



# Government Gazette Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Vol. 449

Pretoria, 15 November 2002

**No. 24073**



**AIDS HELPLINE: 0800-0123-22 Prevention is the cure**

---

---

**CONTENTS***No.**Page  
No.* *Gazette  
No.***GOVERNMENT NOTICE****Home Affairs, Department of***Government Notice*

1448 Films and Publications Act (65/1996): Film and Publication Board: Draft guidelines for the classification of films, games and publications .....

3 24073

---

# GOVERNMENT NOTICE

## DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

No. 1448

15 November 2002

**FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS ACT, NO. 65 OF 1996**  
as amended by the  
**FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS AMENDMENT ACT, 1999**

## FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD

### DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS, GAMES AND PUBLICATIONS

#### CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>The Film and Publication Board</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Call for feedback from the public</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Guiding Principles</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Classification, and classifiable elements, for films and interactive computer games</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Films :</b>	<b>6</b>
	"A" : Suitable for all	6
	"PG" : Parental guidance	7
	"10" : Not suitable for children under the age of 10 years	8
	"13" : Not suitable for children under the age of 13 years	9
	"16" : Not suitable for children under the age of 16 years	10
	"18" : Not suitable for persons under the age of 18 years	11
<b>6</b>	<b>Interactive computer games :</b>	<b>12</b>
	"A" : Suitable for all ages	12
	"13" : Not suitable for children under the age of 13 years	13
	"16" : Not suitable for children under the age of 16 years	14
	"18" : Not suitable for persons under the age of 18 years	15
<b>7</b>	<b>Publications :</b>	<b>16</b>
	Restricted publications	18
	Unrestricted publications :	18
	"18" : Not suitable for children under the age of 18 years	19
	"13" : Not suitable for children under the age of 13 years	20
	"A" : Suitable for all ages	20
<b>8</b>	<b>Glossary of words and phrases</b>	<b>21</b>

## **1 THE FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD**

In apartheid South Africa, the Directorate of Publications, as the censorship authority, had sweeping powers to ban books, films and other products. Decisions, based on the world-view of a racial minority, were made by Government-appointed censors.

In the new democratic South Africa, the Film and Publication Board has a very different role. It classifies products and provides such consumer advice that enables adult South Africans to make informed choices about what they wish to hear, read or see or allow children in their care to hear, read or see. Apart from child pornography, which is completely prohibited, there is no censorship of what adult South Africans may hear, read or see in the privacy of their homes. Also, unlike the old body, the Board's membership is appointed through a process of public nominations, and is broadly representative of the South African population in terms of ethnicity, gender, religion, qualifications and experience.

The task of the Board is to classify all films (including DVDs and videos) and computer games intended for distribution and/or exhibition in South Africa with due regard to the protection of children from potentially disturbing and harmful materials, and, from sexual exploitation in films, computer games, publications and the Internet. The Board does not classify publications except when a member of the public lodges a complaint that a particular publication should be referred to a classification committee for examination and classification. The Board does not oversee television broadcasting, which is the responsibility of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa.

Section 31 of the Act requires the Board to draft the guidelines that will be used in the classification process on the basis of :

- the principle that children must be protected against harmful and disturbing materials;
- the policy, derived from Schedules 3 and 8 of the Act, of imposing appropriate age restrictions;
- the need to provide relevant consumer advice to enable the public to make informed choices, and
- the recognition that decisions of the Board must reflect, as far as possible, generally-accepted community standards or levels of tolerance.

## **2 Call for feedback from the public**

This document sets out the guidelines used by the Board and Review Board when classifying films, interactive games and publications for distribution and/or exhibition in South Africa. These guidelines are being published for public comment and input to ensure that decisions of the Board :

- reflect generally-accepted community standards;
- strike a reasonable balance between competing constitutional rights and freedoms, and
- protect children from potentially disturbing and harmful materials.

