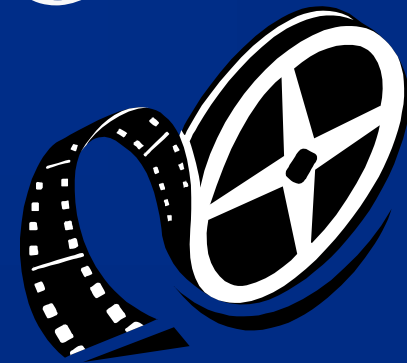


TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY

FILM CLASSIFICATION IN HONG KONG

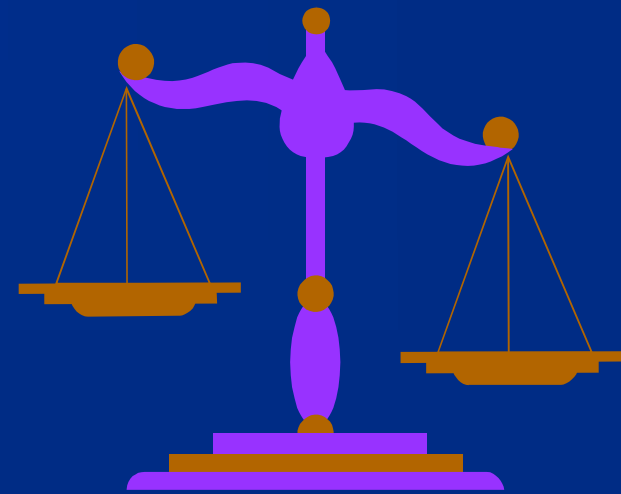


THE PURPOSE OF THE FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- To give adults the opportunity to see a wider range of films dealing with the realities of the adult world.
- To protect children and young persons from viewing films that could be harmful to them.





GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FILM CLASSIFICATION

- To decide whether a film should be approved for exhibition and the classification that should be given, the censor is required to consider the following matters:



Whether the film portrays, depicts or treats cruelty, torture, violence, crime, horror, disability, sexuality or indecent or offensive language or behaviour.

THE FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

	Symbol	Notice
Category I		Suitable For All Ages
Category IIA		Not Suitable For Children
Category IIB		Not Suitable for Young Persons and Children
Category III		Persons Aged 18 And Above Only









ADVISORY CATEGORIES OF CAT. I, IIA AND IIB

- Categories I, IIA and IIB are advisory only. No mandatory age restrictions.
- These advisory notices are intended to provide information to the general public, especially parents as reference in choosing films for their children.

AGE RESTRICTION FOR CAT. III FILMS

- The age restriction for Category III films is strictly enforced.
- Regular inspections of cinemas and video shops by TELA inspectors to ensure that the law is being observed.

NUMBER OF FILMS CLASSIFIED

	<u>1999</u>		<u>2000(Jan-Oct)</u>
	294 films (21%)		171 films (19%)
	274 films (19%)		185 films (20%)
	435 films (31%)		349 films (39%)
	405 films (29%)		204 films (22%)
Total	1408 films		909 films

PANEL OF FILM CENSORSHIP ADVISERS

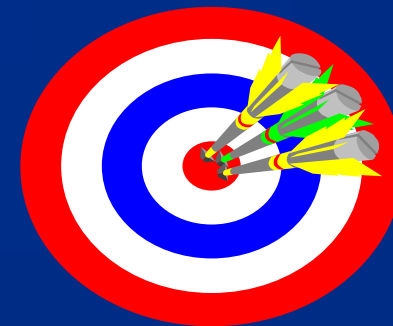
- Under the Film Censorship Ordinance, the Film Censorship Authority (i.e. the Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing) may appoint members of the public, normally for a term of one year, to be film censorship advisers.
- The panel of advisers is composed of some 300 members coming from all walks of life, including teachers, social workers, professionals, housewives and tertiary students.
- Panel members are invited to preview films with the censors every two weeks and to give their views on film classification.
- In the past three years, over 80% of the films were given the same classification by the panel members and the censors.

BOARD OF REVIEW

- Film distributors or any person aggrieved by the decision of a censor may request the Board to review that decision.
- The Board consists of 10 members, namely the Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting (ex-officio member) and 9 other persons who are not public officers.
- The Board received one request to review a censor's decision in 1999.

1999 FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

- The amendments aim at streamlining the operation of the Ordinance, improving quality of service and simplifying procedures for request to review the Film Censorship Authority's decisions.



