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Booklet 1 Cinematograph Regulations

CHAPTER 261

CINEMATOGRAPH ACT

Arrangement of sections

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AN ACT for the regulation and control of cinematograph and similar exhibitions.

Commencement: 27th July 1911

1. This Act may be cited as the Cinematograph Act.

Short title

2. (1) No person shall conduct, or allow to be presented or given, by means of a cinematograph or other similar apparatus for the purposes of which inflammable films are used, any exhibition of pictures or other optical effects without the permission of the Governor-General given in writing under his hand.

Consent of Governor-General

(2) The Governor-General may refuse to grant permission, or grant permission subject to regulations made under this Act, and subject to such special conditions and restrictions, to be specified in the permission, as to him may seem fit, and subject to the exclusion from such exhibition of any pictures that he may consider contrary to public morality, policy or convenience, and may grant it subject to such exhibition being given under the superintendence of some person designated by him in such permission. Any such permission may be revoked by the Governor-General at any time.

3. Where the Governor-General grants any permission under section 2 upon condition that the exhibition be conducted under the superintendence of some officer or person designated

Superintending of exhibition

in the permission, then it shall be lawful, at any time, for the officer or person so designated to order such exhibition to cease, or to give any direction which he may think necessary for ensuring the safety from fire of the building, tent or place in which the exhibition takes place or of the people attending the exhibition.

Duty of occupier of premises where exhibition given.

4. (1) It shall be the duty of the occupier, or the person who manages or receives the rent, of any premises at which it may be proposed to conduct any such exhibition to ascertain whether the requisite permission of the Governor-General shall have been obtained and, if so, the terms of such permission.

(2) It shall also be the duty of such occupier or person to give notice to the Commissioner of Police, or to the officer in charge of the nearest police station, if and as soon as he has reason to believe that there is an intention to proceed with the exhibition, either without the Governor-General's permission or with such permission but without having everything done which may be required under such permission to be done, previous to the exhibition taking place.

(3) Any occupier or person referred to in this section who fails to comply with the provisions of this section is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars.

Power of entry.

5. (1) A police officer, or any officer appointed for the purpose by the Governor-General, may at all reasonable times enter any premises in which he has reason to believe that such an exhibition is being, or is about to be, given with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this Act and any regulations made hereunder, and the conditions of any permission granted under this Act, have been complied with.

(2) Any person who prevents or obstructs the entry of a police officer or officer appointed as aforesaid is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars.

Offences and penalties.

6. Any person who conducts, or who in any way assists in conducting, any exhibition in contravention of the provisions of this Act, or the regulations made hereunder, or any condition or restriction specified in a permission granted under this Act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars.

Burden of proof.

7. In any prosecution under this Act, the onus of proving compliance with the provisions of this Act, or any regulation made hereunder, shall lie on the defendant.

8. (1) The Governor-General may make such regulations as he may deem expedient for regulating and controlling cinematograph and other similar exhibitions. Regulations.

(2) Any person who infringes any regulation made under this Act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars.

Numbering of regulations

<i>Original number</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Present number</i>
1	a 13/73	2
2 - 16	—	3 - 17
17	r/r S.R.O. 1935 p.20	18
18	a S.R.O. 1939 p. 105	19
19 - 22	—	20 - 23
23	—	1
24	spent/omitted	

CINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS

Arrangement of regulations

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19. Committee.
20. Compliance with regulations.
21. Floors.
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23. Regulations to be exhibited.

Commencement: 21st March 1933

1. Citation. These Regulations may be cited as the Cinematograph Regulations.

2. Interpretation. In these Regulations—

- “building” means any premises, structure or land used for the exhibition of cinematograph films;
- “cinematograph exhibition” includes any exhibition to which these Regulations apply;
- “new building” means a building newly erected or adapted after the 21st March, 1933, for the purpose of cinematograph exhibitions.

