



Instructions for Form CT-261

Claim for Empire State Film Post-Production Credit

General information

Tax Law sections 31 and 210-B.32 provide for a tax credit for the film and television post-production industry. The Empire State film post-production credit (also referred to as the *post-production credit*) is available to taxpayers subject to tax under Article 9-A or Article 22. This form is for taxpayers subject to tax under Article 9-A. Those subject to tax under Article 22, complete Form IT-261, *Claim for Empire State Film Post-Production Credit*.

The amount of credit allowed is allocated by the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development. **Submit a copy of your certificate** from this office for the credit allowed. You are required to **submit a separate Form CT-261 for each individual certificate** issued to you by the Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development. **Failure to do so may delay the processing of your credit(s).** For rules and regulations regarding the credit, contact the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development at filmcredits@esd.ny.gov or call 212-803-2328.

The credit is allowed for qualified post-production costs paid or incurred in the production of a qualified film at a post-production facility in New York State. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, and before January 1, 2035, there is an additional credit available on a qualified film in certain counties. The credit is allowed for the tax year in which the production of the qualified film is completed.

If the amount of credit shown on your certificate of tax credit received from the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development is at least \$1 million but less than \$5 million, the credit must be claimed over a two-year period. If the amount of credit allocated is \$5 million or more, the credit must be claimed over a three-year period.

The credit may not reduce the tax due below the fixed dollar minimum tax. Any amount not used in the current tax year may be refunded or credited as an overpayment to next year's tax. The refund is limited to 50% of the excess credit in the current year; the balance may be carried forward to the following tax year and may be deducted from the tax in that year. All remaining excess after application in the succeeding year may also be refunded or credited as an overpayment to the succeeding tax year. No interest will be paid on the refund. Post-production costs used as the basis for allowance of this credit or used in the calculation of this credit cannot be used to claim any other credit.

The credit is not allowed against the metropolitan transportation business tax (MTA surcharge) under Article 9-A.

Corporate partners

If you are a corporate partner who has any post-production credits passed through to you from partnerships, enter in Part 3 each partnership's name, employer identification number, and your share of the post-production credit each one passed to you. Enter the total of these credits on lines 18 and 2. Enter on line 1a only the amount of post-production credit allocated to your corporation by the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development.

New York S corporations

New York S corporations will calculate an amount of post-production credit. However, the S corporation may not use the post-production credit against its own tax liability; instead, the credit is passed through to the shareholders to use against their personal income tax liabilities on their New York State tax returns.

New York S corporations complete lines 1a, 1b, 2, and 3 and, if applicable, Part 3, Part 4, and line A. Include the line 3 amount and,

if applicable, amounts from lines 19 and 20 on Form CT-34-SH, *New York S Corporation Shareholders' Information Schedule*. Submit Form CT-261 with your Form CT-3-S, *New York S Corporation Franchise Tax Return*. Provide each shareholder with the amount of their share of the post-production credit calculated for the current tax year and, if applicable, for the succeeding tax year(s) (from Form CT-34-SH, lines 51, 52, and 53). The shareholders will file their own Form IT-261 to claim the credit on their New York State personal income tax returns.

Combined filers

A taxpayer filing a combined return as a member of a combined group is allowed to claim the post-production credit. The post-production credit form must be completed for each individual member of the combined group claiming the credit. If a member of the combined group has been issued more than one certificate they must submit a separate Form CT-261 for each certificate they are issued. The credit totals will then be applied against the combined tax.

Additional forms: If you have more entries than will fit on the lines provided in Part 3, submit additional Forms CT-261, completing only the necessary parts. Include your name and taxpayer identification number on each form. On the indicated lines of the first Form CT-261 include the totals from all additional Forms CT-261. Place the extra forms behind the first Form CT-261 and submit them with your return.

Line instructions

Part 1 – Calculation of post-production credit available for use

Line 1a – Obtain this amount from the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development. Submit a copy of your certificate.

