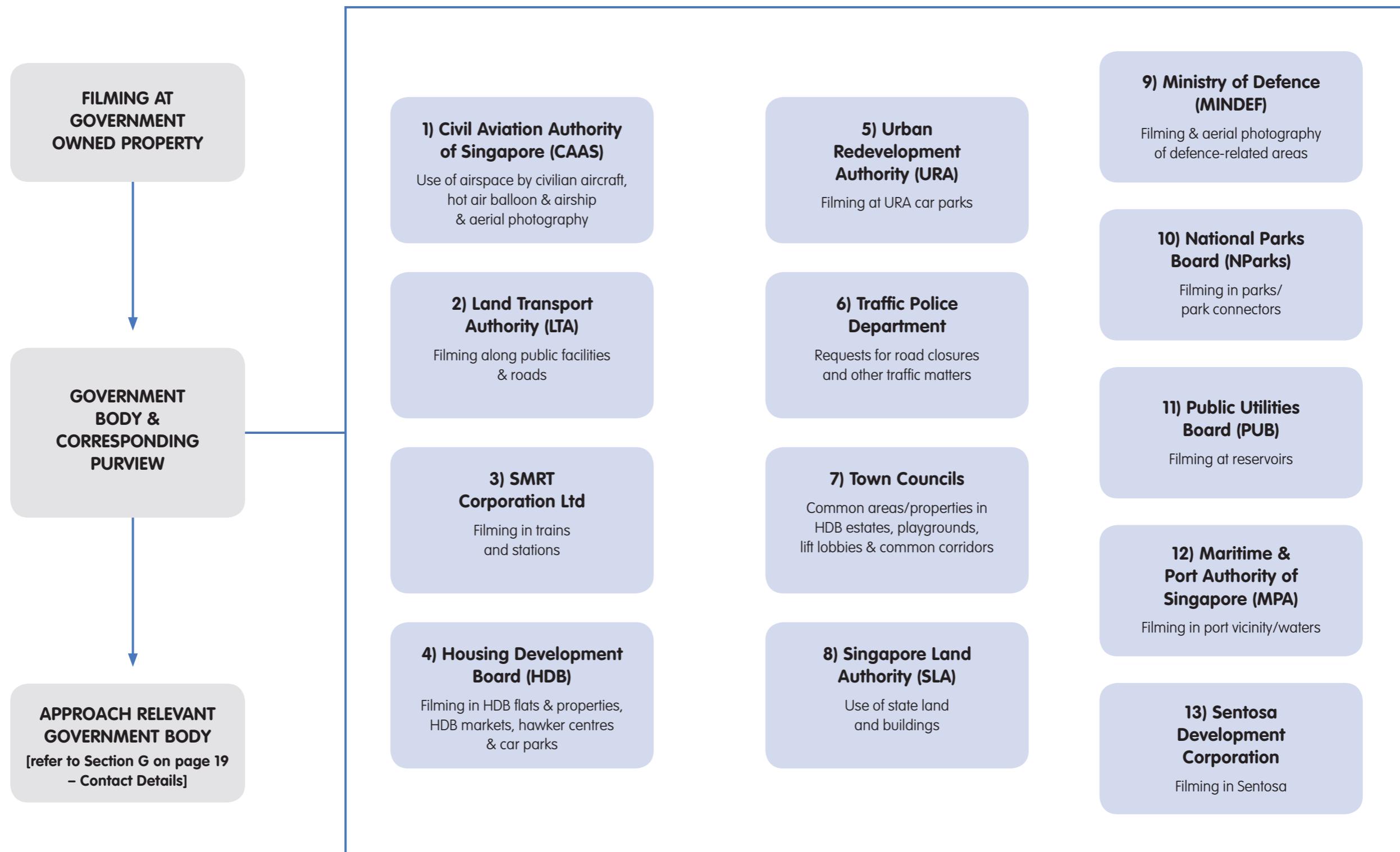


E. SECURING LOCATIONS FOR FILMING



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DIAGRAM 2: GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY



F. IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

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1. FILMING AT CHANGI AIRPORT

As operator of Changi Airport, the Changi Airport Group (CAG) provides a one-stop service centre for all applicants who wish to apply for a permit to carry out filming/photography at Changi Airport. CAG will make the following required arrangements on behalf of the applicant:

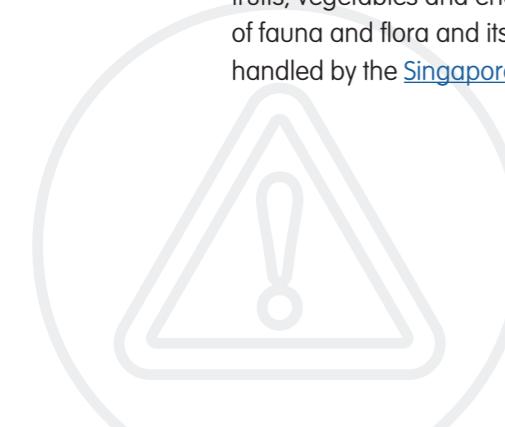
- a. Security escort and supervision for restricted areas of the airport
- b. Security pass application and processing for restricted areas
- c. Basic technical support (electrical only)
- d. Permit application and processing

The application form is available at this [link](#). All applications should be sent to filmpo@changiairport.com.

