

Italy

And elsewhere? The rules, country by country

AUTHORITIES AND PROCEDURES

Rights holders ; SIAE ; municipality / SUAP ; SCIA or authorization as appropriate.

RECENT FILMS

Distributor availability; no general one-year delay identified.

KEY POINT

SIAE: musical track. Check film rights and safety file separately.

FILM RIGHTS

The producer, distributor or their authorized representative authorizes the screening; the contract must cover the outdoor screening and the conditions for revenue and advertising. No one-year national deadline identified: availability depends on the distributor.

MUSIC

The SIAE collects remuneration for soundtracks for film screenings: its intervention does not by itself constitute a license to exploit the film.

SESSION AUTHORIZATION

The municipality, via the SUAP: certified declaration of activity start (SCIA) or other title depending on the configuration. Control of site usage, installations, exits, and public safety; procedures vary with the type of event, its capacity, its schedule, and the location — do not reduce the procedure to the 200-person threshold alone.

YOUNG AUDIENCE AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Italian classification to be verified: the ministry distinguishes between old projection permits (nulla osta) and the classification system introduced to protect minors.

In detail

For an open-air cinema, the producer, distributor or their authorized representative authorizes the screening. The SIAE specifies that it collects remuneration for soundtracks for film screenings: its intervention therefore does not in itself constitute a license to exploit the film. The contract with the rights holders must cover the outdoor screening and the conditions for revenue and advertising.

Sources :

- [MPLC Italy — Outdoor Screenings](#)
- [SIAE — Film and audiovisual screenings](#)

The administrative contact is usually the town hall, through the SUAP, its business activities counter. Depending on the configuration, the project falls under a certified declaration of business commencement, the SCIA, or

another authorization title. The control mainly concerns the use of the site, the installations, the exits, and public safety. Procedures vary with the type of event, its capacity, its schedules, and the constraints of the location.

Sources :

- [Siena Municipality — SCIA and cultural events](#)
- [Bari Municipality — Event file, technical documents and safety of temporary installations](#)

It would be misleading to summarize the Italian procedure to just the 200-person threshold: simplified arrangements have evolved and conditions must be confirmed by the SUAP. No general national one-year deadline specific to outdoor events has been identified in the sources consulted; film availability depends on the distributor. The Italian classification must also be checked. The ministry distinguishes between old projection authorizations and the classification system introduced to protect minors.

Sources :

- [Italian Ministry of Culture — Classification and former nulla osta](#)
- [MPLC Italy — Outdoor Screenings](#)

Common rules: three authorizations not to be confused

Film rights

Public screening of a protected work requires the consent of the rights holders, except where applicable legal exceptions apply. This consent must be obtained from the producer, distributor, or an authorized representative for the territory concerned. Purchasing a DVD, renting a file, or subscribing to a streaming service does not, in itself, grant the right to screen the film to the public. Free admission, non-profit status, or cultural objectives do not constitute a general exemption.

Sources :

- [GOV.UK — Showing films and TV shows in public](#)
- [U.S. Copyright Office — 17 USC, chapter 1 \(§ 106, right of public performance\)](#)
- [MPLC Italy — Outdoor Screenings](#)

Administrative authorization

It concerns the event, the venue or the operator's activity. A film license does not reserve a park and is not permission to receive several hundred people. Conversely, an agreement with the town hall does not transfer any projection rights. The exact scope depends on the country and, often, the competent authorities.

Music rights

They may require a separate procedure. This is particularly the case with SACEM in France, GEMA in Germany and SIAE in Italy. You need to check what the contract actually covers: the music incorporated in the film, the welcome music and any possible concert are different uses. Filmbankmedia also refers its British clients to PRS for Music for appropriate music coverage.

Sources :

- [CNC — Non-commercial screening, common provisions](#)
- [GEMA — Rate T](#)
- [SIAE — Film and audiovisual screenings](#)
- [Filmbankmedia — Questions about licenses and music rights](#)

Preparing a screening: decisions that prevent blockages

Define the project before booking the rights

Prepare a form indicating the country, municipality, site, organizer status, main date and fallback date, expected audience, film, language, format, entry-level price and partners. This data enables the distributor and administration to respond to a specific event.

Distinguish legal deadlines from processing deadlines

The French visa timeframe, the Spanish timeframe applicable to administrations, and the British TEN notice period do not have the same purpose. Planning several weeks of preparation is an organizational recommendation, not a universal legal deadline. A regional commission or a local permit may require a longer lead time.

Obtain a written agreement covering the outdoors

Specify the number of screenings, the territory, the authorized medium, advertising, revenue to be declared, and postponement conditions. An annual license, authorization for another country, or conditions from a partner cinema do not automatically apply to a new event.

Sources :

- [Filmbankmedia — Single Title Screening Licence](#)
- [Swank — Conditions for parks and recreation, booking and postponement](#)

Site preparation and operation

Have the gauge, circulation, emergency access, electrical installations, sanitary facilities, accessibility and noise levels validated according to applicable regulations. For the screen, request the installation, anchoring or weighting instructions and weather limits from the provider. Define who will monitor conditions and decide to interrupt the session. No single wind threshold can be given for all screens and all sites.

Sources :

- [Bari Municipality — Event file, technical documents and safety of temporary installations](#)
- [San Diego — Special Events, event preparation](#)
- [ADA National Network — Accessible Temporary Events](#)

Establish a budget and divide responsibilities

Separately plan film rights, potential music rights, site rental, technical aspects, insurance, security, communication, and applicable taxes. In the service contract, identify who reserves the film, declares the event, checks ages, manages ticket sales, and handles cancellations. A distributor's rates do not constitute a national legal scale.

The absence of a comparable authorization to the CNC does not therefore mean a lack of regulation. The relevant comparison concerns the actual project: recent or catalog film, free municipal screening or paid exploitation, already equipped venue or temporary installation. Official sources set the framework; local authorities and rights holders specify the conditions of the specific case.