

## **LOCAL USA 829 BROADWAY CBA 101**

### **Assistant Designers Get to Know**

#### **Article V(E)(11): Minimum Daily Tech Premium**

*“At the commencement of Technical Rehearsals in the theatre with Actors on stage through the third (3rd) day of work during the Preview period for Plays or the tenth (10th) day of work during the Preview period for Musicals, if more than eight (8) hours elapse between the commencement and completion of the work for an Assistant on any day, exclusive of meal breaks, the Assistant shall be paid a premium of ... \$70 per day as of May 18, 2026; \$73 per day as of January 4, 2027; \$75 per day as of January 3, 2028, for each day so assigned and approved by the Employer. The Producer and the Assistant may elect to incorporate this payment into a negotiated overscale agreement.”*

On July 3, 2023, a new Minimum Daily Tech Premium for Broadway Assistant Designers went into effect. This premium payment based on an 8-hour workday was the first of its kind in any Local USA 829 Live Performance agreement. Its inclusion is an historic achievement for our Union and Broadway Assistant Designers, who are finally acknowledged by Producers for extended workdays during the all-important technical period for Broadway productions.

This historic Tech Premium will continue and will be further increased in the new 2026-28 Broadway Agreement. To familiarize members with the rule, the Union offers the below FAQs.

#### **1. When does the new Minimum Daily Tech Premium apply?**

The Minimum Daily Tech Premium applies for

- Each day where the General Manager approves<sup>1</sup> an Assistant Designer workday exceeding 8 hours (excluding meal breaks) beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Technical Rehearsal with Actors on stage through and including:
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> workday during the Preview period for a Play; or
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> workday during the Preview period for a Musical.

#### **2. How much is the Minimum Daily Tech Premium?**

- \$70 per day as of May 18, 2026
- \$73 per day as of January 4, 2027
- \$75 per day as of January 3, 2028

#### **3. Can Assistants who negotiate overscale agreements receive the Tech Premium?**

Yes, absolutely! Under the provision, Producers and Assistant Designers *may* elect to incorporate the Daily Tech Premium into a negotiated overscale agreement. However:

- The provision does *not* prohibit Assistant Designers with overscale agreements from receiving the Tech Premium.
- The provision does *not* automatically exempt Producers from the obligation to pay the Tech Premium to Assistant Designers with overscale agreements.
- Unless the contract specifies that an overscale agreement incorporates (or is inclusive of) the Tech Premium, the Assistant Designer is entitled to the Tech Premium.

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<sup>1</sup> Best Practice: Request the General Manager’s *pre-approval in writing* for workdays exceeding 8 hours on days where the Tech Premium applies.

4. **Can Assistants paid daily as an Associate Designer under Sideletter #7 receive the Tech Premium?**

Yes, absolutely! Under Sideletter #7 (Daily Rate for “Associate” Designers), if the title *Associate Designer* is given to an Assistant Designer, they may be hired daily on a non-exclusive basis at a rate of no less than \$367 as of July 1, 2026; \$377 as of January 4, 2027; \$388 as of January 3, 2028. These amounts are overscale thresholds that permit daily engagement of Associate Designers and do not establish a new minimum.

The Assistant Designer daily and weekly rates remain the only contractual minimums. If Sideletter #7 is used, the Producer and Associate Designer *may* elect to incorporate the Daily Tech Premium into the negotiated overscale agreement, but Sideletter #7 does *not* prohibit an Associate Designer from receiving the Tech Premium (see #3 above).

5. **What if an Assistant Designer is required to work on a 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive day in one workweek (Monday to Sunday)? Will the Assistant still receive 1 ½ times the Minimum Daily Rate on days where the Daily Tech Premium applies?**

Yes. Under Article V(E)(10) of the Broadway CBA, at the commencement of load-in and *with prior approval from general management*, an Assistant Designer is entitled to no less than 1 ½ times the Minimum Daily Rate when required to work on a 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive day in one workweek (Monday to Sunday). *If general management pre-approves* work on a 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive day, the Assistant Designer is entitled to this 7<sup>th</sup> day premium in addition to the Tech Premium on days where the Tech Premium applies (see #1 above).

6. **What if an Assistant Designer doesn’t receive a meal break on days where the Daily Tech Premium applies? Will the Assistant Designer still receive the \$35 meal penalty?**

Yes. Under Article V(F) of the Broadway CBA, at the commencement of load-in, Assistant Designers must receive a meal break no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> hour of any workday. *If the General Manager requires* an Assistant Designer to work through the meal break, then a \$35.00 meal penalty applies. When the meal penalty is payable to an Assistant Designer, it must be paid in addition to the Tech Premium on days where the Tech Premium applies (see #1 above).

7. **What if an Assistant Designer doesn’t receive the Tech Premium on workdays specified at #1 above?**

The Assistant Designer should contact the Live Performance Dept. at [LiveDesignJob@usa829.org](mailto:LiveDesignJob@usa829.org). The following information should be included in the email:

- First day of Technical Rehearsal with Actors on stage
- Confirmed date of first Preview
- Specific days upon which *the General Manager pre-approved* the Assistant Designer to work in excess of eight (8) hours (excluding meal breaks)<sup>2</sup>
- If not already filed with the Union, a copy of the “Broadway Assistant Designer Cover Sheet” and rider (including any negotiated overscale agreement).

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<sup>2</sup> Best practice: Request the General Manager’s *pre-approval in writing* for workdays exceeding 8 hours on days where the Tech Premium applies.

**8. What if I have questions about the Tech Premium?**

Contact the Live Performance Dept. at [LiveDesignJob@usa829.org](mailto:LiveDesignJob@usa829.org).