3. Exits. (1) No building shall be used for cinematograph exhibitions unless it be provided with an adequate number of exits clearly indicated and so placed and maintained as readily to afford the audience ample means of safe egress.

(2) The doors of all exits shall be so constructed and maintained as easily to open outwards on being pressed from within.

(3) The seating in the building shall be so arranged as not to interfere with free access to exits.

(4) The gangways, the staircases, and the passages leading to the exits, shall, during the presence of the public in the building, be kept clear of obstructions. No person shall be allowed to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the rows of seats, or in the space between the front row of seats and the screen.

(5) No portion of any building used for cinematograph or other similar exhibitions shall be used as a shop or as a sleeping place by human beings.

(6) The performance shall be concluded and the theatre closed before midnight every night.

4. Person in charge. (1) The licensee, or some responsible person nominated by him in writing for the purpose, shall be in charge during the whole time of any exhibition and there shall also be during that time a sufficient staff of attendants in the building for the purpose of securing safety.

(2) All persons responsible for or employed in or in connection with the exhibition shall take all due precautions for the prevention of accidents, and shall abstain from any act whatever which tends to cause fire and is not reasonably necessary for the purpose of the exhibition.

5. Fire appliances. (1) Fire appliances suitable to the character of the building and adequate to deal with an outbreak of fire shall be provided and maintained in good working order. During the exhibition such appliances shall be in charge of some person specially nominated for that purpose who shall see that they are kept constantly available for use.

(2) There shall always be within the enclosure sufficient means of dealing with fire readily available for use, and these shall include the following, namely, a thick woollen blanket, a chemical extinguisher of a type approved by the Saint Vincent Electricity Services Limited, and a bucket of dry sand. Before the commencement of each exhibition the operator shall satisfy himself that the fire appliances within the enclosure are ready for use.

6. No smoking. No smoking shall at any time be permitted within the barrier or enclosure, nor in the film room nor in any part of the premises in which films are stored, wound or repaired. Notices stating that smoking is prohibited shall be kept posted in the enclosure and film room and any such part of the premises as aforesaid.

7. Inflammable articles. No inflammable article shall unnecessarily be taken into, or allowed to remain in, the enclosure, the film room or any part of the premises in which films are stored, wound or repaired.

8. Projecting apparatus. (1) The projecting apparatus shall be placed in an enclosure of substantial construction made of, or lined internally with, fire-resisting material and of sufficient dimensions to allow the operator to work freely.

(2) All fittings and fixtures within the enclosure, other than the frames of outside windows, shall be constructed of or covered with fire-resisting material.

(3) The entrance to the enclosure shall be suitably placed and fitted with a self-closing fitting door which shall be kept closed during the exhibition.

(4) The openings through which the necessary pipes and cables pass into the enclosure shall be efficiently sealed or bushed, as the case may be.

(5) The openings in the front face of the enclosure shall not be larger than is necessary for effective projection and observation.

(6) The openings shall not exceed two for each projecting apparatus; and not more than two of the openings shall be left unscreened at any one time.

(7) The door of the enclosure and all openings, bushes and joints shall be so constructed and maintained as to prevent, so far as possible, the escape of any smoke into the auditorium or any part of the building to which the public are admitted.

(8) Adequate means of ventilation shall be provided with sufficient inlets and outlets so as to ensure a constant supply of fresh air. The inlets and outlets shall communicate directly with the outside of the building, and shall be so arranged as not to expose the operator to a direct draught.

(9) The enclosure shall be in charge of a competent operator over eighteen years of age, who shall be present in the enclosure during the whole time that the apparatus is in use. This shall not prevent the operator leaving the enclosure for a short period in case of need provided that a competent assistant is left in charge and the operator remains within immediate call.

(10) No unauthorised person shall go into the enclosure.

9. Further provisions regarding projecting apparatus.

(1) The projecting apparatus shall be placed on firm supports constructed of fire resisting material.