Please send your comments by **17 January 2003** to:

**Chief Executive Officer,  
Film and Publication Board,  
Private Bag X9069, Cape Town 8000;  
Fax : 021 - 465-6511  
E-mail : [fpbmail@fpb.wcape.gov.za](mailto:fpbmail@fpb.wcape.gov.za)**

### 3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In classifying films, interactive games and publications, members of the Board use guidelines developed in accordance with the provisions of the *Films and Publications Act* and the human rights values of the Constitution, particularly the right to freedom of expression. Both the Constitution and the Act emphasise the need to protect children. In summary :

The Act prohibits pornography involving children. The creation, exhibition, importation, possession or distribution of images or descriptions of child pornography is a serious criminal offence in South Africa. No other kind of material is completely prohibited, though there may be prohibitions on the distribution and/or exhibition of certain types of materials.

The Act identifies two categories of films, computer games or publications that are subject to a high level of restriction: **X18** and **XX** material. **X18** material is for adults only and may be distributed and/or exhibited only in, and from, licensed adult premises. Materials that focus mainly on gratuitous sex, i.e. sex without any real context, story or art or any other redeemable virtues, are classified **X18**.

Materials classified **XX** may not be distributed or exhibited in South Africa. This category applies to materials that could incite a person to cause harm to others. It also applies to films, computer games and publications that contain scenes, images or descriptions of explicit violent sex, sex with animals, degrading sexual conduct, extreme violence, or the encouragement of hatred based on religion.

The guidelines for the **X18** and **XX** categories are set out in schedules attached to the *Films and Publications Act*. The guidelines published below are those developed by the Board for general, mainstream films, computer games and publications. They set out the criteria used by the Board in determining what is harmful or disturbing to children, and in providing consumer information in the public interest.

### 4 CLASSIFICATION AND CLASSIFIABLE ELEMENTS FOR FILMS AND GAMES

A committee appointed from a panel of examiners and chief examiners looks closely at a film or computer game before classifying it. The film or computer game is examined as a whole, and the context of potentially troubling scenes or parts is carefully considered. Viewing a film in its entirety, from the point of view of its overall impact, is important since the representation of "social evils" may be unavoidable in a film seeking to expose such evils in order to drive home a positive social message.

Most importantly, the committee pays attention to a number of **classifiable elements**. These are: **violence, sex, nudity, language, and prejudice or negative stereotyping relating to race, ethnicity, gender or religion.**

The general rule is: **age restrictions depend on how often and how intensely these classifiable elements occur in a film or computer game.** The aim is to protect children from harmful or disturbing material.

Apart from imposing age restrictions to protect children, the Board also provides **consumer information**. This information is given to alert the public, particularly parents, to the fact that a film or computer game contains classifiable elements : "**L**" for strong or offensive language; "**N**" for nudity; "**P**" for prejudice or negative stereotyping; "**S**" for sex; and "**V**" for violence.

The **same film** may have **different classifications** in cinema and video or DVD forms. There are several reasons for this. Videos and DVD's are interactive. They can be stopped, put into slow motion, and scenes can be played over and over again. Thus, young people could learn criminal



or harmful behaviour. On the other hand, images on the big screen can be more intense and frightening than on the home screen (e.g. war films).

## 5 FILMS

There are six categories for general or mainstream films. These range from "A" (suitable for all ages), to "18" (material judged unsuitable for anyone younger than 18 years of age). The "A" and "PG" categories are advisory only. The others are legally restrictive. This means that it is illegal to allow a child younger than the given age restriction to see that film or hire that video.

### "A" : suitable for all ages

Films in this category are suitable for all ages. They contain nothing considered harmful or disturbing to even very young children.

Theme	No themes are treated in a way that might threaten a child's sense of security or well-being.
Language	No strong language (swear-words, threats, abuse, profanity or prejudice). Mild language may occur infrequently and within context.
Drugs	There are no scenes condoning, promoting, glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs, including alcohol and cigarettes.
Prejudice	If the film contains any prejudice or negative stereotyping, the context makes it clear that such prejudice is wrong. The issue is resolved in a way that both supports human rights values and can be understood by even young children.
Nudity	If nudity occurs at all, it is brief and in a non-sexual context.
Sex	There are no scenes of sexual activity beyond brief kissing.
Violence	There may be brief scenes of unrealistic, non-threatening and very low-impact violence.
Examples :	<i>Rugrats, Tea With Mussolini and You've Got Mail</i>

**"PG" : Parental Guidance**

This is an advisory category. It warns parents that the film contains some material that might confuse or upset some younger children who watch it alone. While the film is judged suitable for children, parents are advised to monitor the contents, either by finding out more about the film or by watching it with their children.

