

FILMS EXEMPTED FROM CLASSIFICATION AND GUIDELINES

An “exempt film” means any of the following films that are suitable for distribution or public exhibition, and not containing any impermissible material.

This document highlights the categories of films which are exempted. This should be read with the section on impermissible materials and definitions set out below and in the Films (Classification – Exempt Films Other than Video Games) Notification 2019.

Exemption Category	Description of Category
Advertising and Promotional	<p>A film consisting wholly of an advertising program or a commercial —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that promotes or is designed to publicise any goods (including a film), any brand of products or services but not any health-related goods or services; or (ii) that promotes or is designed to publicise any event which is not a cause-related event.
Arts and Cultural performances	<p>A film comprising wholly a documentary record of —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) any instrumental music performance, such as but not limited to orchestral or ensemble works and traditional or folk music played using ethnic musical instruments; (ii) any performance of choral music, jazz music, folk songs or other music of ethnic origin, such as but not limited to “Dondang Sayang” and “Dikir Barat”; (iii) any performance of any traditional drama, pantomime or puppet show or any folk puppetry or play, such as but not limited to “Bangsawan”, Chinese “cross-talk”, Shakespearean plays and “Wayang Kulit”; (iv) any ballet, ballroom dance, or traditional or folk dance in their original format, such as but not limited to “Bharatanatyam”, Flamenco and “Ronggeng”; (v) any other classical or traditional dance, play, art form or performance; or (vi) any video artwork
Community or Cultural Programmes	<p>A film comprising wholly a documentary record of any community-based cultural activity or event, or of any National Day celebration or rally, State funeral or other public event of national significance.</p>
Documentaries	<p>A film consisting wholly a documentary record of —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) monuments, buildings or architectural works; (ii) wildlife or nature, geological formations or other natural features; (iii) natural or scientific phenomena, or actual events of a medical or scientific nature; (iv) elements or structures of an archaeological or a historical nature; or (v) actual events or persons (historical or contemporary), including actual travel by or a biography of an actual person.

Exemption Category	Description of Category
Educational, Current Affairs or Training Materials	(i) A film consisting wholly of news bulletins or reports; (ii) A film for use pursuant to a branch of knowledge conducted on objective principles involving the systemised observation of, and experiment with, phenomena; (iii) A film of a technical or similar nature for use in the course of a business or trade or of a profession; (iv) A film whose main purpose is for training, instruction or reference, as a manual, a lesson, an encyclopaedia or a guide.
Films completed before 1966 and TV serials completed before 1980	(i) a film consisting wholly of one or more episodes of a television series, or from a season of a television series, being a television series or season thereof completed before 1980 anywhere; (ii) a film completed before 1966 anywhere.
Karaoke	A film made solely for karaoke with images of scenery, wildlife or other activity only.
Local TV Programmes broadcasted in Singapore on free-to-air television	A film comprising wholly of any programme that, before the making of the film, was broadcast in Singapore on a free-to-air broadcasting service provided by a person holding a licence granted under section 8 of the Broadcasting Act (Cap. 28).
Programmes meant for family entertainment	A film consisting wholly — (i) a demonstration for any task, hobby or project; or (ii) a documentary record of any family event or activity.
Programmes suitable for children	A film consisting wholly of a magic show, a circus performance, or any other show or performance that a reasonable adult will regard as suitable for children below the age of 7 years.
Quiz and Game Shows	A film consisting wholly of a quiz program or a program of a like nature
Sports	A film consisting wholly of a documentary record of any horse-riding, athletic activity or performance involving acrobatics or any sporting event, not including any opening ceremony or closing ceremony, parade or similar activity connected therewith.

DEFINITIONS

“cause-related event” means an event (whether or not a gathering or meeting and whether or not consisting of any lecture, talk, address, debate or discussion) of individuals the purpose (or one of the purposes) of which is —

- (a) to demonstrate support for or opposition to the views or actions of any person, group of persons or any government;
- (b) to publicise a cause or campaign; or

- (c) to mark or commemorate an event that is not a community based cultural event and not any National Day celebration or rally, State funeral or other public event of national significance;

“completed” means —

- (a) for a film that is not a television series or a season of a television series — when it is first in a state where copies of the film can reasonably be regarded as ready to be distributed to the general public;
- (b) for a film that is a television series — the time when the television series is first in a state where it can reasonably be regarded as ready to be distributed, broadcast or exhibited to the general public; or
- (c) for a film that is a season of a television series — the time when the season is first in a state where it can reasonably be regarded as ready to be distributed, broadcast or exhibited to the general public.

“documentary record” means a non-fictional record of actual persons, events or situations, and includes a program the sole or dominant purpose of which is to depict actual, contemporary events, people or situations in an entertaining way or with a heavy emphasis on entertainment value;

“film” does not include any of the following, for the purpose of this exemption notification:

- (a) a video game;
- (b) an obscene film;
- (c) a party political film;
- (d) a prohibited film;
- (e) a film that is against national security to be classified;
- (f) a film that contains material prescribed for the purposes of section 16(1)(e) of the Act;

“free-to-air broadcasting service” and “subscription nationwide television services” have the same meanings given by the Broadcasting Act (Cap. 28);

“health-related goods or services” means —

- (a) any health product within the meaning given by the Health Products Act (Cap. 122D);
- (b) any service relating to the treatment of any ailment, disease, injury, infirmity or condition affecting the human body, the advertising of which is regulated under Medicines (Advertisement and Sale) Act (Cap. 177) or any other written law; or
- (c) any tobacco product within the meaning given by the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act (Cap. 309);

“psychoactive substance” means any opioid, cannabinoid, sedative, hypnotic, cocaine, other psychostimulant, hallucinogen or volatile solvent, but excludes alcohol, coffee and tobacco;

“television series” means 2 or more episodes that are produced wholly or principally for exhibition to the public on television under a single title, that contain a common theme or themes and dramatic elements that form a narrative structure, and that are produced wholly or principally for exhibition together, for one or more markets.

IMPERMISSIBLE MATERIAL

The following are considered “impermissible material”:

- (a) any matter likely to cause offence to any race or religious group in Singapore;
- (b) any reference to any religious event or religious teaching or instruction;
- (c) any —
 - i. matter directly or indirectly counselling or urging the doing of any unlawful act or providing instruction on the doing of any unlawful act; or
 - ii. depiction or description of gambling, smoking, alcohol consumption, psychoactive substance abuse or any unlawful conduct;
- (d) any depiction or description of sex, sexual matters or nudity of any kind (including images of persons in revealing or titillating attire);
- (e) any coarse language, any frightening or disturbing sequences, or any depiction or description of acts of torture, cruelty or violence (whether or not sexual) or of abhorrent phenomena, whether natural or pertaining to the supernatural;
- (f) any express or implied reference to, or comment on, any candidate, any political party, any election, any referendum, any member of any Legislature, any government or previous government or any opposition to any government or previous government, whether that candidate, political party, election, referendum, member of any Legislature, any government or previous government or opposition is in Singapore or elsewhere; or
- (g) any matter —
 - i. to demonstrate support for or opposition to the views or actions of any person, group of persons or any government;
 - ii. to publicise a cause or campaign; or
 - iii. to mark or commemorate any event that is not a community based cultural event, and not any National Day celebration or rally, State funeral or other public event of national significance.

In addition, where the exempt film is intended for public exhibition, “impermissible material” includes any dialogue or commentary (in whole or part) in a Chinese dialect other than Mandarin.