

ANNEX – SIMULTANEOUS RATING SYSTEM

1. Introduced in 2003, the Simultaneous Rating System (or Dual-Rating System) allows distributors to release different versions of the same film to cater to different market segments. Both versions are classified under IMDA's Classification Guidelines.
2. Simultaneous rating release was designed to provide consumers with choice. Distributors are able to exercise the option of releasing two different versions of the same film to cater to different audience's demands, i.e., (i) original, unedited version for mature audience who want to view a film in its entirety; and (ii) an edited version often for a younger audience or those who prefer less explicit content. This gives distributors to option to tap a wider audience, without which they could only release one version of the film in the cinemas.
3. Some of the films that have been released under the simultaneous rating thus far include:

- Freaky (2020)

An American slasher flick that revolved around a female teenager's body being swapped with that of a serial killer. The film was classified Mature 18 (M18) for Violence. As films of such genres typically appeals to teenagers and a younger audience, the Distributor, United International Pictures (UIP), released the edited NC16 version to reach out to the younger viewers.

- Hellboy (2019)

The film was the third instalment of the popular 'Hellboy' franchise. The film was classified M18 as it contained strong depictions of violence. In view that the franchise has a strong following among a younger audience, the distributor, Encore Films, decided to



simultaneously release an edited version at PG13 to cater to the demands of the franchise's younger audience and fans.