

[MTRCB, February 24, 2004]

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1986**

Pursuant to section 3 (a) of presidential decree no. 1986, the movie and television review and classification board (mtrcb), hereafter referred to as the board, hereby enacts and promulgates the following rules and regulations as guidelines.

**CHAPTER I
Definition of Terms**

As used in the Rules and Regulations, the following terms shall mean:

- a) **BOARD** — The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) created under Presidential Decree No. 1986.
- b) **MOTION PICTURE** — A series of pictures projected on a screen in rapid succession so as to produce the optical effect of a continuous picture in which the objects move whether the picture is in black and white or in color, silent or with accompanying sound, on whatever medium, with whatever mechanism or equipment they are projected for instant showing.
- c) **TELEVISION BROADCAST** — A public showing of images (video) and sounds (audio) via free television whether on Very High Frequency (VHF), or Ultra High Frequency (UHF), to include cable television and other limited audience distribution.
- d) **THEATRICAL DISTRIBUTION** — A public exhibition of motion pictures in theaters, moviehouses, or other places imposing admission fees.
- e) **PUBLICITY MATERIALS and/or Promotional Materials** — Any material used to generate public interest in a motion picture or television program such as television commercials, movie and television trailers, print advertisements, still photos, photo frames, leaflets, posters and billboards and other related media.
- f) **LIVE TV SHOW** — A television program telecast at the same time that it is being performed.
- g) **TAPED TV SHOW** — A television program recorded before it is telecast.

h) **GENERAL VIEWING** — Refers to motion pictures made available to the general public for viewing whether through theaters, film libraries or such similar organizations.

i) **REVIEW** — The process of previewing motion pictures, television programs and related publicity materials to determine whether, based on the standards set by law, these are fit for importation, exportation, production, copying, distribution, sale, lease, and exhibition in theater or non-theatrical distribution networks; and to determine the material's classification.

j) **NEWS** — Refers to straight and objective news reporting as distinguished from news analyses, commentaries, opinions and editorials.

k) **NEWS ANALYSES, COMMENTARIES, OPINIONS and EDITORIALS** — Refer to views which are **SUBJECTIVE** in nature, whether these are of the speaker's and/or the network's.

l) **NON-THEATRICAL DISTRIBUTION** — A public showing of full-length or short-feature motion pictures through the use of mobile or non-mobile projection equipment for which no admission fee is charged. This includes showing of full-length and short-feature motion pictures exclusively to civic organizations, societies, clubs and other similar groups, including juvenile, educational, documentary, cultural, scientific, journalistic, industrial, sales, public relations and instructional films.

CHAPTER II

Guiding Principles

SECTION 1. The BOARD shall review and classify motion pictures, television programs and related promotion materials and commercials for TV and cinema, applying as a general standard contemporary Filipino cultural values.

SECTION 2. No motion picture, television program, or promotional material intended for such exhibition shall be disapproved by reason of its topic, theme or subject matter, subject to Article 201, "Offenses Against Decency and Good Customs" of the Revised Penal Code.

SECTION 3. The classification shall be based on the treatment of theme, violence, language, nudity, sex, horror, illegal drugs and other similar elements. In making the evaluation, the BOARD shall not look at pieces of film, television, and related promotional materials in isolation, but shall consider the submitted material in its entirety.

SECTION 4. The BOARD is fully aware of the State's concern in molding and reinforcing the moral character of the people as well as protecting the artist's freedom of expression. The BOARD's obligation therefore as mandated by law is to safeguard these values without negating the vital roles and services that the motion

picture and television industries render to the community as important components in building the national economy.

SECTION 5. The review and classification system rests on the doctrine of PARENS PATRIAE as well as the natural right of parents in rearing their children under the Constitution. The BOARD recognizes the fundamental role of parents in their children's choice of motion picture or television program, and thereby helps them decide what they will allow their children to watch.

SECTION 6. The BOARD is a regulatory body which must not only function in terms of reviewing and classifying films or television programs brought before it but must also initiate plans and cooperate with the industry to improve, upgrade and make it viable as an important component of the national economy.

CHAPTER III

Scope of Authority

All motion pictures, television programs and commercials intended for public exhibition in theaters and television, and related publicity materials and/or promotional materials, whether imported or produced in the Philippines, for the purpose of local viewing or for export, shall be subject to review and classification by the BOARD before they are exported, copied, distributed, sold, leased and exhibited.

CHAPTER IV

Movie, Television, and Trailer Classification

SECTION 1. Movie Classification. — Movies shall be classified as GENERAL PATRONAGE ("G"); PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13 ("PG-13"); RESTRICTED-13 ("R-13"); RESTRICTED-18 ("R-18") and NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING ("X"). In classifying the motion picture, the BOARD shall consider the treatment of the following factors: theme, violence, language, nudity, sex, horror, illegal drugs and other elements.

A. GENERAL AUDIENCE ("G") — All ages admitted. "G" materials should, in the judgment of the BOARD, be suitable for all audiences.