Theme	No themes are treated in a way that might threaten a child's sense of security or well-being. However, a "PG" classification without consumer information indicates that children may need parental guidance on the theme itself.
Language	Strong language (swear-words, threats, abuse or prejudice) is infrequent and may occur within context.
Drugs	There are no scenes condoning, promoting, glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs, including alcohol and cigarettes.
Prejudice	If the film contains any prejudice or negative stereotyping, the context makes it clear that such prejudice is wrong. The issue is resolved in a way that both supports human rights values and can be understood by even young children.
Nudity	There may be brief scenes of nudity in non-sexual contexts.
Sex	There may be brief scenes of implied sexual activity. But these are few and discreet. There are no close-ups and no frontal nudity in sexual scenes.
Violence	There may be brief scenes of low-impact violence but no prolonged or extreme images of violence (e.g. a victim suffering, graphic close-ups, long shoot-outs). The film shows that violence has consequences. People who commit violence are punished or suffer remorse. The final outcome is positive. There may be mild threats, menace or suspense. Scenes of stronger violence occur only in clearly contextualised comic, historical, fantastical or natural disaster settings.

*Consumer information is provided with most films classified "PG". This identifies classifiable elements which may require parental guidance for young children.*

**Examples :** *Star Wars – The Phantom Menace; Shakespeare In Love "PG (S)" and Wild Wild West "PG(LV)"*

**"10" : Not suitable for children under the age of 10 years**

This is a legally restrictive classification. No child under the age of 10 years may be allowed to watch such a film in a cinema or rent such a video or DVD.

Theme	Themes may be complex, but outcomes reinforce positive social values. The overall message is reassuring to a child's sense of security and well-being.
Language	There may be infrequent strong language (swear-words, threats, abuse or prejudice) occurring within the context of the story. Any sexual innuendo will be outside the understanding of a child. Words that constitute verbal abuse may occur infrequently and in a comedic context.
Drugs	Scenes of drug abuse may occur. But they are brief and within the context of the story, and without instructional detail.
Prejudice	If bias or negative stereotyping occurs, it is resolved within the context of the story. The overall message supports human rights values.
Nudity	There may be a few brief scenes of nudity, but without any lingering close-ups.
Sex	There may be brief scenes of sexual activity necessary for the development of the plot, characterisation or theme. However, such scenes are few and without close-ups or suggestive audio effects.
Violence	Violent scenes may occur. But these do not last long, and are neither graphic nor gory. They also take place in the context of the story. Violence is not glamorised, and its consequences are clear. Where threat, menace or suspense occurs, it will not be disturbing to children of 10 years.

*Consumer information is provided, depending on how often and how intensely classifiable elements occur.*

**Examples :**     *The Mod Squad 10(L); The Matrix 10(V) and The Red Violin 10(NS)*



**"13" : Not suitable for children under the age of 13 years**

This is a legally restrictive classification. No child under the age of 13 years may be allowed to watch such a film in a cinema or rent such a video or DVD.