For fees, terms and conditions and other information, please refer to CAG's Filming & Photography Application Centre [website](#).

2. IMPORT OF FOOD, PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Custom formalities concerning import, export and transshipment of fish, animals, birds and their by-product, plants with soil, fruits, vegetables and endangered species of fauna and flora and its derivatives are handled by the [Singapore Food Agency](#).



3. CHARGES

Location charges are dependent on the respective property owner. Filmmakers may also like to explore the Short-Term Rental of State Properties for Filming (SRF) Program for suitable state properties such as former police stations, camp sites, hospitals, schools etc. for use as a set or a production office. This is a joint effort by the SFC and the Singapore Land Authority to help filmmakers rent vacant State Properties on a short-term basis at preferential rates. Please see the SLA [website](#) for available properties (subject to changes).

Short-Term Rental Of State Properties For Filming (SRF) Programme

The following documents must be submitted together with the application via email to sla_ply_enquiry@sla.gov.sg:

- a. One-page story outline/synopsis of project;
- b. Location breakdown (including number of days per location);
- c. Relevant scene descriptions;
- d. Production budget;
- e. Production schedule (indicating pre-production, production, post production dates);
- f. Brief profiles of production company and producer;
- g. Copy of Insurance Policy covering public liability (or quotation); and
- h. Other relevant supporting documents.

The programme is available all year round and processing time for the application is between 3-5 weeks.

4. CLEANLINESS

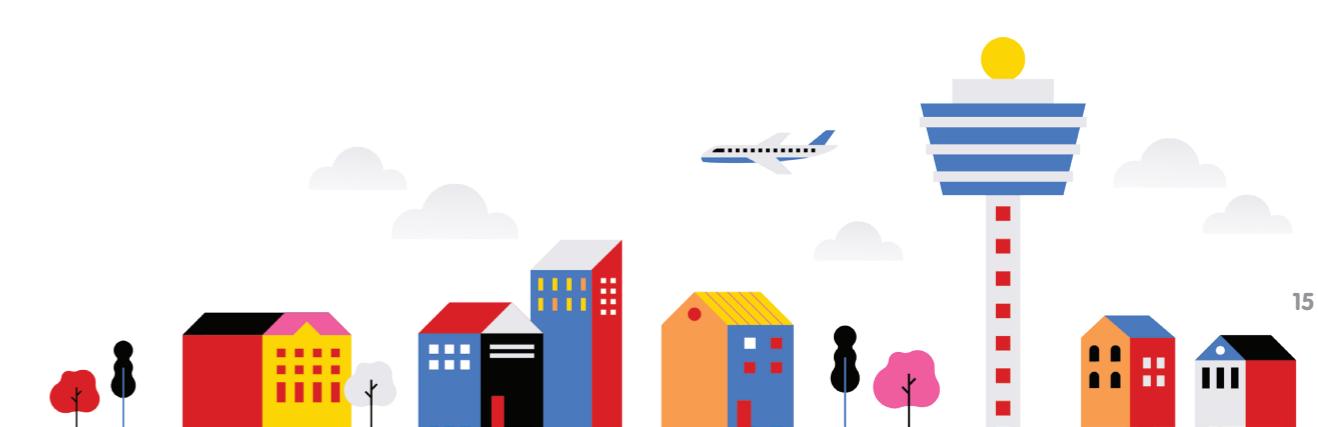
The production shall ensure that all litter is removed immediately at the end of the filming and that the location and environment is kept in the same condition in which they were found.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

All matters concerning telecommunication and radio communication equipment such as 1) Wireless microphones, 2) Walkie-talkie sets, and 3) Wireless video transmitters should be referred to the [Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore \(IMDA\)](#).

6. FLAGS AND THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Use of the Singapore Flag and/or the National Anthem do not require approval by a government agency or otherwise for their use. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that use of the Singapore Flag and/or the National Anthem is in adherence with the [Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem \(SAFNA\)](#) rules and relevant guidelines, set by the [National Heritage Board](#).



7. IMPORT PERMITS

All enquiries regarding temporary import permits, trade documentation and procedures should be referred to the [Singapore Customs Strategic Goods Control \(STGC\)](#).

