

Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 587

Adopted 29 June 2010

Regulations Regarding the Classification of Films

*Issued pursuant to
Section 6, Paragraph two of the
Film Law*

1. This Regulation prescribes the criteria for assignment of film classification indices and the procedures by which film producers or distributors classify the films distributed in the territory of the Republic of Latvia according to the film classification indices, as well as indicate the film classification indices.
2. Film classification indices shall be assigned to all films which are distributed in the territory of Latvia:
 - 2.1. upon showing films to the public;
 - 2.2. upon distributing film recordings; and
 - 2.3. upon transmitting films in programmes of television broadcasters or on electronic networks.
3. In accordance with the criteria for assignment of film classification indices referred to in the Annex to this Regulation, a film producer or a film distributor shall determine one of the following film classification indices for a film:
 - 3.1. U (for universal audience – the film is suitable for persons of all age groups);
 - 3.2. 7+ (the film is suitable for a person who has reached at least 7 years of age);
 - 3.3. 12+ (the film is suitable for a person who has reached at least 12 years of age);
 - 3.4. 16+ (the film is suitable for a person who has reached at least 16 years of age); or
 - 3.5. 18+ (the film is not suitable for a minor).
4. If the film producer has specified a film classification index pursuant to this Regulation, the film distributor shall take into account the film classification index specified by the film producer.
5. The film distributor has a duty to make the film classification index known to film viewers (consumers) in a clearly visible, understandable and unequivocal manner (for example, by indicating it on the film recording or the packaging thereof, placing it on posters and other film advertising and informative materials, indicating it prior to or during showing or transmission of the film).
6. It is prohibited to distribute a film which has been classified with the film classification index 18+ to persons who are younger than 18 years. In order to ascertain the age of the film viewer (consumer), the film distributor has a duty to request that the film viewer (consumer) presents a personal identification document. Upon the request of the film distributor or control authority, the film viewer (consumer) has a duty to certify his or her identity and age by presenting a personal identification document.

7. Cabinet Regulation No. 457 of 17 June 2008, *Regulations Regarding the Classification of Films* (*Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 2008, No. 98) is repealed.

8. It is allowed to distribute films, which are legally produced or released in circulation in any of the European Union Member States or Turkey or which are legally produced in any of the Member States of the European Free Trade Association, which are parties of the Agreement on the European Economic Area, without additional labelling in Latvia.

Prime Minister

V. Dombrovskis

Minister for Culture

I. Dālderis

Criteria for the Classification of Films

No.	Explanations	Age group				
		universal audience (U)	7+	12+	16+	18+
1.	General explanations	Film is suitable for persons of all ages	Film is suitable for persons who have reached at least 7 years of age	Film is suitable for persons who have reached at least 12 years of age	Film is suitable for persons who have reached at least 16 years of age	Film is not suitable for minors
2.	Content	Restrictions on the distribution of films containing harmful content	Restrictions on the distribution of films containing harmful content	Restrictions on the distribution of films containing harmful content	Restrictions on the distribution of films containing harmful content	No restrictions
3.	Theme	Interpretation of problematic themes is reasonable and appropriate for children	Interpretation of problematic themes is reasonable and appropriate for children	Problematic themes are admissible with a layout, which is appropriate for adolescents	No restrictions	No restrictions
4.	Language	The use of swear words is inadmissible	The use of swear words is inadmissible	The use of swear words is rare and justified by the context of the film without indications to sexual, psychological, physical and any other violence	The use of swear words without indications to sexual, psychological, physical and any other violence is admissible	No restrictions

No.	Explanations	Age group				
		universal audience (U)	7+	12+	16+	18+
5.	Nudity	Nudity is admissible in individual scenes without a sexual context	Nudity without a sexual context is admissible	Nudity in a sexual context is admissible, however, the scenes are shown without an emphasis on details	Nudity in a sexual context is admissible, however, the scenes are shown without an emphasis on details	No restrictions
6.	Sex	Individual indirect indications to sexual behaviour are admissible	Individual indirect indications to sexual behaviour are admissible	Indications to sexual behaviour are admissible	Showing of sexual behaviour that is justified by the content is admissible without an emphasis on details	No restrictions
7.	Violence or cruel behaviour	Individual indirect mentions of violence or cruel behaviour that are justified by the content are admissible Slightly expressed threats or fear. Showing of details is inadmissible	Individual indirect mentions of violence or cruel behaviour that are justified by the content are admissible Slightly expressed threats or fear. Showing of details is inadmissible	Violence or cruel behaviour that is justified by the content is admissible. Showing of details is inadmissible Physical injuries or blood are not emphasised. Mentions of sexual violence or short scenes thereof without showing of physical details are admissible	Violence or cruel behaviour that is justified by the content is admissible. Showing of details is inadmissible Physical injuries or blood are not emphasised. Scenes of sexual violence are discreet and short	No restrictions
8.	Guns and other imitable techniques	Only individual references to the use of actual guns and other imitable techniques that are justified by the content are admissible	Idealisation of actual, including modern, guns is not allowed. Detailed showing of fights or other dangerous actions is inadmissible	It is not allowed to include imitable details of dangerous actions (for example, fights, hanging, suicides). Idealisation of actual, including modern, guns is not allowed	Detailed showing of techniques of dangerous types of sports is not allowed. It is not allowed to emphasise the use of easily available lethal weapons (especially knives)	No restrictions

No.	Explanations	Age group				
		universal audience (U)	7+	12+	16+	18+
9.	Horror	Horror effects are slightly expressed and short. Scenes have positive denouement	Scary prolonged or intense scenes are not allowed. Showing of science fiction is admissible as a factor that reduces the impression	Prolonged or detailed showing of causing pain or injuries is not admissible	Prolonged or detailed showing of causing pain or injuries is not admissible	No restrictions
10.	The use of narcotic and other addictive substances	Individual short indications to the use of narcotic and other addictive substances are allowed, however, they must be justified by the content, indicating the danger of such action. Elements of instructions for use are inadmissible	Individual short indications to the use of narcotic and other addictive substances are allowed, however, they must be justified by the content, indicating the danger of such action. Elements of instructions for use are inadmissible	Individual short indications to the use of narcotic and other addictive substances are allowed, however, they must be justified by the context of the film and they indicate the danger of such action. Elements of instructions for use are inadmissible	Showing of the use of narcotic and other addictive substances is admissible without open instructive details. The film as a whole is not allowed to advertise or promote the use of narcotic and other addictive substances	No restrictions

Minister for Culture

I. Dālderis