



# THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

## FILMS ACT 1981

### 2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

*Prepared and Published by*

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983

Informal Consolidation – version in force from 31/12/2021

# Films Act 1981

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Authority to administer this Act
4. Classification officers, licensing officers and enforcement officers
- 4A. Advisory committees
5. Delegation of powers and duties by Authority
6. Licence to import, distribute or publicly exhibit film
7. Application for licence
8. Security
9. Licence fee
10. Period for which licence is in force
- 10A. Class licence for certain imports, etc., of certain films
11. Regulatory action against licensees, etc.
12. Permit to remove imported films
13. Types of classification and classification ratings
14. Applications for film classification or re-classification
15. Classification and re-classification of films
- 15A. Calling in films for classification or re-classification
- 15B. Supplementary provisions for film classification, etc.
16. Refused classification for certain films
17. De-classification of classified film
18. Classification certificates and labels
19. Film content assessors
20. Duties of film content assessor
- 20A. Procedure for registration as film content assessor
- 20B. Regulatory action against registered film content assessor
- 20C. Register of film content assessors
21. Offences involving unclassified films, etc.
22. Offences about advertisements for films
- 22A. Approval of advertisements for films
23. Measures to ensure compliance, etc.
24. Appeal against classification decisions
- 24A. Minister's decision on appeal against classification decisions

## Section

25. Committee of Appeal
26. Powers of Committee of Appeal
27. Minister may order Committee of Appeal to inspect any film
28. Appeal to Minister against other decisions of Authority
- 28A. Disposal of unclaimed films
29. Offences involving dealings in obscene films
30. Possession of obscene films
31. Advertising obscene films
32. Offences involving children and young persons
33. Making, distribution and exhibition of party political films
34. Powers for enforcement purposes
- 34A. Special enforcement powers
- 34B. False information and obstruction of performance of official duties
35. Minister may prohibit possession, exhibition or distribution of any film
36. Protection from personal liability
37. Service of documents
38. Offences by corporations
- 38A. Offences by unincorporated associations or partnerships
- 38B. Composition of offences
39. Court for trial of offence
- 39A. Payment of fees, etc.
40. Exemption from Act
41. Regulations

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An Act relating to the possession, importation, making, distribution and exhibition of films, and to provide for the classification of films and for the enforcement of those classifications.

*[25/2018]*

[1 October 1981]

**Short title**

1. This Act is the Films Act 1981.

## Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“advertisement”, for a film —

(a) means any of the following where used or apparently used to give publicity to the film or to promote (directly or indirectly) the distribution or public exhibition of the film:

(i) any words, whether written or in an audible message;

(ii) any still picture, sign, symbol or other visual image or representation;

(iii) any combination of 2 or more of those things in paragraph (i) or (ii); but

(b) does not include —

(i) a trailer of any film;

(ii) an advertisement about a film in a book, newspaper, periodical or magazine;

(iii) a catalogue or price list about films;

(iv) an advertisement about a film appearing on an item of clothing or apparel;

(v) a website advertisement about a film;

(vi) an advertisement about a film that is broadcast;  
or

(vii) any communications of personal opinion made by an individual (for no commercial gain) to the public or a section of the public about any film;

### *Examples*

(a) A flag, poster, placard, banner, photograph, sketch or signboard about a film.

(b) An advertisement woven in, impressed on, worked into or annexed to, a container, covering, package, casing, box or other thing in or with which a film is distributed.

“affix”, for a label relating to a film, means any of the following:

- (a) to apply the label to the film;
- (b) to weave in, impress on, work into or annex the label to, a container, wrapping, casing, box or other thing in or with which the film is distributed;
- (c) to apply the label, or to incorporate the label in, an instruction or other like document that accompanies the film;

“Authority” means the Info-communications Media Development Authority established by the Info-communications Media Development Authority Act 2016;

“broadcasting service” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1994;

“business” includes any business in Singapore, whether or not carried on for profit and whether or not its primary function is connected with films;

“child” means a person who is below 14 years of age;

“cinematograph film” means a slide, disc, tape or other article or thing in which visual images are embodied and from which a moving picture may be shown or produced, and includes the aggregate of sounds embodied in a soundtrack (if any) associated with the visual images forming part of the cinematograph film;

“class licence” means a class licence determined under an order made under section 10A(1);

“class licensee” means a person to whom an order under section 10A(1) applies;

“classification certificate” means a classification certificate issued under section 18;

“classification label” means a classification label made available under section 18;