(2) Every lantern shall be fitted with a metal shutter which can readily be inserted by hand between the source of light and the film gate, and every projector shall be fitted with a metal shutter so arranged as automatically to cut off the film-gate from the source of light when the projector stops.

(3) The construction of the film gate shall be substantial and such as to afford ample heat-radiating surface. The passage for the film shall be sufficiently narrow to prevent flames travelling upwards or downwards from the light-opening.

10. Projectors. (1) Projectors shall be fitted with two metal boxes of substantial construction to and from which the film shall be made to travel, unless both film spools are contained in a metal chamber of substantial construction below the projector. There shall not be more than two thousand feet of film in either of the two metal boxes.

(2) The film boxes or chamber shall be made to close in such a manner, and shall be fitted with film slots so constructed, as to prevent the passage of flame to the interior box or chamber, and they shall remain so closed during the whole time that projection is taking place.

11. Spools. Take-up spools shall be mechanically driven and films shall be wound upon spools so that the wound film shall not at any time reach or project beyond the edges of the flanges of the spool.

12. Keeping of films. (1) During the exhibition all films when not in use shall be kept in closed metal boxes of substantial construction. When in the enclosure not more than six spools shall be kept in one box at the same time.

(2) Not more than twelve spools or twenty thousand feet of film altogether shall be kept in the enclosure and the rewinding room at the same time.

13. Rewinding. Rewinding shall not be done while the public are on the premises.

14. Control of lighting. (1) Where the general lighting of the premises can be controlled from within the enclosure there shall be separate and independent means of control outside of and away from the enclosure.

(2) The licensee shall be responsible for the provision of emergency lighting in case of failure of the main supply.

15. Electrical apparatus. Where electrical energy is used for lighting or other purposes within the building the following requirements shall be observed –

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in these Regulations, the installation generally shall be in accordance with the Wiring Rules of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.
- (b) The main supply fuses and switches shall not be accessible to the public. They shall be located where there is ample space and head room and where there is no risk of fire resulting therefrom.
- (c) A separate circuit shall be taken from the source of supply for the projector circuit so that no accident to the circuit can affect the general lighting.
- (d) Each of the main circuits shall be separately protected by an efficient linked switch and by a fuse on each pole.
- (e) The general wiring of the building shall be protected by metal conduit mechanically and electrically continuous or by hard wood casings, except as regards any necessary flexible conductors such as may be required for pendant lamps or movable fittings. No other system of wiring shall be installed or used except with the consent in writing of the Saint Vincent Electricity Services Limited and in accordance with any condition of such consent.
- (f) All fuses and distribution boards shall be of a completely protected type so constructed that the fuse holders can be handled for renewal of the fuse wires without risk of touching live metal.
- (g) Portable lamps for the orchestra or similar lighting shall be connected to a separate circuit or circuits from the distribution fuse boards.
- (h) The operator shall comply with all lawful instructions issued by the Saint Vincent Electricity Services Limited.
- (i) Electric wiring shall be subject to approval of the Saint Vincent Electricity Services Limited and subject also to periodical expert inspection at the cost, if any, of the theatre company.

16. Cables and wires. (1) The cables and wires shall be secured by insulating cleats. Within the enclosure they shall be heavily protected by asbestos and without the enclosure they shall be protected by casings in all positions where they are liable to damage.

(2) An efficient double-pole main switch shall be fixed within the enclosure whereby all pressure may be cut off from the projector circuit or circuits within the enclosure, and where the lantern is earthed an additional double-pole switch shall be fixed for each arc lamp so that the pressure may be cut off whilst recarboning is taking place.

(3) Where two or more projectors are installed and a change over switch is required, it shall, unless it be a double-pole switch having a secure "off" position, be in addition to and not in substitution for the above main switch.

(4) All live parts of apparatus within five feet of the projector shall be shielded so that they cannot be accidentally touched. Where live metal is exposed so that it may be touched, the floor within a radius of three feet from a point immediately below the live metal, shall be covered with insulating material.

