

BOARD OF FILM CENSORS

MINISTRY OF ARTS AND CULTURE

GUIDELINES FOR FILM CLASSIFICATION

The purpose of this paper is to serve as a short guide to Deputy Chairmen/ members of the Board in their exercise of classification of films for public exhibition.

2. Prior to the amendment of the section (7) of the Cinematograph Regulations regarding Film Classification, the Board made use of different visas in categorising films as follows:

- U - Suitable for general viewing
- A - Not suitable for children under 12
Children between 12 – 16 to be accompanied by Adults
- X - Suitable for above 18
- R - Rejected

3. With the great strides made in electronic media and communications – entertainment including films, and taking into consideration the social responsiveness to such changes, it has become imperative for the Board to adopt a new Film Classification System in replacement of the present one as follows:

- U - Universal – Suitable for all audiences
- (PG) - Parental Guidance is compulsory for children under the age of 12
[Some scenes may be unsuitable for children under the age of 12]
- (15) - Suitable for persons of the age of 15 and above

- (18) - Suitable for all Adults
- (18R) - Subject to specified conditions
[Adult audiences only]
- Rejected - Not allowed

4. The new classification system which is in line with international standard is oriented more towards the protection of the most vulnerable section of our society, namely the children. At the same time with the introduction of the (18R) classification, the Board is providing an opportunity for adults to have access to a special category of films which, otherwise, would have most probably been placed in the Rejected category with the application of the old system.

5. The Board intends to circulate information more regularly among Deputy Chairmen and members and provide sustained guidance so as to enable the achievement of uniformity and objectivity while classifying films. By so doing, the Board aims to further increase the confidence of Film Importers and cine-goers and hence create for itself a higher credibility status in the public.

6. Each category contains a list of criteria to be considered when making classification recommendations. Broadly speaking these criteria are based on the impact of elements such as violence, sex, language themes etc. on the audiences of different age groups. Beyond that, however, each film should be judged on its merits and each scene and line of dialogue considered in relation to the tone of the film as a whole.

7. The following is an attempt to indicate what should be considered in making the different classification recommendations:

U - Suitable for all audiences

Under this category, films can be seen by every one including children. The treatment of themes and elements such as violence, and language should be light and very mild in nature so that they have no detrimental effects on the very young viewers. Sex scenes, if any, should be suggested indirectly and discreetly.

(PG) - Parental Guidance recommended

Films under the (PG) category should not be seen by children under (12) without parental guidance. Such films may contain certain mild scenes of violence, sex, horror and coarse language which may cause inconvenience to unaccompanied children. Furthermore, scenes of drug use or nudity though infrequent and without emphasis may appear in films under this category.

(15) - Suitable for persons aged 15 and above

Films under (15) category must not be seen by young persons under the age of 15 whether accompanied or not. Such films may deal with adult themes in a discreet manner. Sex and violence appropriate in the context of a film may be shown. However, such scenes should be suggestive in nature and should not be prolonged.

(18) - Suitable for all adults

Films under this category should not be seen by persons aged under 18. All elements such as sex, violence, coarse language, horror, drug use and adult themes may be dealt with, however, if appropriate in the context of the film and they should not tend to be unnecessarily prolonged and exploitative. Sexual intercourse may be realistically simulated, however, without exposing the genital contact.

(18R) - Specified conditions

Films under this category can be seen only by persons of aged 18 and above. These films normally deal with adult themes, depicting certain scenes considered of adverse moral worth in our society which however contain redeeming features either of historical or artistic merit which may save them from rejection.

Unlike (18) category, these films will be allowed exhibition only under specified conditions as may be determined by the Board. For example, their public viewing may be restricted to certain places at certain times.

Rejected - Not allowed

Films for rejection will depend to a large extent on the appreciation of the Board on the negative impact of elements such as sex, violence or drug abuse on the audiences. However, the following is an indicative list of the type of materials which can lead to the rejection of a film.

Sex

- (i) Depiction of child sexual abuse
- (ii) Bestiality
- (iii) Sexual violence (rape etc.)
- (iv) Sexually explicit material

Violence

- (i) Depiction of excessive cruelty or violence having a high impact
- (ii) Promotion of crime and violence
- (iii) Inciting people to violence

Drug use

- (i) Abusive use of drug
- (ii) Promotion and encouragement of drug use

**General Agreement on Trade in Services: Examination of the Schedules
of Commitments Submitted by African Trading Partners**

Questions for Mauritius

Audiovisual services

- A. How much revenue do movie tickets regenerate in Mauritius?
- B. What is the average price for a movie theater ticket?
Rs 70
- C. Please provide data on imports of audiovisual services from the United States.
American films are not imported directly from U.S as the film are dubbed in French and therefore imported from France.
- D. What share of the domestic box office market do US movies have in Mauritius?
50 %
- E. From what other countries does Mauritius import movies?
France and India
- F. Are there any restrictions on movie imports in general? Specific to U.S movies?
Control on the importation of foreign films is exercised by the Board of Film Censors, Ministry of Arts and Culture so as to prevent the importation of undesirable film, especially pornographic which is not allowed under Mauritian laws.
- G. What government agencies are involved in movie distribution?
Mauritius Film Development Corporation
- H. Is there a domestic movie industry? If yes, audiovisual services export data.
Nil

- I. Please provide data on exports to the United States
Nil
- J. How many movie theatres are there in Mauritius? What is the ratio of movie screen per capita?
34
- K. What are the television, cable TV and satellite TV penetration rates in Mauritius?

- L. If available, please provide information on local movie taste, or preference.
Indian and U.S movies dubbed in French
- M. Have there been any recent changes in movie/TV viewing patterns?
A new classification System of International standard will be implemented shortly.

CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The New Film Classification ratings are as follows:

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- (15) - Suitable for persons of the age of 15 and above
- (18) - Suitable for all adults
- (18R)- Subject to specified conditions
[Adults audiences only]

Rejected - Not allowed