

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

No. 600

28 May 2008

GUIDELINES TO BE USED TO DETERMINE WHAT IS DISTURBING, HARMFUL OR INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN IN FILMS AND INTERACTIVE COMPUTER GAMES

“Striving to make the life of every child better without making the life of a single adult worse.”

CATEGORY	“A”	“PG”	“10M”	“13M”	“13PG” FOR DVDs	“10”	“13”	“16”	“18”
	YOUNGER VIEWERS ADVISORY-CAUTIONARY-CONDITIONALLY RESTRICTED					TWEENS		TEENS	ADULTS
RESTRICTION	No restrictions. Contains nothing inappropriate even for very young unaccompanied children	Parental guidance recommended. May contain scenes which may be inappropriate for younger unaccompanied viewers	Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult as a reassuring counter-balance to scenes which may be upsetting to younger unaccompanied viewers	Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult as a reassuring counter-balance to scenes which may be upsetting to unaccompanied younger viewers	Parental guidance recommended. May contain scenes which may be upsetting to younger viewers	Approved only for children 10 years and older	Approved only for children 13 years and older	Approved only for persons 16 years and older	Approved only for adults

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IMPACT OF CLASSIFIABLE ELEMENTS	Very low and almost insignificant	Low and may require parental guidance for younger, sensitive viewers	Mild. Sensitive younger viewers will need the reassuring company of an adult	Moderate but younger viewers may need the reassuring company of an adult. In the case of DVDs or videos for home-entertainment, parental guidance strongly recommended for younger viewers	Mild and of an intensity that may be disturbing to children under 10 years	Moderate and of an intensity that may be disturbing to children under 13 years	Strong and of an intensity that may be disturbing to persons under 16 years	High and intended only for adults	
<p>"IMPACT" – what is the potential <i>effect</i>, on viewers of different ages or levels of maturity, of a classifiable element or the cumulative effect of a number of classifiable elements? The adjectives low, mild, moderate, strong and high describe the <i>hierarchy</i> of impact of classifiable elements. Impact may be heightened by, for instance, greater detail, close-ups, slow motion, special effects, such as lighting or sound, frequency, <i>sustained focus</i> and realism. For instance, one or two scenes of low-impact violence might merit a "younger-viewer" rating but the same low-impact violence repeated a number of times might heighten the impact to require a "tweens" or "teens" rating.</p>									
THEME	Themes are treated in ways that will not threaten a child's sense of security and well-being	May be complex but treated in ways that will not threaten a child's sense of security and well-being	May be complex but the film may be of entertainment or educational value and the reassuring company of an adult will counter-balance any scenes which may upset sensitive younger viewers	May be complex, mature and treated in a way that could be upsetting or disturbing to some younger viewers unless accompanied by an adult to provide a reassuring counter-balance to any distress that younger children may experience. For DVDs, videos and other films intended for home-viewing, parental guidance is strongly recommended for younger viewers	May be complex, mature and treated in a way that may be upsetting and disturbing even to accompanied younger viewers	More complex and mature and treated in a way that would be disturbing and upsetting to the sense of security and well-being of younger viewers	Complex and mature themes treated in ways that will be frightening, disturbing and may even be misleading and encourage anti-social attitudes and behaviour in impressionable minds	No restrictions on themes and treatment appropriate for adult-viewing only	

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DRUGS ("D")	No scenes that may even appear to encourage, glamorise or condone the use of drugs, including cigarettes, and alcohol	No depictions of illegal drugs or drug abuse except within the context of a clear educational purpose or a clear anti-drug message	There may be brief scenes of drug and substance use, within context, but the overall message is that drug and substance use is unhealthy and not socially-acceptable	No depictions of illegal drugs or drug abuse except within the context of clear educational purpose or a clear anti-drug message	There may be brief scenes of drug and substance use, within context, but the overall message is anti-drug and substance use	There may be scenes of drug and substance abuse, within context, but without glamorisation or instructional detail	There are no restrictions on depictions of drug and substance abuse within context		
LANGUAGE ("L")	No offensive vulgarity, expressions of racial, gender or sexual abuse, profanity, blasphemy or expressions which are abusive, demeaning or disrespectful of human beings	Mild language but no expressions of racial, gender, religious or sexual abuse unless within a context that shows such expressions to be wrong and socially unacceptable	Mild to moderate language, within context, as part of character or plot development. Expressions of abuse may occur within context which shows such conduct to be socially unacceptable and wrong	Mild language but no expressions of racial, gender, religious or sexual abuse unless within a context that shows such expressions to be wrong and unacceptable	Moderate language within context as part of character or plot development. Expressions of abuse may occur within context which shows such conduct to be anti-social and wrong	There may be strong language within context as part of character or plot development. Expressions of racial or sexual abuse will be infrequent and within context	No restrictions unless the language amounts to the promotion of hatred based on any identifiable group characteristic and amounts to incitement of harm		

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NUDITY , for the purpose of classification, must be distinguished from nakedness in natural non-sexual contexts, such as breast-feeding and <i>bona fide</i> cultural traditions. For classification, nudity is the deliberate flaunting of a person's intimate parts or sexuality									
NUDITY ("N")	There will be no scenes of nudity. There may be brief and discreet depictions of nakedness in non-sexual contexts, without close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	There will be no scenes of nudity but there may be brief depictions of nakedness in non-sexual contexts, without close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	There will be no scenes of nudity but there may be brief depictions of nakedness in non-sexual contexts, without close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	There will be no depictions of nudity but there may be brief scenes of nakedness in non-sexual contexts, without close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	There will be no depictions of nudity but there may be brief scenes of nakedness in non-sexual contexts, without close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body	There may be brief scenes of nudity in non-sexual contexts, without close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body, to enhance the development of character or plot	There may be scenes of nudity without frontal lingering close-ups and within a context that is not sexually abusive, violent or exploitative	No restrictions on nudity unless there is full frontal and lingering close-ups or the context is one of gratuitous sexual abuse, violence or exploitation	