MAJOR AMENDMENTS

- Non-commercial slides of a cultural, educational, instructional, promotional or religious nature are not required to be submitted for censorship.
- Film distributors or any person aggrieved by the decision of a censor may submit direct to the Secretary for Information Technology & Broadcasting a request for a review of that decision by the Board of Review.
- The Film Censorship Guidelines have been revised to the effect that films that promote or endorse triad society, triad activities or values should be classified as Category III.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- Every two years, TELA would commission an independent research company to conduct a large-scale survey to collect the public's views on the film classification system and the film classification standards.

2000 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Respondents

- Main Survey
 - 617 members of the public aged 13 to 59
 - Including :
 - 49 teenagers aged 13 to 17
 - 568 adults aged 18 to 59, 245 of which are parents of youths aged below 18
- Supplementary Surveys
 - 108 members of the panel of advisers
 - 472 moviegoers

SURVEY FINDINGS

A. MAIN SURVEY

1. KNOWLEDGE OF FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- Almost all the respondents were aware of the film classification system.
- 59% were able to identify the current film classification system, its symbols and notices.

2. REFERENCE TO FILM CATEGORIES IN FILM SELECTION

- 68% of the adult respondents made reference to the film categories when choosing films to see.
- 49% of the adult respondents and 37% of the respondents aged 13 to 17 checked whether the films were Cat. IIA or Cat. IIB when selecting films.

3. PARENTAL GUIDANCE

- 81% of the adult respondents considered the sub-categories IIA and IIB useful for parents to select films for their children.
- Among the adult respondents who had children under the age of 18, 82% made reference to these sub-categories when selecting films for their children.

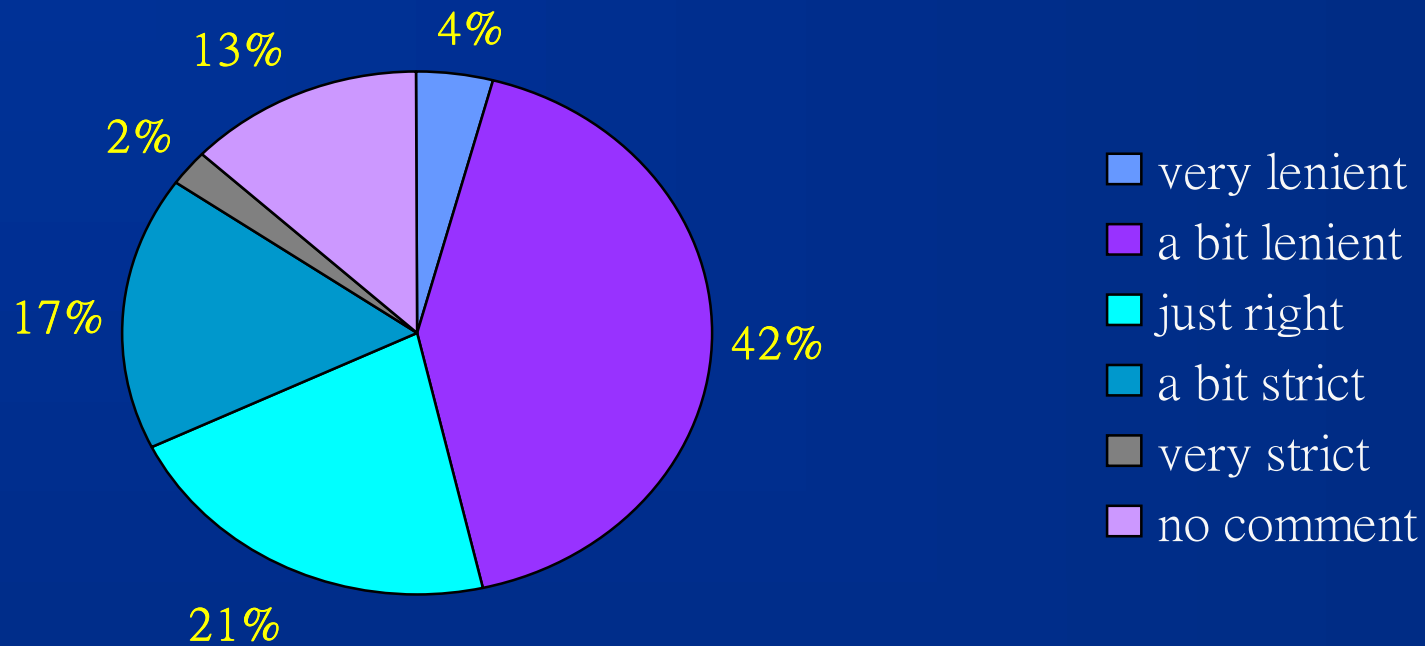
4. SUITABILITY FOR TELA TO CARRY OUT FILM CLASSIFICATION

- 64% of the respondents considered TELA a suitable body to carry out film classification.
- 13% of the respondents considered it more appropriate for film classification to be undertaken by organizations from the public or the film industry or organizations appointed by the government.
- 23% of the respondents had no comments.

