

Film Classification

Introduction

The film classification system in Hong Kong is stipulated in the Film Censorship Ordinance (Chapter 392). This pamphlet explains the current film classification system and the censorship standards in respect of each category.

Current Film Classification

Under the current film classification system, films are classified into one of the following categories:



Suitable for All Ages.



Not Suitable for Children.



Not Suitable for Young Persons and Children.



Persons Aged 18 or Above Only.

N.B. Category ①, IIA & IIB are advisory in nature but the age restriction for Category frac{1}{1} films is strictly and legally enforced.

Classification Standards

In classifying a film, the Film Censorship Authority has to consider, among others, whether the film portrays, depicts or treats cruelty, torture, violence, crime, horror, disability, sexuality or indecent or offensive language or behaviour.

- Category films are suitable for people of all ages. Children may view films in this category without supervision, as no distress or harm is likely to be caused.
- Films should not contain undesirable language expressions, nudity, sex or horror.
- · Violence should be kept minimal and that it would not frighten, unnerve, unsettle or cause pain to children.

Category IIA

- Category IIA films are not suitable for children either in terms of its content or its treatment or both.
- There may be a mild dose of bad language, nudity, sex, violence or horror. Parental guidance is advised.

Category IIB

- Category IB films are not suitable for young persons and children. Viewers should expect the elements relating to bad language, nudity, sex, violence or horror in the films to be more intense than that of Category IIA.
- Parental guidance is strongly advised.
- The film may contain some crude expressions and sexual expletives.
- Implied sexual activity and discreet nudity scenes may be shown.
- There may be a moderate degree of violence and horror.

Category A

Category films should only be seen by adults. It is an offence to admit persons under the age of 18 to see the film.

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Enquiry

If you have any enquiry on the film classification system or on the censorship standard to be applied, please contact the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration.

Address: Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

3/F, Treasury Building 3 Tonkin Street West

Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon

Telephone: 3847 7753