Theme	The film may deal with a variety of themes, including adult themes on social and psychological issues. Themes are handled sensitively and in a manner appropriate to the development of teenagers. Outcomes are generally positive, and viewers aged 13 years and older will be able to understand them.
Language	There may be some strong language, not always appropriate to the context. There may also be language, including mild sexual humour, or language that reflects anti-social values, that occurs within context as part of plot and character development but is not of a demeaning nature.
Drugs	There may be scenes of drug abuse. But these occur in context and with a positive outcome. There may be brief images of drug taking. But there is no instructive detail.
Prejudice	Some scenes showing bias or negative stereotyping may occur. But these are within the context of the story, and the outcome is positive. Human rights values are reinforced.
Nudity	Some scenes of nudity may occur within the context of the story or character development. Nudity is not used for exploitative purposes.
Sex	There may be brief scenes of sexual activity. But they are related to the development of plot, theme or character. There is no suggestion of abuse, violence or exploitation in such scenes.
Violence	Some scenes of realistic and intense violence (graphic or gory details), but these are brief, infrequent and neither exploitative nor gratuitous. Where violence occurs within a comic, fantasy, historical or natural disaster setting, it may be more sustained. There are no scenes glamorising or condoning violence. Scenes of domestic and psychological violence, including sexual threat, may occur, but only in the context of the theme, and only if the outcome supports positive social values.

*Consumer information is provided, depending on how often and how intensely classifiable elements occur.*

**Examples :** *Bride of Chucky "13(SV)"; Sixth Sense "13(V)" and There's Something About Mary "13(L)"*

**"16" : Not suitable for children under the age of 16 years**

This is a legally restrictive classification. No one under the age of 16 may be allowed to watch such a film in a cinema or rent such a video or DVD.

Theme	Themes may be adult, and outcomes are not necessarily positive.
Language	Strong language may occur, but should in no way incite harm to, or hatred of, others.
Drugs	Scenes of drug use may occur, but without instructive detail. There are no scenes condoning, glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs.
Prejudice	There may be scenes showing bias and negative stereotyping. There is not necessarily a positive outcome in the plot development.
Nudity	There may be scenes of nudity, including close-ups. The context is not sexually exploitative, however.
Sex	Scenes of sexual activity may be sustained and occur more frequently, but they do not feature excessive nudity that is exploitative.
Violence	There may be scenes of intense violence. However, these occur within context and are part of the development of plot or character, or illustrate dramatic events.

*Consumer information is provided, depending on how often and how intensely classifiable elements occur.*

**Examples :** *Saving Private Ryan "16(V)"; End of Days "16(LPV)" and American Beauty "16"*

**"18" : Not suitable for persons under the age of 18 years**

This is a legally restrictive classification. No one under the age of 18 may be allowed to watch such a film in a cinema or rent such a video or DVD.

There are no restrictions on themes or classifiable elements with respect to films classified "18", with or without accompanying consumer information. However, such films do not contain scenes of child pornography, explicit violent sexual conduct, bestiality, explicit sexual conduct which degrades a person and which constitutes incitement to cause harm, the explicit infliction of extreme violence, the explicit effects of extreme violence which constitute incitement to cause harm, or explicit sexual conduct involving sexual intercourse with visual presentation of the genital or anal regions.

*Consumer information is provided, depending on how often and how intensely classifiable elements occur.*

Examples : *Fight Club "18(V)"; Eyes Wide Shut "18" and Boondock Saints "18(LPV)"*

**6 INTERACTIVE COMPUTER GAMES**

There are four categories for interactive computer games: 'A', '13', '16' and '18'. These categories have nothing to do with how easy or difficult a game is. Like the classifications for films, they are based on how often and how intensely classifiable elements occur.

**"A" : suitable for all ages**

Games classified "A" contain nothing that could be considered harmful or disturbing to children of any age. However, parental supervision may be necessary for very young children.

Language	There may be occasional crude language (e.g. "damn"). But there are no sexual expletives or profanities.
Drugs	No depictions of drug taking occur. There is no encouragement of criminal or anti-social behaviour.
Prejudice	The game contains no bias or negative stereotyping in regard to race, ethnicity, gender or religion.
Nudity	There are no scenes of nudity.
Sex	There are no references to sexual activity.
Violence	There may be minimal violence in playful, comic or highly stylised settings. There may be sequences of mild horror. There are no sequences that will threaten a child's sense of security or well-being.

**"13" : Not suitable for children under the age of 13 years**

This category of game is restricted to children aged 13 and older. No child under the age of 13 may be allowed to buy or rent such a game, or to play it in a public arcade.

