



- CANADIAN OFFICE -  
**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS  
 OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**  
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**P2 INFORMATION – COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**WHAT IS A P2 WORK PERMIT? (As defined by U.S.C.I.S.) – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services**

The P2 classification applies to an alien (Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant to Canada) temporarily entering the U.S. to perform as an **ARTIST OR ENTERTAINER**, individually or as part of a group. This category is subject to a **RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM** between an organization in the U.S. and a similar organization in another country which offers a similar program to U.S. citizen artist/entertainer(s). For this purpose, an agreement between AFM Canada representing its Canadian members and AFM U.S. representing its U.S. members, has been accepted by USCIS which recognizes AFM as an authorized petitioner for Class P2 work permits. *(Please note: for individuals who are landed immigrants to Canada a 'visa' must also be obtained via a U.S. Consulate).*

*WHILE YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR LODGING CAN BE MADE, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU PERMITTED TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES WHILE ON A CLASS P2 WORK PERMIT. YOU MUST KEEP YOUR RESIDENCE IN CANADA unless you qualify under U.S.C.I.S. guidelines for permanent residency, which status must be obtained via a U.S. consulate or an immigration lawyer.*

To obtain a P2 work permit, all members of your performing unit must be good standing member(s) of a Local of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada. Each member must complete and sign an application. Also, you must have **confirmed** engagements. **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service does not issue 'open' work permits. This work permit is very specific to the engagement(s) which were applied for and listed on the original petition.** You may not under any circumstances 'freelance' or solicit your musical services under this classification. Any additions/changes to the engagement(s) must be properly reported to U.S.C.I.S. through the AFM's Canadian Office – additional fees and processing time frames apply.

**Accompanying Support Personnel:** This category applies to accompanying 'support personnel' who are highly skilled aliens acting in their capacity as essential and integral parts of the 'performance' of a P-2 (musician) applicant. Support personnel must provide support services which cannot be readily performed by a U.S. worker/citizen, and which are essential to the successful performance or services of the entertainer. *(Technician applications are supported by the original musician application, therefore only technicians who have musicians utilizing this service may apply).*

**WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TIME FOR A TEMPORARY WORK PERMIT?**

- a) You may apply for a P2 work permit for one 1 day and up to a maximum of 365 days, **provided** you have at least one contracted performance per month.
- b) U.S.C.I.S. will approve a petition to allow entry into the U.S. a maximum of 2 days prior to your first date of engagement, and providing it does not exceed 2 days and providing you indicate the earlier date on your application.
- c) Your permit is valid in accordance with the dates on your Approval Notice. *(Please note: check these dates upon receipt).*
- d) **If there is a gap of more than 30 days between engagements, additional applications must be filed with the required fees.**

**HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST, TO WHOM PAID?**

REGULAR FILES (Musicians only)	\$190.00 US dollar money order, payable to 'USCIS'	Approximately 95 -125 days (from date of receipt in the AFM office)
REGULAR FILES (Musicians & Technicians)	\$380.00 US dollar money order payable to 'USCIS'	
PREMIUM FILES (Musicians only)	\$190.00 plus \$1000.00 under separate US dollars money orders payable to 'USCIS'	Approximately 20-35 days (from date of receipt in the AFM office)
PREMIUM FILES (Musician & Technicians)	\$380.00 plus \$2000.00 under separate US dollar money orders both payable to the 'USCIS'	

**ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES?**

Membership Dues to Local – need to be paid for the duration of your P2 Visa requested.
AFM administration Fee: \$25.00 for Musicians/ \$50.00 for Musicians and Technicians
Courier Fees may be incurred when time is pressing for you to receive your approval notice.

## **WHAT ARE DEEMED TO BE CONFIRMED ENGAGEMENTS?**

For U.S.C.I.S. purposes all engagements must be confirmed in advance of the application with AFM Canada in order to be listed and included for approval purposes. This can only be accomplished by providing the following:

- a) One (1) T2C – Traveling Engagement Contract for Canada and Schedule 1 from each purchaser/venue **AND/OR**
- b) An itinerary provided by a Booking Agent/Manager who is a LICENSED AGENT to either the AFM U.S. or AFM Canada Booking Agent Agreement. Itinerary must include a covering letter from the agent that booked the tour, which confirms the run dates of the tour and all musician(s) named. **Necessary information for both contracts & itineraries: date of the engagement, venue name, address, contact phone number and compensation for the engagement. SYMPHONY/ORCHESTRA/THEATRE PERFORMANCES & RECORDING MUSIC WRITING AGREEMENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE T2C CONTRACT REQUIREMENT.**

