



OFFICE OF FILM
& LITERATURE
CLASSIFICATION

Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tūbitūbinga

Submission of a Publication by Officials

Police/Customs/Department of Internal Affairs submissions

Under section 13 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, officials from the Customs Service, Police, and Department of Internal Affairs can submit publications for classification. The Office of Film and Literature Classification has classified a wide range of publications submitted by officials including films, videos, DVDs, computer files, CD ROMS, t-shirts, letters, newspapers, and photographs.

A section 13 submission form must accompany publications that require classification. If submitting a disc of images, attach a schedule of the titles to be examined.

Once a publication is submitted, the Office will contact interested parties, such as the person from whom the publication has been seized. Interested parties and the Secretary for Internal Affairs are then given 14 working days to make submissions on the classification of the publication.

When the classification is completed, the Notice of Decision is dispatched to the applicant. Copies are also sent to other interested parties. The original Notice of Decision is a legal document which may be presented as evidence to the Court.

Court submissions

Courts can submit publications under section 29 of the Act where a question arises as to whether a publication is objectionable. While there is no specific form for section 29 submissions, they must include a Court Order and a copy of the publication(s) concerned.

Once a publication is submitted, the Office contacts the parties to the proceedings to make submissions on the classification. They are given 14 working days to make submissions. The publication is classified within 30 working days, or sooner if possible.

The classification decision is set out in a Report of Findings, which is addressed and sent to the Court. The Report of Findings is also distributed to the lawyers for the informants and defendants.

Do you need a copy of a classification decision for court proceedings?

If a publication has already been classified you can contact the Office about getting a certified copy of the classification decision for presentation to the Court. This official record can be presented as proof in Court proceedings that the classification decision remains in force.

How do I find out more about classifying publications and censorship?

If you need more information about classifying publications or other censorship matters, contact the Information Unit at:

Office of Film and Literature Classification
PO Box 1999

WELLINGTON 6140

Freephone: 0508 CENSOR (236 767)

Phone: +64 4 471 6770

Facsimile: +64 4 471 6781

Email: information@censorship.govt.nz

Website: www.censorship.govt.nz