5. ACCESS TO CATEGORY III FILMS BY YOUNG PERSONS

- 49% of the 49 respondents aged 13 to 17 had seen Category III films, mostly at their own homes or their friends' homes.

6. VIEWS ON FILM CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS



- 94% of the respondents considered that, overall, the current film classification standards were acceptable.

7. OPINIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL FILM SEGMENTS

- 32 film segments which depicted violence, horror, offensive behaviour, sexuality and nudity or triad activities were shown to adult respondents.
- TELA's decisions were considered:
 - appropriate in 17 cases
 - lenient in 12 cases
 - strict in 3 cases

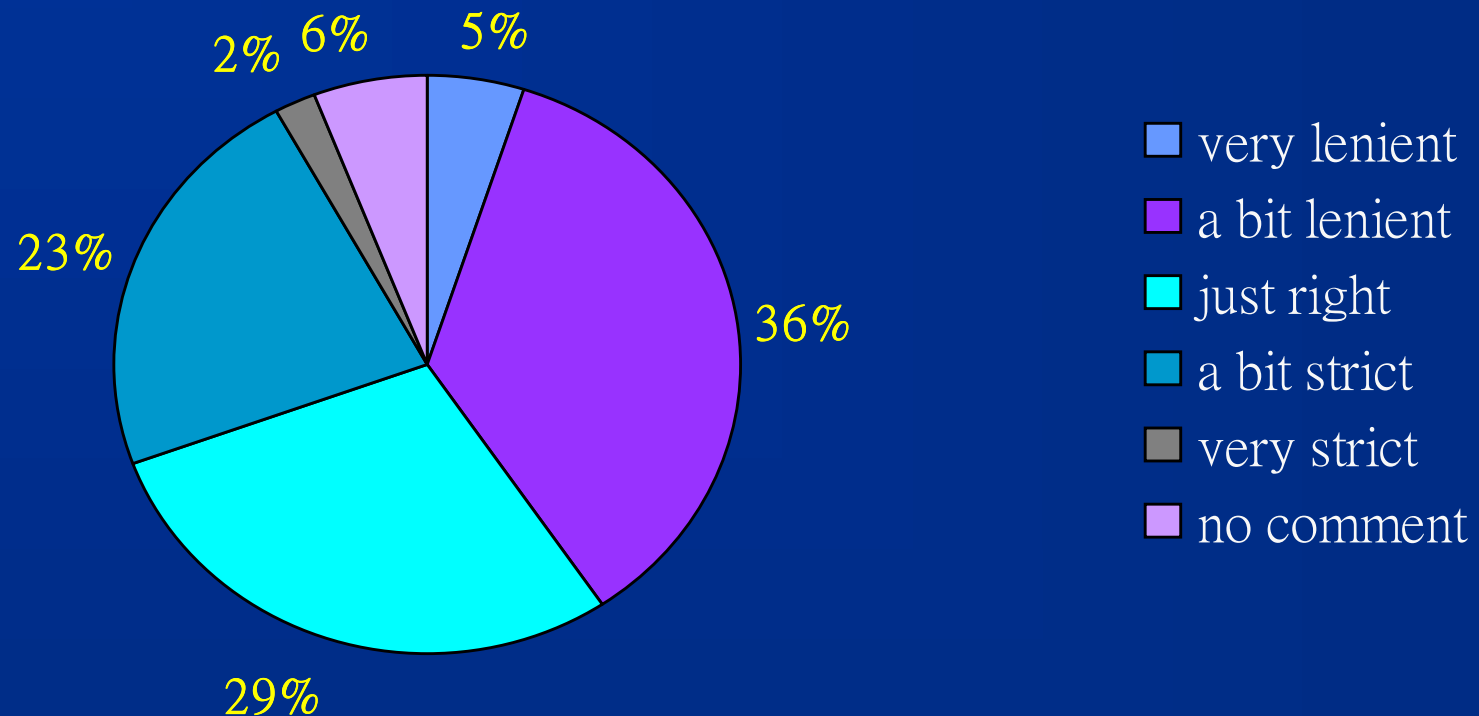
8. OPINIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL FILM DIALOGUES

- Respondents were shown ten segments with dialogues/subtitles in Cantonese (5), English (4) and Mandarin (1), touching on three types of contents: sexual reference, foul expression and crude expressions.
- **Cantonese Dialogues (5)** : respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in 4 cases (foul/crude expression) and strict in 1 case (sexual reference).
- **English Dialogues/Subtitles (4)** : respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in all cases (sexual reference, foul expression and crude expressions).
- **Mandarin Dialogues (1)** : respondents considered TELA's decision appropriate in this case (foul expression).

