

## **New UK immigration system might effect your artist!**

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This year began the roll-out of the Points-Based System (PBS) - the biggest shake-up of the UK immigration system for 45 years. On 27th November 2008, Tier 2 & Tier 5 of the Points Based System (PBS) will go live. Tier 5 is the tier for temporary workers, which includes any artists performing live shows/appearances/recording sessions etc in the UK. Tier 2 is for skilled workers with a route to settlement in the UK, which will include any artist looking to permanently locate to the UK for their career.

On 27th November 2008 when Tiers 2 & 5 of the PBS goes live, the old Work Permit/Visa system will no longer be operating, and it will be impossible to apply for these. From that date it will only be possible to apply for the new PBS Visa.

Applications for the old Work Permits/Visas can still be made up to 26th November for dates up to 6 months later, and (if granted) will still be valid.

Under the Points-Based System, employers (booking agents, record labels etc) will need a Sponsor licence to bring in temporary or skilled workers from outside the European Economic Area/Switzerland. To become a Sponsor, an organisation will need apply for a licence. Only once the employer has a Sponsor licence can they make applications for the new PBS Visas.

We recommend all managers (that have artists from nationalities outside the European Economic Area/Switzerland that are intending to enter the UK), immediately check with their relevant booking agent/record label etc, that these organisations are aware of the new immigration rules for entering the UK, and have registered as a Sponsor. Otherwise your artists may be refused entry to the UK!

UK Border Agency information:

More information on the new PBS:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/>

Short informational video on the PBS:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/whatisthepointsbasedsystem/overviewvideo/>

Overview for Employers/Sponsors on the PBS:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/>

Information on becoming a Sponsor:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/sponsorlicence>