Line 1b – If the amount on line 1a is less than \$1 million, enter the amount from line 1a on line 1b.

If the amount on line 1a is at least \$1 million but less than \$5 million, the credit must be claimed over a two-year period; complete Worksheet A.

If the amount on line 1a is at least \$5 million, the credit must be claimed over a three-year period; complete Worksheet B. (Do not complete Worksheet A.)

Worksheet A

A Enter the amount from line 1a A _____
B Divide line A by two (see instructions below)..... B _____

Line B – Enter this amount on line 1b and include it on line 19.

Worksheet B

A Enter the amount from line 1a A _____
B Divide line A by three (see instructions below)..... B _____

Line B – Enter this amount on line 1b and include it on lines 19 and 20.

Line 1c – Enter the amount from line 19 of your 2023 Form CT-261, if applicable.

New York S corporations: Do not enter an amount on this line.

Line 2 – Obtain this amount from the partnership(s) allocating this credit to you. Complete Part 3, *Partnership information*, and mark an **X** in box A at the top of the form.

Line 3 – New York S corporations include this amount on Form CT-34-SH, line 51.

Line 4 – Obtain this amount from the previous tax year's Form CT-261, line 14.

Part 2 – Calculation of post-production credit used, refunded, and carried forward (*New York S corporations do not complete this part*)

Line 6 – Enter the amount from Form CT-3 or CT-3-A, Part 2, line 2, **plus** any net recaptured tax credits.

Line 7 – You must apply certain credits before the post-production credit. Refer to Form CT-600-I, *Instructions for Form CT-600, Ordering of Corporation Tax Credits*, for the proper ordering of your credits. If you are claiming more than one credit, enter the total amount of credits applied against the current year's corporation franchise tax before the post-production credit. If the post-production credit is the only credit that is being applied against the current year's corporation franchise tax, enter **0**. If filing as a member of a combined group, include any amount of tax credit(s), including the post-production credit(s), being claimed by other members of the combined group that you want to apply before the post-production credit claimed on this form.

Line 9 – Enter your fixed dollar minimum tax from Form CT-3 or the designated agent's fixed dollar minimum tax from Form CT-3-A.

Part 3 – Partnership information

Enter any current year (2024) credit amount allocated to you by a partnership in this section. If needed, see *Additional forms*. Include any second year (2025) credit amounts allocated to you on line 19, and include any third year (2026) credit amounts on line 20.

The credit amounts can be found on Form IT-204-CP. The 2024 credit amount is reported using code **356**, the 2025 credit amount is reported using code **B56**, and the 2026 credit amount is reported using code **C56**.

Part 4 – Amount of credit to be claimed in succeeding tax years

Line 19 – This is your Empire State film post-production credit allowed for 2025.

C corporations: Enter the total of the following amounts:

- the amount from Worksheet A, line B, or Worksheet B, line B (whichever applies); **plus**
- any amount from line 20 of your 2023 Form CT-261; **plus**
- any amounts allocated to you from a partnership (from Form IT-204-CP, code **B56**) to be claimed on your 2025 return.

New York S corporations: Enter the total of the following amounts:

- the amount from Worksheet A, line B, or Worksheet B, line B (whichever applies); **plus**
- any amounts allocated to you from a partnership (from Form IT-204-CP, code **B56**) to be claimed on your 2025 return.

Transfer this amount to your 2024 Form CT-34-SH, line 52 (credit for the second year), and provide your shareholders with their share of this amount to claim on their 2025 personal income

tax returns. (If you completed Worksheet B, also transfer the line 20 amount as instructed below.)

Line 20 – Enter the amount from Worksheet B, line B, **plus** any amounts allocated to you from a partnership (from Form IT-204-CP, code **C56**) to be claimed on your 2026 return.

C corporations: This amount will be entered on your 2025 Form CT-261, line 19.

New York S corporations: Transfer this amount to your 2024 Form CT-34-SH, line 53 (credit for the third year), and provide your shareholders with their share of this amount to claim on their 2026 personal income tax returns.