## **WHAT IF MY EMPLOYMENT CHANGES WHILE ON A P2 – CAN I ‘PICK UP’ GIGS?**

**Please be advised that the P2 is NOT AN OPEN WORK PERMIT.** The P2 is specific to the engagements initially applied for. If there is a change in employer or you are offered new employment during the validity dates of your permit, please advise AFM Canada **BEFORE** accepting employment. To update an existing permit, additional fees charged by U.S.C.I.S. apply. **ANY MUSICIAN/TECHNICIAN ACCEPTING ENGAGEMENTS NOT ORIGINALLY APPLIED FOR, OR NOT AUTHORIZED BY USCIS, ARE WORKING THOSE ENGAGEMENTS ILLEGALLY. PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.**

## **HOW LONG WILL PROCESSING TAKE?**

**AFM can only provide musicians/managers/booking agents with an approximate processing time, as follows in the table below. The USCIS solely controls when files are processed.**

	<b>Regular Files \$190.00</b>	<b>Premium Files \$190.00 and \$1000.00</b>
Approximate processing time. This fluctuates for Regular files	90 -120 days in the USCIS system	15 days in the USCIS system once received
AFM – 3 day turn around policy	3 days (some what flexible)	3 days (some what flexible)
Courier to USCIS	1 day (no weekend delivery)	1 day (no weekend delivery)
Minimum time AFM requires for processing	95/125 days	20 days
In order for you to have the original approval notice in your hand add another 7-14 days	<b>109-139 days</b>	<b>34 days</b>
<b>Landed Immigrants</b>	<b>125-139 days</b>	<b>30-35 days</b>

## **WHAT HAPPENS TO MY REQUEST ONCE FILED WITH THE AFM CANADIAN OFFICE?**

Once AFM Canada reviews the application(s), confirms engagement(s) and other required information, AFM Canada will then prepare and I-129 petition. This form along with copies of confirmed engagement(s) and money order(s) will be submitted via overnight courier to the California Service Centre for processing. When received by California Service Centre, the file must first be Received by U.S.C.I.S., assigned a specific case number which is referred to as a ‘WAC’ number. Security checks are then performed on each and every petition submitted (even repeat applicants) and the file is assigned to an adjudicator. It is very important to note that from time to time the California Service Centre experiences backlogs and high caseloads. This may result in further delays to the processing times provided above. When a decision has been reached on your case, AFM Canada will be notified by way of an Approval Notice (I-797B). Once this Approval Notice is received the named contact for the file will be notified and delivery options will be discussed at that time.

## **WHAT DO I DO WHEN I RECEIVE MY APPROVAL NOTICE (Form I-797B)?**

**For Canadian Citizens only** - It is important to note that the Approval Notice **IS NOT** your actual work permit. You must have this notice processed at your designated Port of Entry / Pre-Flight Inspection by an Immigration Officer. The Port of Entry requested on your original petition is the only Port of Entry / Pre-Flight Inspection (border crossing) that must be utilized to process your ‘P2’ permit. Upon arriving at the Port of Entry / Pre-Flight Inspection, you must disclose that you have been approved to perform in the U.S. as a non-immigrant worker. The U.S. border official will advise you of the procedure at that time. If you are a Landed Immigrant or Permanent Resident in Canada please consult AFM Canada for special procedures.

## **WHAT IS A PORT OF ENTRY?**

The Port of Entry or Pre-Flight Inspection is the place through which you enter into the U.S. This Port of Entry is where you must obtain your I-94 Departure Record (your ‘P2’ permit). Pre-determining your Port of Entry is a very important part of this process. U.S.C.I.S. California Service Centre will cable/fax a copy of your Approval Notice to the Port of Entry / Pre Flight Inspection you have designated. This is necessary for the Immigration Officer to verify and process your ‘P2’ permit. After you have obtained an I-94 Departure Record, you may enter the US via any Port of Entry/Pre-Flight Inspection thereafter. For charter flights, please consult your travel agent to confirm the airport where US Pre-Flight Inspection will occur. Include this information on your application when applying.

