

FAQs - PSTC Pre-certification Process

1. *What is tax credit pre-certification?*

Pre-certification introduces a preliminary step to the Production Services Tax Credit (PSTC) application process. Applicants planning to do qualifying motion picture work in B.C. will need to complete a simple [registration form](#) and a registration number will be generated for each project. Pre-certification is required for the PSTC application under the *BC Income Tax Act* for productions that first incur an accredited BC labour expenditure on or after July 1, 2020. For productions that first incur an accredited BC labour expenditure prior to July 1, 2020, pre-certification is not a legislative requirement but a pre-certification registration number is still required as part of the full PSTC application.

2. *Why has pre-certification been introduced?*

The information collected early through the new pre-certification process will allow the province to estimate the cost of the PSTC for a given period. It will also be used in aggregate by Creative BC for development of competitive insights, volume forecasting and service preparation. Creative BC's tax credit administration and provincial film commission teams, together with industry and government stakeholders, will leverage the data as another tool to understand, enhance and sustain our value delivery. The sooner Creative BC obtains information, the more knowledgeable and proactive our services and supports can be.

3. *Does my current production need to pre-certify? How do I do this?*

Yes, a production company intending to apply for PSTC accreditation will need to first submit a pre-certification registration form for the production. Here are the steps:

1. Pre-certification registration is sent to Creative BC via the online form [here](#).

2. A confirmation email will be sent that contains the pre-certification number which is required for the PSTC accreditation application, as well as next steps and information for the PSTC application that is to be submitted through the online [portal](#).

4. *Are there any deadlines to register for pre-certification?*

Yes. Productions that incur their first accredited BC labour expenditure on or after July 1, 2020 must submit a pre-certification form within 60 days after incurring the first accredited BC labour expenditure. For example, if BC labour costs were first incurred on a production on August 1, 2020, the pre-certification form must be submitted to Creative BC by September 29, 2020. **If a production company submits their pre-certification form after the 60-day period, BC labour expenditures incurred prior to submitting the form will not be eligible for the PSTC.**

Example: If a production company submitted pre-certification registration on February 1, 2021, for a production that first incurred an accredited BC labour expenditure on September 15, 2020, the company can claim the accredited BC labour going back to and including February 1, 2021; not all the way back to September 15, 2020. The labour incurred from September 15, 2020 to January 31, 2021 cannot be included in the PSTC claim.

5. *What about productions that incurred their first accredited BC labour expenditure before July 1, 2020?*

If the first accredited BC labour expenditure is incurred prior to July 1, 2020, the production company will still need to pre-certify in order to apply for the PSTC but all accredited BC labour expenditures can be claimed.

Example: For a production that first incurred an accredited BC labour expenditure on June 15, 2020, the company will need to submit pre-certification registration prior to applying for PSTC accreditation; however, all accredited BC labour costs can be claimed.

6. *Can I send my pre-certification registration form prior to incurring the first expense?*

Yes. We encourage applicants to send pre-certification registration forms prior to the first expense being incurred.

7. *Is there an administration fee attached to pre-certification?*

There is no fee required for pre-certification registration.

8. *How long does pre-certification take? I haven't received an email with the pre-certification number.*

Please check your spam folders. Sometimes the emails are auto-filtered. Please contact us by sending an email to taxteam@creativebc.com if it has been more than 2 business days since sending in your pre-certification registration.

9. *What if the pre-certification estimated figures change?*

Pre-certification does not need to be based on final budgets or BC labour amounts. We only need reasonable estimates. Unless there are significant changes, there is no need to inform Creative BC if pre-certification estimates later differ from the actuals.

10. *What if we don't end up applying for the PSTC after all?*

That's OK. There is no requirement that productions that have registered for pre-certification have to apply for the Production Services Tax Credit.