

Films Act
(CHAPTER 107)

Table of Contents

Long Title

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

3 Board of Film Censors and appointment of officers

4 Procedure of Board

5 Delegation of powers and duties by Board

**6 Licence for carrying on business of importing, making, distributing
or exhibiting films**

7 Application for licence

8 Security

9 Licence fee

10 Period for which licence is in force

11 Revocation and suspension of licence

12 Films made in Singapore to be deposited in approved warehouse

13 Importation and removal of films from approved warehouse

14 Submission of films for censorship

15 Prohibition and approval of films for exhibition

16 Classification of films

17 Alterations and excisions of films by Board

18 Retention of prohibited films by Board

19 Duplicate film

20 Interdiction of films approved by Board

21 Penalty for possession, exhibition or distribution of uncensored films

22 Advertisement of films for exhibition prohibited unless approved by Board

23 Search for unauthorised films and arrest of persons

24 Appeals

25 Committee of Appeal

26 Powers of Committee of Appeal

27 Minister may order Committee of Appeal to inspect any film

28 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 Search and seizure of unlawful films

35 Minister may prohibit possession or distribution of any film

36 Protection from personal liability

37 Protection of Board and Government from liability

38 Officers to be public servants

39 Court for trial of offence

40 Exemptions

41 Regulations

Legislative History

FILMS ACT

(CHAPTER 107)

(Original Enactment: Act 22 of 1981)

REVISED EDITION 1998

(15th December 1998)

An Act relating to the possession, importation, making, distribution and exhibition of films.

[1st October 1981]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Films Act.

Interpretation

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

“approved warehouse” means any warehouse approved by the Board for the

purposes of sections 12 and 13;

“Board” means the Board of Film Censors established under this Act;

“certificate” means a certificate issued under section 15(3);

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Board;

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

“distribute” means to sell, hire out and supply and “distribution” shall be construed accordingly;

“election” means an election under the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218) or the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A);

“electronic transmission” includes facsimile transmission, electronic mail or other similar kinds of communication but excludes broadcasting;

“exhibition” includes the production of any music, speech, noise, or other sound which accompanies the projection of a film and “exhibit” shall be construed accordingly;

“film” means —

- (a) any cinematograph film;
- (b) any video recording, including a video recording that is designed for use wholly or principally as a game;
- (c) any other material record or thing on which is recorded or stored for immediate or future retrieval any information that, by the use of any computer or electronic device, is capable of being reproduced or displayed as wholly or partly visual moving pictures,

and includes any part of a film, and any copy or part of a copy of the whole or any part of a film;

“licence” means a licence granted under section 7;

“Licensing Officer” means the officer appointed by the Minister under section 3(3) and includes an Assistant Licensing Officer;

“obscene”, in relation to a film, means a film the effect of which or (where the film comprises 2 or more distinct parts or items) the effect of any one of its parts or items is, if taken as a whole, such as to tend to deprave or corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to see or hear the film;

“owner” or “owner of a film” means any person who is for the time being entitled, either as owner or agent for the owner, or otherwise, to the possession of a film, but does not include a bank through which a film is bona fide consigned for the sole purpose of collecting a trade debt;

“party political film” means a film —

- (a) which is an advertisement made by or on behalf of any political party in Singapore or any body whose objects relate wholly or mainly to politics in Singapore, or any branch of such party or body; or
- (b) which is made by any person and directed towards any political end in Singapore;

“place” means any building or part thereof, enclosure, ground or open-air space and includes a ship, boat or other vessel and any vehicle;

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Board;

“supply”, in relation to a film, includes —

- (a) supply not only in its physical form but also by means of the electronic transmission of the contents of the film;
- (b) supply by way of exchange or loan; or
- (c) in relation to a film comprising a material record or thing on which is recorded or stored any information for immediate or future retrieval by the use of any computer or other electronic device, transferring or reproducing or enabling another to transfer or reproduce by electronic transmission the whole or part of the contents of the film onto another such material record or thing for immediate or future retrieval by such similar means;

“video recording” means any disc, magnetic tape or solid state recording device containing information by the use of which one or more series of visual images may be produced electronically and shown as a moving picture;

“young person” means a person who is 14 years of age or above but below the age of 16 years.

[10/98]

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a film is directed towards a political end in Singapore if the film —

- (a) contains wholly or partly any matter which is intended or likely to affect voting in any election or national referendum in Singapore; or