8. INSURANCE & RESPONSIBILITIES

All production companies filming in the streets must have a public liability insurance policy for themselves and for third parties in case of accidents and for damages to goods or equipment.

Precautions must be taken not to damage public property otherwise the production shall be liable for the cost of repairs on works and surfaces that might have been damaged during filming.

The production shall obtain and produce a copy of the relevant insurance needed before shooting commences and should be kept with the production at all times.

F. IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE



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9. NOISE & NUISANCE

The production must ensure that noise be kept to a minimum, especially when setting up early in the morning or taking down in the hours past midnight. Generators should not be switched on before 0700hrs unless they are silent or if prior notification has been given to [Land Transport Authority \(LTA\)](#) and residents/public in the affected area.

All members of the filming or shooting crew must behave in a respectful and responsible manner and use only places specifically mentioned in the permit. Night shoots and filming are subject to prior notification to residents/businesses in the letter to residents.



On the sets of the film, 'Ramen Teh' at Chinatown, Singapore.

10. PARKING & TRAFFIC

The production shall make every effort to find off-street parking for all facility vehicles. If it is not possible, please note the following:

Parking at car parks:

a. URA Car Parks – Contact [Urban Redevelopment Authority](#) for permission to use car parks

b. HDB Car Parks – Contact [Housing Development Board](#) for permission to use car parks

Parking along a lane/street:

Applications must be made to the LTA for application to close off a lane/street or reservation of parking spaces. Only the technical vehicles used for filming are allowed to park. Private vehicles are not on the list of authorised vehicles.

Filming vehicles are not authorised to park if they block or disrupt the passage of pedestrians or motor vehicles as well as emergency services.

The production must ensure that filming does not cause any permanent inconvenience to pedestrians. The production must also ensure that it does not impede the movements of disabled people and should seek to create diversions accessible to them.

11. TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS

The [LTA](#) should be informed when lighting, lighting towers, scaffolding and demountable structures are to be installed on roads and footways. The production must ensure that

- a. All the lights above ground level and lighting stands are properly secured
- b. Lighting stands placed along a footway are attended at all times
- c. Lighting must not dazzle motor drivers
- d. Lighting must not be shone directly towards residential properties

PROPS

The production must ensure that the relevant authorities, i.e. the [Singapore Police Force \(SPF\)](#), [Singapore Civil Defence Force \(SCDF\)](#), etc. be informed if specific emergency service uniforms or vehicles are to be used during filming.

During filming, any uniforms or vehicles resembling those used by emergency services must be covered whenever possible and especially between takes.

STUNTS, SPECIAL EFFECTS & PYROTECHNICS

All stunts, special effects (including weather effects and wet downs) and pyrotechnics must be under the direct control of a named qualified stunt coordinator or special effects operative.

Approval should be sought by the building owner if stunts involve their building in concern. For stunts along public streets or roads, the [SPF](#) and the [LTA](#) must be informed.

CABLING

The production must ensure that all cables are safely laid. Cables should always be taped down in order to avoid any risk of stumbling. If cables need to be laid across a footway, they must be covered by a taped rubber mat that is visible to the public with proper lighting and markings.

CRANES/CAMERA CRANES

The production must ensure that the [LTA](#) is informed should cranes/camera cranes be required for filming on public roads. Details should include the specific weight and positioning of cranes/camera cranes and the need to maintain access. Signaling lights must be placed around the aerial platform or crane in times of bad visibility or when filming at night.



F. IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

12. AERIAL FILMING & EQUIPMENT

To fly an unmanned aircraft (UA) for non-recreational/specialised service purposes, a UA Operator Permit (OP) and Class 1 Activity Permit (AP) are required regardless of the location (within indoor or outdoor), operating altitude, weight of the UA or type of operations. Applications for the required permits can be made through the [Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore \(CAAS\) website](#). The average processing time of the OP and AP takes at least 10 working days or more depending on the completeness of the submission of supporting documents and complexity of the UA operations. There are chargeable application fees for the permit applications and the fees are non-refundable regardless of the outcome of the applications. The details on the application fees can be found in the website.

All permit applications are assessed on a case by case basis. The production is also advised to seek permission from the building management/property owner and/or adhere to signage from land management authorities before proceeding with the applications. In addition, the production must ensure that aerial platforms or similar equipment should not be left unattended.

For helicopter filming, please contact CAAS at CAAS_ATS_ANSP@caas.gov.sg or visit their [website](#) for more information.



