

COMMERCIALS

What You Need to Know

You may have seen the terms “precision driver” or “performance driver” used on a commercials contract. Those terms should never be used, as they are not found in the SAG-AFTRA Commercials Contract. There are only two terms that should be used: stunt driver or vehicle driver. Everyone knows what stunt driver means, but what does vehicle driver mean? A vehicle driver is hired when the level of driving requires skill but not stunt work. Any time a driver is engaged as a stunt driver, they must be hired on an Exhibit A-1 Employment Contract.

Residuals are due to a stunt driver or vehicle driver when any of the Stunt Driving Guidelines are met and such driving remains in the commercial as exhibited. When any of the following conditions occur, a vehicle driver shall qualify as a stunt performer:

- a. When any or all wheels leave the driving surface;
- b. When tire traction is broken, i.e., skids, slides, etc.;
- c. Impaired Vision — when the driver’s vision is substantially impaired by:
 - i. Dust or smoke;
 - ii. Spray (when driving through water, mud, etc.);
 - iii. Blinding lights;
 - iv. Restrictive covering of the windshield;
 - v. Any other conditions restricting the driver’s normal vision;
- d. If the speed of the vehicle is greater than normally safe for the condition of the driving surface, or when other conditions such as obstacles or difficulty of terrain exist or off-road driving other than normal low-speed driving for which the vehicle was designed occurs;
- e. When any aircraft, fixed-wing or helicopter, is flown in close proximity to the vehicle creating hazardous driving conditions;

- f. When an on-camera principal performer is doubled because the level of driving skill requires a professional driver, the driver double shall qualify as a stunt performer. This would also apply to doubling of passengers for the safety of the on-camera principal performer.
- g. Whenever high speed or close proximity of any vehicle creates conditions dangerous to the driver, passengers, film crew, other people, or the vehicle;
- h. When working in close proximity to pyrotechnics or explosives;
- i. When driving in other than the driver’s seat or blind driving in any form.

Always make sure your contract uses the correct terms.

For more information involving commercial driving:

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