

## Consultation Requirement

For reasons mentioned earlier (see "Support Documentation," above), before approving any visa for a foreign performing artist or entertainment group, the USINS consults with American labour unions representing your occupational peers.

To fulfil the consultation requirement and speed up the processing time for your visa, your presenter should submit with all O and P visa petitions a written opinion or no-objection letter from the appropriate U.S. union. The only exceptions are as follows:

- The consultation requirement is waived for O-1 visas if, for the rendering of similar services, you have already submitted a written advisory opinion or if prior consultation has taken place within the last two years.
- If you are applying for an O-1 or O-2 visa to work on a motion picture or television production, you will need a written advisory opinion from an American labour union and from the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP).
- If it is established that no such labour union exists, the USINS will render a decision based on the evidence already on record.

In dire emergency only, and one not of your own doing, you might consider requesting the involved USINS Service Center to obtain the necessary labour consultations. The Vermont Service Center may be reached in advance by telephone; the Northern and California Service Centers require you to take your chances by mail. Do not rely on this procedure if at all possible.

Remember that leaving the USINS with the task of consulting the union can delay the processing time of your visa. It also limits the control you have over the profile of your application. Obtaining the consultation yourself, in advance, enables you to rebut any negative opinions from the union by providing more favourable opinions from distinguished experts or non-union organizations.