**Language**      There may be occasional use of strong language.

**Drugs**          There are no depictions of drug abuse, including alcohol and cigarettes. There is no encouragement of anti-social behaviour.

**Prejudice**      No bias or negative stereotyping occurs.

**Nudity**          There are no sequences of gratuitous nudity.

**Sex**             There may be mildly provocative sexual themes. But there is no focus on sexual activity and no sequences of sexual abuse.

**Violence**      Sequences of mild violence may occur, with the protagonist shown in unsafe or violent situations. But there are no graphic or gory deaths, and no mutilation or dismemberment of animal or human bodies.



**"16" : Not suitable for children under the age of 16 years**

Games classified "16" are restricted to children aged 16 and older. No one under the age of 16 may be allowed to buy or rent such a game, or to play it in a public arcade.

Language	There may be strong language.
Drugs	No sequences glamorise the use of drugs or other criminal behaviour.
Prejudice	If negative stereotyping occurs, it does not promote or encourage hatred based on race, gender, ethnicity or religion.
Nudity	There may be instances of nudity, but these are in context and not gratuitous.
Sex	There may be mature sexual themes. But there are no sequences of sexual abuse or threats. There are no scenes which link sexual activity with violence.
Violence	The game may include sequences of intense violence in graphic detail. Mutilation and dismemberment may occur in animated contexts.

**"18" : Not suitable for persons under the age of 18 years**

This category of game is restricted to persons aged 18 and older. No one under the age of 18 may be allowed to buy or rent such a game, or to play it in a public arcade. Games classified "18" are intended only for adults, and contain material unsuitable for persons under the age of 18 years. They do not, however, contain scenes child pornography, explicit violent sexual conduct, bestiality, explicit sexual conduct which degrades a person and which constitutes incitement to cause harm, the explicit infliction of extreme violence, the explicit effects of extreme violence which constitute incitement to cause harm, or explicit sexual conduct involving sexual intercourse with visual presentation of the genital or anal regions.

## **7 PUBLICATIONS**

### **Introduction**

#### **7.1 Definition**

In terms of section 1 of the *Films and Publications Act, 1996* (the "Act") as amended, a "publication" means :

- (a) any newspaper, book, periodical, pamphlet, poster or other printed matter
- (b) any writing or typescript which has in any manner been duplicated
- (c) any drawing, picture, illustration or painting
- (d) any print, photograph, engraving or lithograph
- (e) any record, magnetic tape, soundtrack, except a soundtrack associated with a film<sup>1</sup>, or any other object in or on which sound has been recorded for reproduction
- (f) computer software which is not a film
- (g) the cover or packaging of a film
- (h) any figure, carving, statue or model, and
- (i) any message or communication, including a visual presentation, placed on a distributed network, including, but not confined to, the Internet.

7.2 In terms of section 22(3) of the Act, a newspaper or a poster of a newspaper issued as an advertisement of any newspaper, published by a member of the Newspaper Press Union of South Africa, is not subject to the provisions of the Act. However, in terms of section 26(1)(c), notwithstanding section 22(3), it is an offence to advertise a film in a newspaper (or on the cover or packaging of a film) without indicating the classification, age restriction and consumer advice which applies to that film.

#### **7.3 Regulation of publications**

In terms of section 16(1) of the Act, a publication is subject to the regulatory regime of the Board only when a complaint has been lodged with the Board that the publication be referred to a classification committee for a decision in terms of the Act.

7.3.1 Section 17 of the Act provides that any publication forming the subject-matter of a complaint be examined and classified with reference to Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4, read with Schedule 5, and Schedule 10 of the Act.

7.3.2 Schedule 1 provides that a publication shall be classified "XX" if, judged within context, it contains a visual presentation, simulated or real, of :

- (a) child pornography
- (b) explicit violent sexual conduct
- (c) bestiality
- (d) explicit sexual conduct which degrades a person and which constitutes incitement to cause harm

---

<sup>1</sup> A soundtrack associated with a film is defined as a "film"

- (e) the explicit infliction of, or explicit effect of, extreme violence which constitutes incitement to cause harm, or
- (f) a description of child pornography.