On the sets of the film, 'Number 1'

G. CONTACT DETAILS OF AGENCIES



Contact details of various government agencies are provided below and are accurate at the time of publishing. For the latest information, please check against the Singapore Government Directory at <http://app.sgdi.gov.sg>

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (CAAS)

60 Airport Boulevard
4th Storey, Terminal 2
Singapore Changi Airport
Singapore 819643

+65 6542 1122
www.caas.gov.sg

INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (IMDA)

10 Pasir Panjang Road
#03-01 Mapletree Business City
Singapore 117438

+65 6211 0888
info@imda.gov.sg
www.imda.gov.sg

JURONG TOWN CORPORATION (JTC)

The JTC Summit
8 Jurong Town Hall Road
Singapore 609434

+65 1800 568 7000
askjtc@jtc.gov.sg
www.jtc.gov.sg

LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (LTA)

Media Relations Unit
No. 1 Hampshire Road
Singapore 219428

+65 6225 5582 /
+65 1800 - CALL LTA (1800 - 2255 582)
feedback@lta.gov.sg
www.lta.gov.sg/feedback

G. CONTACT DETAILS OF AGENCIES



MARITIME & PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (MPA)

Corporate Communications Department
460 Alexandra Road, #19-00
PSA Building
Singapore 119963

+65 6375 1643
media_enquiries@mpa.gov.sg
www.mpa.gov.sg

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION (MCI)

140 Hill Street #01-01A,
Old Hill Street Police Station
Singapore 179369

+65 1800 837 9655 / +65 6837 9655
MCI_Connects@mci.gov.sg

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MINDEF)

Media Relations Branch
303 Gombak Drive off
Upper Bukit Timah Road
MINDEF Building
Singapore 669645

+65 1800-3676767
www.mindef.gov.sg

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER (MOM)

18 Havelock Road, #07-01
Singapore 059764

+65 6438 5122
Online enquiry form:
services.mom.gov.sg/efeedback/Forms/eFeedback.aspx
www.mom.gov.sg

NATIONAL PARKS BOARD (NParks)

Headquarters National Parks Board,
Singapore Botanic Gardens
1 Cluny Road
Singapore 259569

+65 6471 7808 / +65 6472 3033
nparks_mailbox@nparks.gov.sg
www.nparks.gov.sg

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD (PUB)

40 Scotts Road, #22-01
Environment Building
Singapore 228231

+65 6235 8888
PUB_One@pub.gov.sg
www.pub.gov.sg

SENTOSA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Sentosa Office
39 Artillery Avenue, Sentosa
Singapore 099958

+65 6275 0388
guest_services@sentosa.com.sg
www.sentosa.com.sg

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

55 Newton Road, #10-01
Revenue House
Singapore 307987

+65 6355 2000
customs_documentation@customs.gov.sg
www.customs.gov.sg

SINGAPORE FILM COMMISSION (SFC) (under IMDA)

SFC@imda.gov.sg
www.imda.gov.sg/sfc

SINGAPORE FOOD AGENCY (SFA) (FORMERLY AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE)

Headquarters
Singapore Food Agency of Singapore
JEM Office Tower
52 Jurong Gateway Road #14-01
Singapore 608550

+65 6805 2992
Online Enquiry:
csp.sfa.gov.sg/feedback
www.sfa.gov.sg

SINGAPORE LAND AUTHORITY (SLA)

Corporate Communications Department
55 Newton Road, #12-01
Revenue House
Singapore 307987

+65 6323 9829
sla_enquiry@sla.gov.sg
www.sla.gov.sg

SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE (SPF)

Police Headquarters
New Phoenix Park
28 Irrawaddy Road
Singapore 329560

+65 1800 - 358 0000
Online Enquiry:
app.police.gov.sg/Feedback/SPFfeedback.aspx
www.police.gov.sg

G. CONTACT DETAILS OF AGENCIES

SMRT CORPORATION LTD (SMRT)

Corporate Communications Department
251 North Bridge Road
Singapore 179102

+65 1800 336 8900
Online Enquiry:
www.smrt.com.sg/feedback
www.smrt.com.sg

TOWN COUNCILS

Ministry of National Development
5 Maxwell Road, #21/22-00
Tower Block, MND Complex
Singapore 069110

Contact:
www.towncouncils.sg/links_usefullinks.html#towncouncil
www.towncouncils.sg

TRAFFIC POLICE DEPARTMENT (TP)

Traffic Police Department
10 Ubi Avenue 3
Singapore 408865

+65 6547 0000
spf_feedback_tp@spf.gov.sg
www.police.gov.sg

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (URA)

Car Parks Division,
Urban Redevelopment Authority
45 Maxwell Road
The URA Centre
Singapore 069118

+65 6329 3434
ura_email@ura.gov.sg
www.ura.gov.sg





With a unique blend of Asian and Western influences,
Singapore's vibrant mix of eclectic and contemporary
architecture makes it a one-of-a-kind place to make a film.
Learn more at [*'Singapore on Screen'*](#).



 www.IMDA.gov.sg/SFC

 twitter.com/IMDAsg

 facebook.com/IMDAsg

 youtube.com/IMDAsg