9. ACCEPTABILITY OF CAT. III FILM TITLES AND ADVERTISING MATERIALS

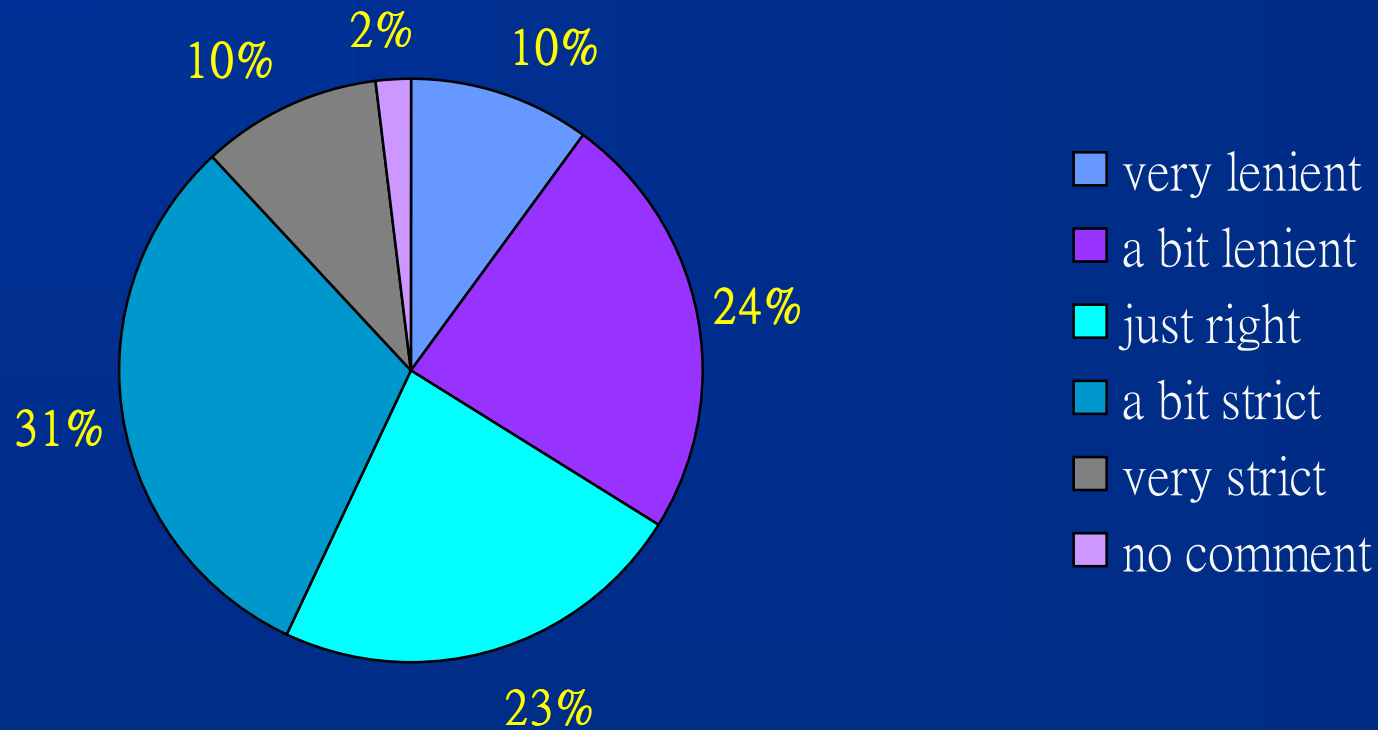
- Of the 10 titles, respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in 7 cases, strict in 2 cases and lenient in 1 case.
- Of the 6 posters, respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in 5 cases and strict in 1 case.
- Of the 6 video/laserdisc packages, respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in all cases.

B. VIEWS OF THE PANEL OF ADVISERS ON FILM CLASSIFICATION



- 94% of the respondents considered that, overall, the film classification standards were acceptable.

C. VIEWS OF MOVIEGOERS ON FILM CLASSIFICATION



- 95% of the respondents considered that, overall, the film classification standards were acceptable.

CONCLUSION

- The survey findings showed a high degree of awareness of the film classification system by the general public. Virtually all of them were aware of the system.
- The vast majority (94%) of the public considered that, overall, the current film classification standards were acceptable.
- About two-third of the adult respondents made reference to the film categories when selecting films to watch.
- 82% of the adult respondents who chose films for their children referred to the IIA and IIB sub-categories.
- The supplementary surveys on public advisers and moviegoers also indicated general acceptance of the existing classification standards.
- The survey results indicated that, overall, TELA's classification standards were in line with the the community's expectations.