## **I HAVE MY I-94 DEPARTURE RECORD...NOW WHAT?**

**Once you have obtained an I-94 Departure Record, you are entitled to work ONLY the engagement(s) for which you applied for in the original petition.** Once you cross through your designated Port of Entry, the I-94 Departure Record acts as a multi-entry permit in which the holder can leave the U.S. and re-enter the U.S. through any Port of Entry. *The same Port of Entry does not have to be used after the initial crossing.* This I-94 Departure Record is valid up to and including the expiry date which is determined from information contained on the original Approval Notice. **GUARANTEE THAT YOUR I-94 DEPARTURE RECORD IS WITH YOU EACH AND EVERY TIME YOU ENTER THE UNITED STATES**

**WHAT IF MYSELF OR A MEMBER OF MY BAND/CREW IS ‘TURNED AWAY’ AT THE BORDER?**

Once an Approval Notice has been issued, there are very few instances where musicians/technicians/support staff are turned away at the border. To date it has only involved members with criminal records, members who do not possess all the required identification OR those who attempt to enter the United States for engagements that have not been authorized by U.S.C.I.S. **THE AFM HAS NO INFLUENCE OVER THE DECISION MADE BY THE IMMIGRATION INSPECTOR AT THE PORT OF ENTRY/PRE-FLIGHT INSPECTION**

**DO I BRING ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION WITH ME TO THE BORDER?**

In addition to the Approval Notice (Form I-797), please ensure that all those named on the Approval Notice have proper identification by way of a valid passport or valid driver’s license with birth certificate. If traveling by air only passports are accepted. You should also bring copies of your engagement contracts in the event verification is necessary. *(It is advisable to carry said contracts every time you cross through a Port of Entry).* U.S. Immigration officials may charge a per document fee to issue your actual ‘P2’ permit (referred to as an **I-94 Departure Record**). **This fee is \$7.00USD - EXACT CASH PER PERSON.** The Port of Entry **DOES NOT CARRY CHANGE.**

**WHAT IF I HAVE LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS?**

Landed Immigrants require additional time to be approved – please allow a minimum of 125 days for regular files and 35 days for premium files. There will be an additional cost for this service payable in U.S. funds to the Consulate. All landed immigrants are asked to contact the Canadian Office for further information **BEFORE** submitting their application. Additional information can also be obtained by visiting [www.amcits.com](http://www.amcits.com)

**WHAT ELSE WILL I REQUIRE WITH MY APPLICATION?**

<b>AFM Musicians Applicants</b>	<b>AFM Musicians and Technicians</b>
Application Parts 1a, 2, 3 and 4 (if more than 1 musician applying)	Application Parts 1a, 2, 3, 4 for musicians and 1b, 2,3,4, and 5 for Technicians
Passport Biometric page (photo page) for all applicants.	Passport Biometric page (photo page) for all applicants.
With Part 2 – Membership verification – a Local Staff person is to sign and verify that the musician applicants are ‘paid up’ for the period covering the duration of the work permit. Alternatively, copies of current membership cards or receipts for dues paid may be submitted with your application in lieu of written confirmation from the Local. Please contact your Local Office for further information on your current status, dues, etc.	
T2C Contracts for all venues/performances.	Contracts are part of the Musician petition
US Money orders: \$190.00 plus \$1000.00 if filing premium	US Money orders: \$380.00 plus \$2000.00 if filing premium
AFM – cheque for 25.00	AFM cheque for \$50.00

**CAN I REPLACE A BAND MEMBER AFTER APPROVAL OF THE PETITION?**

**ONLY AFM members can replace AFM members, and only Musicians are able to be substituted NOT technicians.** AFM requires a written request from the leader/manager/booking agent who sent in the application. A copy of the Approval Notice is required along with the name of the person to be replaced. Please also have the new member fill out Part 1a and Part 2 and submit this information with your request. Once received, AFM will provide you with a letter confirming a change in band personnel. This letter along with the I-94 Departure Record issued to the original player, must be submitted by the replacement player at the Port of Entry, which they are using. The replacement player will then be issued an I-94 Departure Record in his/her name.

**AFM CANADA CHARGES \$25.00 CDN FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A REPLACEMENT LETTER IF THE REQUEST EXCEEDS 2 CHANGES PER FILE.** Please advise Lidia McGeown at least 72 hours in advance for any changes to approved beneficiaries.

**WHERE DO I SEND MY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS, CONFIRMATION OF ENGAGEMENTS AND MONEY ORDERS?**

AFM Canada prefers you send your application to your Local Office first so that a Local Officer can verify membership (by signing the bottom of Part 2). In the case where you have provided membership verification with the file, you may send your request directly to:

American Federation of Musicians  
Canadian Office  
75 The Donway West, Suite 1010  
Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3C 2E9  
Tel: 416-391-5161 Fax: 416-391-5165

**Although your Local Office should be your first contact,** for additional questions you may direct your inquiries to:

Sean Johnston, Artist Immigration Administrator, AFM Canada [sjohnston@afm.org](mailto:sjohnston@afm.org)  
Lidia McGeown, Artist Immigration Administrator, AFM Canada [lmcegeown@afm.org](mailto:lmcegeown@afm.org)

Alternatively, you can access the USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Services) website for additional information <http://uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>

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