1. THEME — Themes must be appropriate for young audiences and shall be wholesome and reinforce positive values.
2. LANGUAGE — Obscene, profane, blasphemous and sexually suggestive language shall not be allowed. Some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation but should be common everyday expressions.
3. NUDITY — Sexually-oriented nudity is not acceptable. As a general rule, scenes of nudity are not allowed BUT brief scenes of NATURAL NUDITY with NO INTENTION to titillate may be allowed.

4. — Scenes with sexual context shall not be acceptable. Only wholesome and tender love scenes may be allowed.
5. VIOLENCE — The depiction of violence and use of threatening or menacing language, weapons and special effects shall only be occasional and mild. The portrayal of violence should not be seen as a normal solution to problems and should not promote anti-social behavior. No emphasis shall be given to realistic weapons and the scenes should not unduly cause alarm, distress or stress and/or anxiety to young audiences. Redeeming values shall be underscored, with right and justice prevailing.
6. HORROR — Depiction of horror and horrific special effects shall be mild and brief, with no intent to shock or frighten. The outcome shall always be reassuringly positive.
7. DRUGS — There shall be NO depiction of, or reference to, prohibited drugs or substances and their use.

B. PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13 ("PG-13") — Viewers below 13 years old must be accompanied by a parent or an adult. The movie must, in the judgment of the BOARD, meet the following criteria.

1. THEME — More serious issues may be tackled but the treatment must be suitable to children below thirteen (13) years old.
2. LANGUAGE — Very mild and mild SWEAR words only. Use of a strong expletive in a sexual context and successive use of such expletives will not be allowed.
3. NUDITY — Occasional natural nudity, with no sexual content as in "G".
4. SEX — Graphic depiction of sexual activity is not allowed. Sexual activity may be implied but without details shown.
5. VIOLENCE — NO GLAMORIZATION of weapons and crimes. No detail of fighting or other dangerous techniques. No detail of violence or suffering. There should be a redeeming social value at the end.
6. HORROR — Scary sequences must be mild and brief.
7. DRUGS — There shall be no depiction of, or reference to, prohibited drugs or substances and their use.

C. RESTRICTED-13 ("R-13") — Only those who are 13 and above may view an "R-13" film. The movie must, in the judgment of the BOARD, meet the following criteria:

1. THEME — Generally, adult themes are permissible provided the treatment is suitable for young teenagers between 13 and 17 years old.
2. LANGUAGE — Strong, sexually derived and vulgar use of swear words or those referring to the genitalia is prohibited. Moderate swear words may be used. Use of stronger words is allowed provided it is INFREQUENT.

3. NUDITY — Full frontal nudity is not allowed. Breast exposure relevant to the context of the film is permitted. Though sexually oriented nudity is allowed, the same must be brief, discreet and without genital exposure.
4. SEX — Graphic depiction of sexual activity is not allowed. Sexual activity may be implied but without details shown.
5. VIOLENCE — Films that glamorize or glorify violence are not allowed. Any portrayal of characters taking pleasure in inflicting or receiving pain may not be allowed. Focus on injuries and blood is not allowed. Sexual violence may only be implied without showing any details. Violence may be realistic without exhibiting details.
6. HORROR — Occasional gory scenes are allowed. Sustained threat and menace may be allowed.
7. DRUGS — Though brief and occasional references to and images of drug and substance use are allowed, the movie must depict the negative effects of drug and substance use and not condone, encourage or glamorize drug and/or substance use.

D. RESTRICTED-18 ("R-18") Only those who are 18 years and above can watch an R-18 movie. The movie must, in the judgment of the BOARD, meet the following criteria:

1. THEME — No theme is off-limits. The BOARD shall put a lot of weight on the treatment and context of the material's theme.
2. LANGUAGE — Use of strong expletives as well as sexual references is allowed provided they are necessary to the storyline and character development.
3. NUDITY — Nudity meant simply to titillate and containing very little aesthetic value is not acceptable except as provided in Section 1-C. (3) above. In determining the acceptability of nude scenes, the BOARD shall put a lot of weight on the movie's merit.
4. SEX — Portrayal of sexual activity is permitted. Again, in determining the acceptability of the portrayal of sexual activity, the BOARD shall put a lot of emphasis on the movie's merit. The following are not acceptable: lewd and explicit images of aroused genitalia, penetration (oral, vaginal or anal), masturbation, oral-genital contact, close-ups of the genital area.
5. VIOLENCE — Strong and realistic violence is allowed but the following are not:
 - a) films which glorify or glamorize violence;
 - b) films which satisfy the craving for gratuitous violence;
 - c) films which contain detailed and prolonged images of sexual and other kinds of violence.
6. HORROR — Strong psychological horror and scary scenes are permitted.
7. DRUGS — The film must not condone or encourage the use of Illegal drugs. The explicit use or the actual intake and preparation of drugs, as well as the pleasure derived therefrom, may be shown