



OFFICE OF FILM
& LITERATURE
CLASSIFICATION

Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tubitubinga

This information sheet is a guide for film festival organisers on classification, labelling exemptions, batching films, applying for exemptions to classifications, and applying for fee waivers.

Film Festival Organisers

Under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Act), films (including DVDs and videos) must be labelled before they are supplied to the public. This includes films that will be shown free of charge. In all instances, applications for labelling are made to the Film and Video Labelling Body:

Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
PO Box 2627
Auckland
Phone: 09 361 2790
Fax: 09 360 3448
Email: enquiries@fvlb.org.nz

Exemptions

Under Section 8 of the Act some films may be exempt from the labelling requirement, for example, documentaries, natural history, and travel films. The exemption does not apply if there is something in the film that might cause it to be classified as restricted or objectionable. The law places the responsibility for deciding whether a film is exempt on the organisation supplying it to the public. If there is any doubt, the film should be sent to the Film and Video Labelling Body.

Short films and batched publications

Under Regulation 8 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification (Fees) Regulations 1994, two or more publications submitted at the same time, even under different sections of the Act, may be batched together and treated by the Chief Censor as a single publication for the purposes of setting the fee for classification. Films may be batched where the Chief Censor considers it would be unduly burdensome to pay separate fees for each publication. Applicants should include a cover letter stating their reasons for wanting the publications batched when they submit them to the Film and Video Labelling Body. The outcome of such a request will be notified to the applicant in writing. Publications batched for fee purposes will still be examined and classified as individual publications.

Applying for exemptions to classifications

Where a publication has been classified as restricted or objectionable, it is possible to apply for an exemption from the classification under section 44 of the Act. The application is made in writing to the Chief Censor and accompanied by a \$100 fee.

Applying for a fee waiver

Regulation 7 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification (Fees) Regulations 1994, allows the Chief Censor to waive up to 75% of the fee for classifying a publication if he or she considers that it would be unreasonable or unfair or unduly burdensome to require the normal fee. The Chief Censor will take into account factors such as the publication's age, value or importance, and the likelihood of commercial gain to the applicant. Fee waivers for festival organisers are common on the basis that the payment of the full classification fee would make it unprofitable to show films to a limited festival audience. Fee waiver applications are addressed to the Chief Censor and included in the application for classification made to the Film and Video Labelling Body.

Contact information

Office of Film and Literature Classification
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