

INFO-COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**NOTICE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE
VIDEO GAMES CLASS LICENCE**

11 APRIL 2023

- 1. INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO VIDEO GAMES CLASS LICENCE**
- 2. INVITATION TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS**

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO VIDEO CLASS LICENCE

- 1 Since 2019, distributors of video games are regulated under an automatic class licence regime. Under the class licence, these distributors can distribute or publicly exhibit appropriate¹ or exempt video games².
- 2 From 1 July 2021, IMDA introduced an automatic class licence regime to regulate distributors of non-age restricted films (i.e. films classified PG13 and below, and exempt films³). This move was intended to lighten regulation for distributors of such films.
- 3 With the distributors of video games and distributors of non-age restricted films regulated separately under their respective class licences, IMDA proposes to also **move persons who distribute both video games and non-age restricted films (“mixed distributors”) from individual licence to automatic class licence**. This will be done through a **variation of the Films (Class Licence for Video Games Distribution) Order 2019 (“Video Games Class Licence”) to allow for the distribution of non-age restricted films**. Please refer to the **Annex** for the draft Films (Class Licence for Video Games Distribution) (Amendment) Order 2023.
- 4 There are no changes to the other conditions of Video Games Class Licence, i.e. conditions on demonstration of video games and restricted demonstration area, and advance reporting condition for distribution of video games. The requirements for classification, and affixing of classification labels and consumer advice (where applicable) continue to apply. There is no licence fee or security deposit imposed on class licensees.
- 5 Pursuant to Section 10A(5)(c) of the Films Act, interested persons are invited to make representations to the proposed variation to the Video Games Class Licence by no later than 12 May 2023, 5pm, in the manner specified in Part 2 of this paper.

¹ An appropriate video game means a classified video game that is assigned under the Act a classification rating of “M18” or “ADV16”.

² An exempt video game refers to an unclassified video game which is unclassified by reason only of the Films (Classification – Exempt Video Games) Notification 2019.

³ An exempt film refers to an exempt film within the meaning of the Films (Classification – Exempt Films Other than Video Games) Notification 2019.

PART 2: INVITATION TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS

- 6 IMDA would like to invite representations from interested persons on the draft amendment to the Films (Class Licence for Video Games Distribution) (Amendment) Order 2023 (attached as **Annex**). Respondents should clearly identify the paragraphs on which they are commenting. Respondents may also suggest changes to the proposed amendment. The proposals should be accompanied by reasons for the changes.
- 7 Submissions must be in softcopy (in Microsoft Word format), and should contain the following details:
 - (a) Name of Organisation/ Individual;
 - (b) Correspondence address, contact number and email address; and
 - (c) Comments or suggestions, and reasons where applicable.
- 8 This consultation closes on 12 May 2023 and representations should be submitted to IMDA on or before 5pm of that date. Please email your representations, with the subject header “Representations on Proposed Amendment to the Video Games Class Licence” to:

Ms Lee Ee Jia
Director (Media Policy)
Infocomm Media Development Authority
(Attention: Ms Alicia Chay)
Email: consultation@imda.gov.sg

- 9 IMDA reserves the right to make public all or parts of any written representation and to disclose the identity of the source. Respondents may request confidential treatment for any part of the representation that the respondent believes to be proprietary, confidential or commercially sensitive. Any such information should be clearly marked and placed in a separate annex. If IMDA grants the request for confidential treatment, it will consider, but will not publicly disclose, the information. If IMDA rejects the request for confidential treatment, it will return the information to the respondent and will not consider the information as part of its review. As far as possible, respondents should limit any request for confidential treatment of information submitted. IMDA will not accept any representation that requests for confidential treatment of all or a substantial part of the representation.

No. S

FILMS ACT 1981
FILMS
(CLASS LICENCE FOR VIDEO GAMES DISTRIBUTION)
(AMENDMENT) ORDER 2023

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10A(4) of the Films Act 1981, the Info-communications Media Development Authority makes the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This Order is the Films (Class Licence for Video Games Distribution) (Amendment) Order 2023 and comes into operation on 2023.

Replacement of paragraph 4

2. In the Films (Class Licence for Video Games Distribution) Order 2019 (G.N. No. S 342/2019), replace paragraph 4 with —

“Only appropriate video games, etc., may be distributed and exhibited

4.—(1) A class licensee may only distribute or allow to be distributed, at any of the class licensee’s distribution outlets —

(a) a video game that is either —

(i) an appropriate video game; or

(ii) an unclassified video game which is unclassified by reason only of the Films (Classification — Exempt Video Games) Notification 2019 (G.N. No. S 339/2019); or

(b) a video game mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and any appropriate film or exempt unclassified film within the meaning of the Films (Class Licence for General Films Distribution) Order 2021 (G.N. No. S 420/2021).

(2) A class licensee may only publicly exhibit or allow to be publicly exhibited, at any of the class licensee’s exhibition points —

(a) a video game that is either —

(i) an appropriate video game; or

(ii) an unclassified video game which is unclassified by reason only of the Films (Classification — Exempt Video Games) Notification 2019; or

(b) a video game mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and any film the public exhibition of which at the class licensee’s exhibition point is not unlawful under the Act.”

Made on

2023.

CHAN YENG KIT
Chairperson,
Info-communications Media
Development Authority,
Singapore.

[CRN.0001.200002; AG/LEGIS/SL/107/2020/9]

Note 1: Films(VGClassLicence)(Amd) Ord2023 (v04.01) (20.3.2023)