7.3.3 Schedule 2 requires a classification committee to classify as "X18" any publication that contains a visual presentation, simulated or real, of explicit sexual conduct. In the case of sexual intercourse, this would include an explicit visual presentation of genitals or descriptions of any of the acts set out in subparagraphs (b) to (e) of Schedule 1.

7.3.4 Schedules 3 and 4 provide for the imposition of age restrictions and conditions on the distribution of publications which may be disturbing or harmful to children in the relevant age groups.

7.3.5 Schedule 5 provides for exemption from the "XX" or "X18" classification of any publication which is in the nature of a *bona fide* scientific, documentary, literary or, except for child pornography, artistic work.

7.3.6 Schedule 10 deals with the category of speech excluded from constitutional protection in terms of section 16(2) of the Constitution. It provides that any publication which advocates hatred based on religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm, shall be classified "XX". However, *bona fide* scientific, documentary, artistic, literary or religious publications, or publications amounting to *bona fide* discussions, arguments or opinions on matters relating to religion, belief or conscience, or publications that amount to *bona fide* discussions, arguments or opinions on matters of public interest may be exempted from "XX" classification.

#### 7.4 **Classification Guidelines**

7.4.1 Classification decisions must acknowledge and give effect to the following principles:

- (a) the right to freedom of expression, as articulated in section 16(1) of the Constitution, that adults should be able to choose for themselves, as well as for their children, what to read, hear and see
- (b) children should be protected from potentially disturbing and harmful materials and premature exposure to adult experiences
- (c) everyone has the right to protection from exposure to unsolicited material that they find offensive
- (d) the public should be provided with sufficient consumer advice to be able to make informed choices both for themselves and for children in their care, and
- (e) that classification decisions reflect, as far as possible, generally-accepted community standards of tolerance.

7.4.2 The Board has, acting in terms of section 31(2) of the Act, established two broad categories of classification for publications :

- (a) restricted publications, indicated by the symbol "X", and
- (b) unrestricted publications, with or without age restrictions and/or consumer information.

#### 7.5 ***Restricted publications***

Publications that fall within the scope of Schedules 1 or 2, will, unless they are exempted in terms of Schedule 5, be classified either "XX" or "X18", as applicable. Publications falling within the scope of Schedule 10 will be classified "XX".

In addition to the criteria set out in Schedules 1 and 2, publications that promote, incite or instruct in violence, or that constitute gratuitous, exploitative or offensive depictions of cruelty and/or sexual violence, will be classified "XX" or "X18" as appropriate.

A publication classified "XX" may not be distributed or exhibited in public. Where a publication that has been classified "XX" because it contained child pornography, it may neither be possessed, distributed nor exhibited and must be referred to the Child Protection Unit for appropriate action.

A publication classified "X18" may be distributed only :

- to adults;
- by the holder of a licence to conduct the business of adult premises, and
- from within premises forming part of a building.

#### 7.6 ***Unrestricted publications***

Unrestricted publications which, in the opinion of a classification committee, contain materials that may be potentially disturbing or harmful to children, may be distributed but only with appropriate age restrictions and/or consumer information, according to the following guidelines :

##### (a) ***General principles***

Unrestricted publications may, depending on content and context, be classified :

- "18", with or without consumer information;
- "13", with or without consumer information, or
- "A", with or without consumer information.

In appropriate circumstances, a classification committee may impose the further condition that a publication be distributed only in a sealed, and opaque, wrapper, with any age restriction and/or consumer information clearly displayed on the wrapper.



**(b) Guidelines**

**"18" – legally restricted to adults.** A publication with an age restriction of "18" will contain material unsuitable for those under the age of 18 years, and may also offend some sections of the adult community. A publication classified "18" may be distributed only to adults and may be subject to the further condition that it may only be distributed in a sealed and, if necessary, opaque wrapper which bears a notice to the effect that it may not be distributed to persons under the age of 18 years.

