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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

No. 357

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

20 April 2007

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD

FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS ACT, No 65 OF 1996

**GUIDELINES APPLIED BY THE FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD
AND THE FILM AND PUBLICATION REVIEW BOARD
TO DETERMINE WHAT IS HARMFUL OR DISTURBING TO CHILDREN
IN FILMS, INTERACTIVE COMPUTER GAMES AND PUBLICATIONS**

Section 31(3) and Schedules 3 and 8 of the *Films and Publications Act, No 65 of 1996*

THE CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES : 2007

To be used in the examination of films and read with sections 17 and 18 and Schedules 3 and 8 and 10 of the Act

CATEGORY	YOUNGER VIEWERS ADVISORY – CAUTIONARY – CONDITIONALLY RESTRICTED			PRE-TEENS		TEENS	ADULTS
	A	PG	10M	10	13	16	18
RESTRICTION	Suitable for all ages. Will contain nothing inappropriate even for very young unaccompanied viewers	An advisory category that recommends parental guidance for younger unaccompanied children	Legally restrictive. Children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by an adult	Legally restricted to children 10 years and older	Legally restricted to children 13 years and older	Legally restricted to persons 16 years and older	Legally restricted to persons 18 years and older
IMPACT	Very Low Films in this category contain insignificant or no impactful-classifiable elements	Low Films rated "PG" will contain low-impact classifiable elements	Low to Mild Films in the "10M" category may contain some mild-impact classifiable elements but may be of particular educational or entertainment value to younger children in the reassuring company of adults	Mild Films rated "10" will contain mild-impact classifiable elements but not of such intensity and frequency as to be disturbing or harmful to children 10 years and older	Moderate Films in this category will contain moderate or medium-impact classifiable elements of an intensity and frequency that will be appropriate to the developmental levels of teenagers	Strong Films rated "16" will contain strong-impact classifiable elements of an intensity and frequency that is within the experience of most persons of 16 years and above	High An "18" film will contain high-impact classifiable elements, with almost no restriction on frequency and intensity. These are films intended only for adults

THEMES	Themes are, generally, "family-oriented" and treated in a way that is not threatening to a child's sense of security and well-being	Themes may be complex but treated in a way that does not threaten a child's sense of security and well-being	Themes may be complex and may explore troubling social issues and may be upsetting to younger children without the reassuring company of adults	There may be mature themes, treated more intensely and will be disturbing to even adult-accompanied younger viewers	Themes are more complex and mature and treated in a way that may be frightening and emotionally upsetting to younger viewers	A variety of themes, treated in ways that will tend to be more frightening, intense, disturbing and may even be misleading and encouraging of anti-social behaviour in impressionable minds	No restrictions on themes and treatment, even if offensive, justified by context
DRUGS	There are no scenes, unless discreetly implied, that may even appear to encourage or condone drugs, legal or illegal, and alcohol indulgence		There may be scenes of the <i>use</i> of legal drugs and alcohol but within the context of a clear educational purpose or clear anti-drug message		Scenes of drug and substance <i>use</i> may occur but shown as unhealthy and not socially-acceptable	Infrequent scenes of drug and substance <i>abuse</i> may occur, within context but without any glamorisation or instructional details	Generally, no restrictions on scenes of drug and substance <i>abuse</i>
LANGUAGE (L)	No strong language, swear words, expressions of threat; racial, gender or sexual abuse; profanity; blasphemy; prejudice or expressions which are abusive, demeaning or disrespectful of any person or group. There may be infrequent use of mild language justified by context			Mild language. No expressions of racial, gender, religious or sexual abuse unless within a context that shows such conduct to be wrong and unacceptable	There may be strong language within context and as part of character or plot development. Expressions abusive, disrespectful or degrading of human dignity may occur within a context which shows such conduct to be socially unacceptable		Generally, there are no restrictions unless the language amounts to the promotion of hatred based on an identifiable group characteristic and incites harmful behaviour

NUDITY (N)	There may be infrequent scenes of nudity in natural but non-sexual contexts, without frontal close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	There may be brief scenes of nudity in natural non-sexual contexts and discreetly implied sexual contexts but without lingering frontal close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	Scenes of nudity may occur, without lingering close-ups and within the context of the story to enhance plot or character development	There may be scenes of nudity without full frontal lingering close-ups and within a context that is not sexually abusive, exploitative or violent	Generally, no restrictions on nudity unless there is full frontal and lingering close-ups or the context is one of sexual abuse, exploitation or violence
PREJUDICE (P)	There are no scenes or expressions of prejudice or negative stereotyping based on any group characteristic	There may be expressions of prejudice or negative stereotyping within context but the overall message is that such conduct is disrespectful of human beings and socially unacceptable	Expressions of racial, ethnic, gender or religious abuse not amounting to the advocacy of hatred and incitement to cause harm may occur within context		
SEX (S)	There are no scenes of actual or implied sexual activity beyond brief expressions of affection in non-sexual contexts	There may be brief scenes of implied sexual activity within socially-accepted contexts and related to the development of plot or character	There may be brief scenes of consensual sexual activity justified by context but without lingering close-ups on intimate parts of the body	There may be frequent scenes of non-violent, non-abusive and non-exploitative consensual sexual activity but without focus on exposed genitals. Bestiality and incest may be discreetly implied but only within context and only if necessary for plot or character development	

<p>VIOLENCE (V)</p>	<p>There may be brief scenes of unrealistic, non-threatening and very low-impact violence and scenes of mild, low-impact menace, threats or suspense, justified by context. There will be no scenes, actual or implied, of domestic or sexual violence or of imitable acts that pose a risk of harm</p>	<p>There may be brief scenes of mild violence but not in domestic or sexual contexts or in contexts which form a part of childhood, such as schools and playgrounds. There are no scenes of graphic violence and bloodletting is extremely limited. The overall message is that violence is wrong and unacceptable and is not a way to resolve conflicts or solve problems</p>	<p>There may be scenes of realistic but mild violence, without graphic or bloody detail, justified by context. Scenes of domestic or sexual violence may be discreetly implied and justified by context. Violence is not glamorised or shown as a way to resolve conflicts or solve problems. The overall message is that violence has serious consequences and constitutes anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>Scenes of realistic violence may occur within a meaningful context and necessary for plot or character development. There are no scenes glamorising, condoning or encouraging violence as a way to resolve conflicts. Scenes of domestic and sexual violence are brief, infrequent and necessary for plot and character development</p>	<p>Generally, there are no restrictions except for explicit scenes of extreme domestic and sexual violence or explicit scenes of the effects of extreme violence in prolonged graphic and gory detail</p>
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BLASPHEMY (B), defined as offensive, insensitive or irreverent expressions on any religion (not cults or Satanism) and not amounting to the advocacy of hatred or incitement to cause harm, should not be treated as a *classifiable element* but as a matter for *consumer advice*. A classifiable element impacts directly on the determination of an appropriate age-restriction on a film. Blasphemy, *per se*, should not affect age-restrictions but may be given as **consumer advice** even where a film is rated A. However, blasphemy amounting to the advocacy of hatred and constituting incitement to cause harm would be a *classifiable element* in terms of Schedule 10.