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PREJUDICE ("P")	No depictions of prejudice or negative stereotyping, regardless of context	No depictions of prejudice or negative stereotyping, unless within a context that shows such conduct to be anti-social	There may be very brief and infrequent references to prejudice or negative stereotyping within context but the overall message is that conduct is disrespectful of human beings and unacceptable	There may be brief scenes of prejudice or negative stereotyping within context to enhance the development of plot or character but the message is clear that such behaviour is disrespectful of human beings and should not be encouraged or condoned	There may be brief scenes of prejudice or negative stereotyping within context to enhance the development of plot or character but the message is clear that such behaviour is disrespectful of human beings and should not be encouraged or condoned	There may be brief scenes of prejudice or negative stereotyping within context to enhance the development of plot or character but the message is clear that such behaviour is disrespectful of human beings and should not be encouraged or condoned	There may be brief scenes of prejudice or negative stereotyping within context to enhance the development of plot or character but the message is clear that such behaviour is disrespectful of human beings and should not be encouraged or condoned	There may be scenes of prejudice and negative stereotyping not amounting to the advocacy of hatred based on identifiable group characteristics	There may be expressions of prejudice and scenes of negative stereotyping but not amounting to the advocacy of harm-inciting hatred

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SEX ("S")	There are no scenes of sexual activity, actual or implied, beyond brief expressions of affection, such as kissing or hugging, in non-sexual contexts	There are no scenes of sexual activity, actual or implied, beyond brief expressions of affection, such as kissing or hugging, in non-sexual contexts	There may be very brief and infrequent scenes of implied sexual activity, without nudity and within socially-accepted contexts and related to the development of plot or character	There may be brief scenes of implied sexual activity, without nudity, within socially-accepted contexts, to enhance plot or character development		There may be brief scenes of implied sexual activity, without nudity and within socially-accepted contexts, to enhance plot or character development	There may be brief scenes of implied sexual activity, without nudity, within context, to enhance plot or character development	There may be brief scenes of consensual sexual activity justified by context but without close-ups on intimate parts of the body	Generally, no restrictions on scenes of sexual activity within context but without lingering close-ups on intimate parts of the body. Non-consensual sex may be discreetly implied but only within context and only if necessary for the development of plot and character

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VIOLENCE ("V")	There may be very brief and infrequent scenes of unrealistic and very-low impact non-threatening violence, menace or suspense justified by context and without bloodletting. There will be no scenes of domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence, actual or implied, or of imitable acts – physical, psychological or verbal	There may be very brief and infrequent scenes of unrealistic and low impact non-threatening violence, menace or suspense justified by context and without bloodletting. There will be no scenes of domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence, actual or implied, or of imitable acts – physical, psychological or verbal	There may be very brief and infrequent scenes of mild violence but not in domestic, racial, religious or sexual contexts or within contexts that form a part of childhood "comfort zones", such as schools or playgrounds. Bloodletting is extremely limited and there is no focus on the effects of violence on humans or animals	There may be brief scenes of realistic but moderate violence, justified by context, and without focus on the effects of violence on humans or animals or bloody details. Scenes of domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence may be discreetly implied and justified by context. There are no scenes condoning or rewarding violence	There may be brief scenes of realistic but mild violence, justified by context, and without focus on the effects of violence on humans or animals or bloody details. Scenes of domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence may be discreetly implied and justified by context. There are no scenes condoning or rewarding violence	There may be brief scenes of realistic but moderate violence, justified by context, and without focus on the effects of violence on humans or animals or bloody details. Scenes of domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence may be discreetly implied and justified by context. There are no scenes condoning or rewarding violence	There may be brief scenes of realistic violence may occur within a meaningful context and necessary for the development of plot or character. Scenes of domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence are brief, infrequent and justified by context	No restrictions except for explicit scenes of extreme and gratuitous domestic, racial, religious or sexual violence or explicit scenes of the effects of extreme violence in prolonged graphic and gory detail	

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<p>BLASPHEMY ("B"), defined as insensitive, offensive, demeaning, derogatory, disrespectful or irreverent expressions about any recognised religion, but not cults or Satanism, and not amounting to the advocacy of harm-inciting hatred, should not be treated as a <i>classifiable element</i>, determining age-restrictions, but as a matter for appropriate <i>consumer advice</i>. Depending on context, the taking of God's name in vain, in any religion, may amount to blasphemy. The sensitivities of certain religions, especially with regard to precepts and practices which may be unique to particular religions, should be noted appropriately. Expressions which do not amount to blasphemy but may constitute religious prejudice and are classifiable elements. Blasphemy amounting to the advocacy of hatred and constituting incitement to cause harm is a classifiable element in terms of Schedule 10</p>									
<p>IMITABLE ACTS/TECHNIQUES may be treated as a <i>classifiable element</i> to determine age-restrictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that such acts or techniques may be copied or imitated, especially by younger viewers. Criminal techniques and instructional details of illegal or dangerous acts, for instance, may require more restrictive age ratings</p>									