

SFX

Special Effects Rate Card 2025

	Hourly rate	11 Hour Day SWD (11+1)	Continuous Day (10hr no lunch)		Motion Picture Agreement Overtime rate @1.5T	Motion Picture Agreement Overtime rate @2T
Trainee	£14.32	£157.51	£157.51	Workshop Days involve more intensive work. A 'workshop day' = 10 hrs + 1 hr for lunch. They are paid at the same rate as an 11-hour day (SWD – see column 2)	£21.48	£28.64
Assistant Technician	£29.78	£327.59	£327.59		£44.68	£59.56
SFX Modeller	£31.49	£346.40	£346.40		£47.24	£62.98
Engineer	£38.37	£422.10	£422.10		£57.56	£76.74
Technician	£40.08	£440.98	£440.98		£60.13	£80.16
Lead Tech	£41.23	£453.48	£453.48		£61.84	£81.82
Senior Tech	£46.95	£516.49	£516.49		£70.43	£81.82
Lead Snr Tech	£48.67	£535.41	£535.41		£73.01	£81.82
Workshop Supervisor	£58.29	£641.22	£641.22		£81.82*	£81.82*
Floor Supervisor	£62.42	£677.13	£677.13		£81.82*	£81.82*
Assistant Supervisor	£64.83	£713.11	£713.11		£81.82*	£81.82*
Supervisor	£86.23	£948.51	£948.51		Overtime is 1T (£86.23)	Overtime is 1T (£86.23)

The rates above are intended as recommended minimums for Special Effects to use when agreeing pay with Productions.

See right for more details on overtime. The terms listed are listed for reference and members are encouraged to refer to the full agreements – <https://bectu.org.uk/get-involved/agreements-grading-schemes/>

Length of the working day

Major Motion Picture Agreement

Standard Working Day on shooting crew (SWD) = 11 hours plus one unpaid hour for lunch (11+1).

Continuous Working Day (CWD) on shooting crew = 10 hours with no formal break for lunch (a legal minimum of 20 mins must be allowed for a 'running lunch').

Workshop day = 10 hours plus one unpaid hour for lunch.

Scripted TV Agreement

SWD = 10+1 or 10+1+1 (see *agreement*)

CWD = 9+1

Overtime

Major Motion Picture Agreement

Overtime & 6th/7th day terms

Camera Overtime Rate = 2T – see *above*

Non-Camera Overtime Rate = 1.5T – see *above*

* *Note – there is a cap of £81.82 – see clause 3.3c*

- 6th & 7th days subject to increased rate with minimum hours as specified in the agreement (see *clause 4*).

Scripted TV Agreement

Standard daily overtime rate = 1.5T subject to a floor of £35 and a cap of £70. Overtime = 2T after 11pm.

The Scripted TV Agreement is based on daily rates with a 6th day paid at the standard daily rate in the event of an 11-day fortnight being worked. Other conditions apply to 11-day fortnights – see the agreement for details.

Meals

Major Motion Picture Agreement

A meal penalty will be paid if no lunch break is provided after 6 hours, normal day, or food provided after 5hrs on CWD as set out in the agreement.

Scripted TV Agreement

SWD / SCWD = Away from production base, lunch provided when as part of shooting crew; or payment in lieu / reimbursement. No later than 6hrs after unit call (or penalty incurred – see *agreement*).

CWD = Hot meal provided & 20 minutes to eat.

Rest

11 Hours will be given between wrap and call, any break in this will be paid subject to Compensatory Rest clauses in both agreements (*'Time off the clock'*).

Holiday pay

Holiday pay should be shown separately on every contract. Holiday pay as set out above is equivalent to 12.1% of all pay.

Box rental/ computer allowance

Cover tools, depreciation, purchase, insurance etc: £25 per week capped at £500 per project.

Specialist software packages rental

To calculate your weekly fee, divide the cost of your annual rental software subscription by 50.

Bectu members are advised to become familiar with the full terms and conditions as detailed in the agreements – bit.ly/bectu-agreements

This rate card was created by the Bectu Special Effects (SFX) Branch. Questions can be directed to the London Production Division office: Lpd@bectu.org.uk

The SFX Branch also strongly recommends that SFX crew sign-up to the Joint Industry Grading Scheme (JIGS) – jigs.org.uk/

The JIGS grading scheme is free for Bectu members.

bectu.org.uk/join/