**Theme** There are virtually no restrictions on themes in the adults-only category. However, the treatment should be neither intensely and gratuitously exploitative, nor instructional with respect to criminal techniques and the use of drugs.

**Violence ("V")** There may be detailed, and even frequent, descriptions or depictions of violence, which may be realistic and/or stylised. Where the descriptions and/or depictions are detailed and of high impact or in cases where they may be offensive, appropriate consumer information should be provided.

**Sex ("S")** There may be detailed descriptions, but not depictions, of sexual activities involving consenting adults. Depictions of sexual activities, real or simulated, but without details of genital or anal contact, between consenting adults, may be permitted.

**Nudity ("N")** There may be depictions of nudity containing genital details.

**Language ("L")** There may be frequent and intense strong and coarse language.

**Prejudice ("P")** The description or depiction of prejudice or of negative stereotyping which encourages, incites or promotes hatred based on any identifiable physical or cultural characteristic, may not be permitted, unless, from the point of view of its overall impact, such a description or depiction is unavoidable and necessary in order to drive home a positive social message. Descriptions and/or depictions that are malicious and adversely impact on the dignity of a group, or identifiable members of a group or community, may not be permitted.

**"13" – legally restricted to persons older than 13 years of age.** A publication classified "13", with or without consumer information, contains material that is regarded as unsuitable for children under the age of 13 years.

- Theme** There is virtually no restriction on themes, provided the treatment is sensitive and appropriate to the developmental levels of teenagers. Descriptions and depictions of classifiable elements may be detailed, but the impact will not be so intense and exploitative as to require legal restriction.
- Violence ("V")** Descriptions and depictions of intense violence are brief and necessary for the development of plot or character. Descriptions or depictions of violence with a high impact must not be gratuitous, emphasised or exploitative. The overall impact must be that violence is anti-social and disrespectful of the inherent dignity of all beings.
- Sex ("S")** Descriptions or depictions of sexual activities between consenting adults should not be gratuitous or exploitative. The treatment should be sensitive to the developmental needs of teenagers, and promote attitudes towards sex and relationships that do are not in conflict with core social values.
- Nudity ("N")** Descriptions and depictions of nudity - in particular sexualised nudity - must be neither exploitative nor offensive.
- Language ("L")** Language that is strong, coarse, aggressive and sexually explicit may occur within the context of the plot or character development.
- Prejudice ("P")** The description or depiction of prejudice or of negative stereotyping that encourages, incites or promotes hatred based on any identifiable physical or cultural characteristic, may not be permitted, unless, from the point of view of its overall impact, such a description or depiction is unavoidable and necessary to drive home a positive social message. Descriptions and/or depictions that are malicious and adversely impact on the dignity of a group, or identifiable members of a group or community, may not be permitted

**"A" – suitable for all ages.** Themes, treatment and classifiable elements occur in a way that do not threaten a child's sense of security and well-being, and do not prematurely expose a child to adult experiences.

**8 Glossary of words and phrases**

This glossary or list of definitions gives the meaning of key words as they are used in the guidelines:

**abuse** maltreat or assault, especially sexually

**abusive** rude, disrespectful, harmful, showing contempt

**adult theme** subject-matter or central plot associated with issues such as, for example, violence, sex, crime, drug and alcohol dependency, death, war and racism

**bias** prejudice; a slanted and unjust attitude (usually towards minority or outsider groups)

**classifiable elements** elements such as violence, sex, nudity, prejudice, strong language and drug use found in a film or publication and the likely impact of which a classification committee will assess when making classification decisions

**classification** placing in categories or groups according to the frequency and intensity of classifiable elements (strong language, nudity, prejudice, sex, and violence)

**close-up** an image in graphic detail, as if seen from very near

**context** surroundings or background; the whole picture; the other parts of a film, video or game which come before and after a particular incident and clarify its meaning

**demean** description or depiction which debases or lowers the dignity of the character described or depicted

**discreet** restrained, modest, inoffensive; an image shown from a distance, without lingering on close-up detail and generally not prominent