(5) The projector motor circuit shall be controlled by a double pole switch or hand-shield plug.

(6) Fuses shall be protected by enclosure in covers or cabinets against scattering of hot metal and shall be mounted in carriers or holders, so constructed that the hand cannot inadvertently touch live metal and that the hand is protected from the flash should a fuse blow on the insertion of the carrier in the contacts.

(7) The lamp or lamps for lighting the enclosure and the rewinding room shall not be connected to the safety lighting.

(8) All metal work liable to become accidentally charged, including the projecting apparatus, shall be efficiently earthed. The size of the earth wires shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Wiring Rules of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

(9) The arc lamp adjusting handles shall be made of insulating material and shall be so constructed and arranged that the hand cannot inadvertently touch live metal.

(10) An ammeter shall be provided in the projector circuit within the enclosure.

(11) Resistance shall be so constructed and maintained that no coil or other part shall at any time become unduly heated e.g., they should not become so heated that a piece of newspaper placed in contact with any part of the resistance would readily ignite.

(12) The framework, supports and enclosures of resistances shall be made entirely of fire resisting material.

(13) Resistances shall not be attached to wood work and shall, as far as possible, be kept away from any wood work. All wood work shall, where necessary, be effectively protected against overheating.

(14) The terminals of resistances and the connecting cables shall not be placed above the resistance elements.

(15) Resistances placed where they are liable to be accidentally touched shall be efficiently guarded.

(16) Resistances, in which more than two kilowatts are dissipated, shall be placed outside the enclosure and in a room or place other than the rewinding room accessible only to the technical staff. Adequate precautions shall be taken against fire resulting therefrom. If within the building, the room or place shall not communicate directly with the auditorium. It shall be well ventilated by ample inlets and outlets connecting directly with the outside air.

(17) Switches suitably placed shall be provided by means of which the pressure may be cut off from the resistances.

(18) Radio apparatus or any electrical amplifying apparatus shall not be installed or used except with the consent in writing of the Saint Vincent Electricity Services Limited and in accordance with any condition of such consent.

17. Number of viewers. The number of persons admitted to any exhibition shall not exceed the maximum prescribed by the Commissioner of Police.

18. Sunday exhibitions. Exhibition on Sundays shall be between the hours of 4.30pm and 6.00pm and after 8.00pm and at no other times.

19. Committee. (1) Before any film is advertised or exhibited its title shall be submitted to a committee composed of the Commissioner of Police, the chairman of the Kingstown Board and such other persons as the Governor-General may appoint, with a statement as to the authority by whom it has been censored and the place where it was last exhibited.

(2) Three members of the committee shall form a quorum.

(3) The committee may cause any film to be exhibited before them on the cinematograph before approving it.

(4) If the film is approved by the majority of the committee it may be licensed by the Commissioner of Police. No film shall be advertised or exhibited until it has been so licensed.

(5) The committee may, where a film had been previously exhibited in another Commonwealth country pass such film for exhibition, solely upon the production of a certificate approving such film from the censorship authority in that country.

(6) No film shall be passed by the committee for exhibition without a view if either the Commissioner of Police or any two members of the committee are of the opinion that it should not be so passed.

20. Compliance with regulations. The Commissioner of Police, the Electrical Inspector and the chairman of Kingstown Board are authorised to see that the foregoing regulations are complied with, and they and persons authorised by them shall be at liberty to inspect and examine any part of the premises and apparatus from time to time.

21. Floors, etc. The floor and roof of the auditorium shall, to the satisfaction of the Chief Engineer, be made sufficiently strong to ensure the safety of the audience.

22. Occasional exhibitions. The foregoing regulations shall not apply to occasional cinematograph exhibitions. The Governor-General may permit such exhibitions to take place subject to such conditions or restrictions as he may see fit.

23. Regulation to be exhibited. The licensee shall see that a copy of these Regulations is exhibited in the enclosure and is easily accessible to the operators.

LAWS OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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CHAPTER 262

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