

**INFO-COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**GUIDE TO APPLICATIONS FOR ARTS ENTERTAINMENT CLASSIFICATION**  
**FOR PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSEES**

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IMDA has drawn up the following guidelines to facilitate the applications for arts entertainment classification for Public Entertainment (PE) licensees. For timely assessment and classification of the event, licensees are advised to submit complete applications with all the necessary information.

Arts entertainment includes plays, stand-up comedy acts, performances of music, singing and/or dancing, pop/rock concerts, art exhibitions and play- or poetry-readings.

**Exemptions from the Classification Requirement**

A PE licensee is exempt from the classification requirement if he provides any of the following subject, to relevant conditions:

- i) Any arts entertainment in a CAT 1 Public Entertainment-licensed establishment that has a door policy which prohibits the entry of persons below 18 years of age;
- ii) Only karaoke singing in a CAT 1 or CAT 2 Public Entertainment-licensed establishment;
- iii) Any performance of music, singing or dancing that is suitable for a general audience, including children 12 years or below in a CAT 1 or CAT 2 Public Entertainment-licensed establishment;
- iv) Any scheduled arts entertainment (please refer to Annex) in a CAT 1 or CAT 2 Public Entertainment-licensed establishment or at an ad-hoc PE-licensed venue; or
- v) Incidental arts entertainment<sup>1</sup> that is suitable for a general audience, including children 12 years or below in a CAT 1 or CAT 2 Public Entertainment-licensed establishment or at an ad-hoc PE-licensed venue.

For more information on the exemptions, PE licensees can refer to the Public Entertainments And Meetings (Classification Of Arts Entertainments) (Exemption) Order 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> Incidental arts entertainment refers to any arts entertainment that is provided in connection with a public entertainment and is not a prominent feature or attraction in the event.

## Submission Materials

Please note that the following supporting documents, wherever applicable, are required to be submitted together with your application for classification. For event types under sections (d) and (e) where a script may not be available, applicants need to download and submit a [Content Checklist form](#).

### ***(a) Plays, Play-Reading and Poetry Recital***

- Synopsis
- Finalised script
- Multimedia material. Please ensure that the quality of the picture and sound is good. For video footage in a foreign language, please ensure that they are accompanied by subtitles.

### ***(b) Art Exhibitions***

- Synopsis/ Theme of exhibition
- Wall texts
- Photographs of each exhibit
- Multimedia material [As above]

### ***(c) Pop/Rock Concerts and Variety Shows***

- Detailed programme schedule
- Layout plan of the event location
- Set list and encore list, with lyrics of original compositions
- Name(s) of artiste(s)
- Multimedia material [As above]

### ***(d) Unscripted Performances e.g. Dance, Performance Art, Stand-up Comedy, Playback/Forum Theatre***

- Synopsis
- Completed [Content Checklist form](#)
- Rehearsal video or video of past performances where available
- Multimedia material [As above]

### ***(e) Multi-disciplinary Arts Entertainment***

- Synopsis
- Completed [Content Checklist form](#)
- Detailed programme schedule, including the title and duration of each performance and name(s) of artist(s)
- Finalised script
- Set list with lyrics of original compositions
- Layout plan of the event location
- Photographs of exhibits
- Rehearsal video or video of past performances where available
- Multimedia material [As above]

## **Other Relevant Approvals Required**

2 While the following materials need not be submitted to IMDA, please ensure that the necessary approvals have been obtained prior to the event:

- (i) All necessary authorisations, consent or licences from the relevant copyright owners, or their lawful assigns have been obtained as there should be no infringement of copyright in the activity, or in any publication or publicity materials produced for the performance;
- (ii) Approval from the relevant venue owners for use of land or space for the event; and
- (iii) Parental consent for performances involving
  - (a) Performers below the age of 16 years as stipulated in the [Children and Young Persons Act](#);
  - (b) Performers below the age of 18 where the performance has been classified R18.

## **Submission Timeframe**

3 To allow sufficient time for applications to be processed, submissions should be made **at least 20 working days before** the date of the event. Late applications or incomplete submission of supporting documents may result in the delay of the issuance of the classification certificate and may not guarantee that the application will be processed in time.

4 Please note that a longer processing time will be needed if the content requires consultation with the Arts Consultative Panel or other relevant stakeholders.

## **Changes to Supporting Documents**

5 Licensees should note that changes made to supporting documents of an application are to be submitted **at least 10 working days** before the event date.

## **Changes to Arts Entertainment Content that has been classified**

6 Licensees may submit any changes to the content of an arts entertainment that has been classified **at least 10 working days** before the event date. If the changes warrant a change in rating, the licensee has to submit a fresh application as the existing certificate will no longer be valid.

## **Issuance of Classification Certificate**

7 Upon reviewing the content, a classification certificate indicating the rating and/or consumer advice will be issued. Please refer to the [Arts Entertainment Classification Code](#) for guidelines on arts entertainment content.

**Annex**

SCHEDULED ARTS ENTERTAINMENTS

1. Any arts entertainment for children aged 12 years or below, including any musical, puppet show or story recital.
2. Any performance of instrumental music, including orchestral or ensemble works, or traditional music or folk music using ethnic musical instruments.
3. Any performance of classical music of ethnic origin, choral music, jazz music, “Dondang Sayang” or “Dikir Barat”.
4. Any performance of traditional drama or folk drama, including “Bangsawan”, Chinese “cross-talk” or Shakespearean play.
5. Any performance of traditional puppetry or folk puppetry, including “Wayang Kulit”, Chinese classical puppet show or Punch and Judy puppet show.
6. Any performance of traditional dance, or folk dance in its original form, including “Bharatanatyam”, classical ballet, Flamenco or “Ronggeng”.
7. Any performance of traditional opera, or folk opera in its original form, including Chinese opera or Western opera.
8. Any performance of ballroom or community dance, including “Cha-Cha”, Foxtrot, “Rumba” or line dancing.
9. Any display or exhibition of art objects, paintings or drawings, including traditional or ethnic crafts, or commemorative items (such as coins or stamps).
10. Any display or exhibition using real-time transmission of the performance, display or exhibition happening elsewhere (whether in or outside Singapore and whether in a public or private place) of any item, or any combination of the items, specified in paragraphs 1 to 9.