**expletive** oath, swearword or curse

**explicit** candid, leaving nothing to the imagination; focusing on close-up detail

**exploitative** making use of someone or something for selfish or improper reasons; purposefully abuse for enjoyment and lacking in moral, artistic or other values

**extreme** exceptionally intense, graphic or prolonged, exceeding reasonable limits in terms of detail or length of description or depiction and frequency

**frequent** happening often, more than just once or twice

**frequency** the number of times something occurs

**gory** bloody; detailed, graphic images of violence

**graphic** vivid, showing all the details

---

<b>gratuitous</b>	included without good reason; uncalled for; elements in a film, video or game which add nothing to the development of plot or character; uncalled for and without justification
<b>implied</b>	not shown or said directly, but rather strongly suggested or hinted at
<b>incite</b>	arouse, stir up, inflame
<b>instructive</b>	teaching or showing how to do something
<b>intensity</b>	strength, power, force (in film, the intensity of a scene depends on how long it is, on sound and lighting effects, language, context, and whether it is shot from a distance or close-up)
<b>legally restrictive</b>	limiting by law, enforceable by law
<b>mainstream</b>	produced for the general public and available in ordinary cinemas and stores
<b>menacing</b>	threatening; suggesting harm and arousing fear
<b>mild</b>	moderate, slight, understated
<b>negative</b>	insulting, hostile
<b>nudity</b>	nakedness
<b>prejudice</b>	pre-judgement; bias; negative or hostile attitude (usually towards minority or outsider groups) based not on facts or individual experience but on group stereotypes
<b>positive</b>	outcome a result or conclusion that supports human rights values; an overall message in accordance with the view that it is important to strive to be a decent human being
<b>profanity</b>	blasphemy; language showing lack of respect in regard to religious or sacred matters
<b>protagonist</b>	the main character in a film or game; the hero or heroine
<b>sexual activity</b>	kissing, caressing, embracing, love-making; physical intimacy between two people (in mainstream films, even in the "18" category, images of sexual activity are never as explicit as in adults-only "X18" material, e.g. there is no focus on the genitals)
<b>stereotype</b>	a fixed idea which reduces individuals to a standard, usually prejudiced, group mould.
<b>swearword</b>	expletive, oath, curse, foul language
<b>theme</b>	subject matter; what a film is about

---

Dog ate your Gazette?  
... read it online



**www.SA Gazettes.co.za**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**A new information Portal keeping you up to date with news, legislation, the Parliamentary programme and which is the largest pool of SA Gazette information available on the Web.**

- Easily accessible through the www!
  - Government Gazettes - from January 1994
  - Compilations of all Indexes pertaining to the past week's Government Gazettes
  - All Provincial Gazettes - from September 1995
  - Parliamentary Bills - as of January 1999
- Available in full-text, with keyword searching
- Sabinet Online scans, formats, edits and organize information for you. Diagrams and forms included as images.
- No stacks of printed gazettes - all on computer. Think of the storage space you save.
- Offers Bill Tracker - complementing the SA Gazettes products.

**For easy electronic access to full-text gazette info, subscribe to the SA Gazettes from Sabinet Online. Please visit us at [www.sagazettes.co.za](http://www.sagazettes.co.za)**

**Sabinet**  
 *Online*



Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001

Publications: Tel: (012) 334-4508, 334-4509, 334-4510

Advertisements: Tel: (012) 334-4673, 334-4674, 334-4504

Subscriptions: Tel: (012) 334-4735, 334-4736, 334-4737

Cape Town Branch: Tel: (021) 465-7531

Gedruk deur en verkrygbaar by die Staatsdrukker, Bosmanstraat, Privaatsak X85, Pretoria, 0001

Publikasies: Tel: (012) 334-4508, 334-4509, 334-4510

Advertensies: Tel: (012) 334-4673, 334-4674, 334-4504

Subskripsies: Tel: (012) 334-4735, 334-4736, 334-4737

Kaapstad-tak: Tel: (021) 465-7531