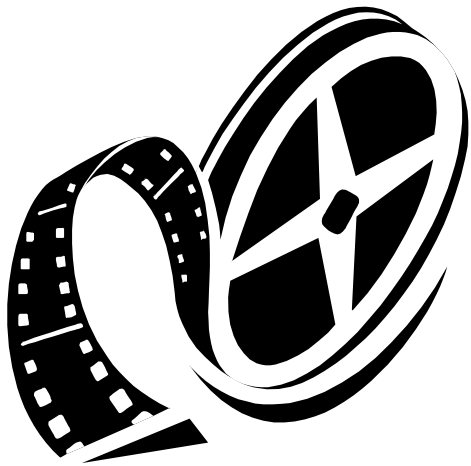


Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Hong Kong Film Classification System

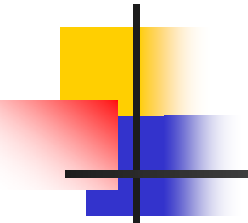
10 January 2005





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 restrict children and young persons from viewing films that could be harmful to them
- To provide the film industry with greater freedom for creativity



General Principles and Standards of Film Censorship

- To decide whether a film should be approved for exhibition and the classification that should be given, the censor should 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;
- Whether the film denigrates or insults any particular class of the public by reference to the color, race, religious beliefs or ethnic or national origins or the sex of the members of that class.

The Current Classification System

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



Advisory Category & Mandatory Category with Age Restriction

- Categories I, IIA and IIB are advisory only and have no mandatory age restriction.
- The purpose of the advisory categories is to provide some information to the public, especially parents, so that they could choose suitable films for their children or themselves.
- Category III films are restricted to persons aged 18 or above.
- The age restriction for Category III films will be strictly enforced.
- Inspectors will regularly inspect cinemas, video shops and other outlets to ensure that the Film Censorship Ordinance is observed.



Total Number of Films Classified

	2003	2004
Category I	689 (44%)	469 (36%)
Category IIA	362 (23%)	361 (28%)
Category IIB	335 (22%)	352 (27%)
Category III	169 (11%)	113 (9%)
Total	1555	1295



Panel of Film Censorship Advisers

- The Film Censorship Authority may from time to time appoint members of the public to the Panel of Film Censorship Advisers. The term of appointment is normally one year.
- The Panel is composed of some 270 members coming from members of community. They include teachers, social workers, professionals, housewives, students etc.
- Members will attend 1 viewing session every 2 weeks and give their views to the censors on the classification of the films.



2004 Survey on Film Classification System

- Sample
- Main Survey
 - 622 members of the public aged 13 to 59, including:
 - 55 young respondents aged 13 to 17
 - 567 adults respondents aged 18 to 59
- Supplementary Survey
 - 78 film censorship public advisers
 - 519 movie-goers of six selected films

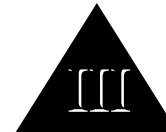
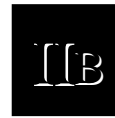


Survey Findings

1. Knowledge of Film Classification System



- Almost all of the general public (99%) were aware of the current film classification system.
- 80% were able to identify the classification system currently in use.



2. Reference to Classification System in Film Selections



- 62% of the respondents referred to the film categories when selecting films.
- When choosing films, 37% of the adult respondents and 38% of the young respondents paid attention to whether a film belonged to Category IIA or IIB.



3. Parental Guidance

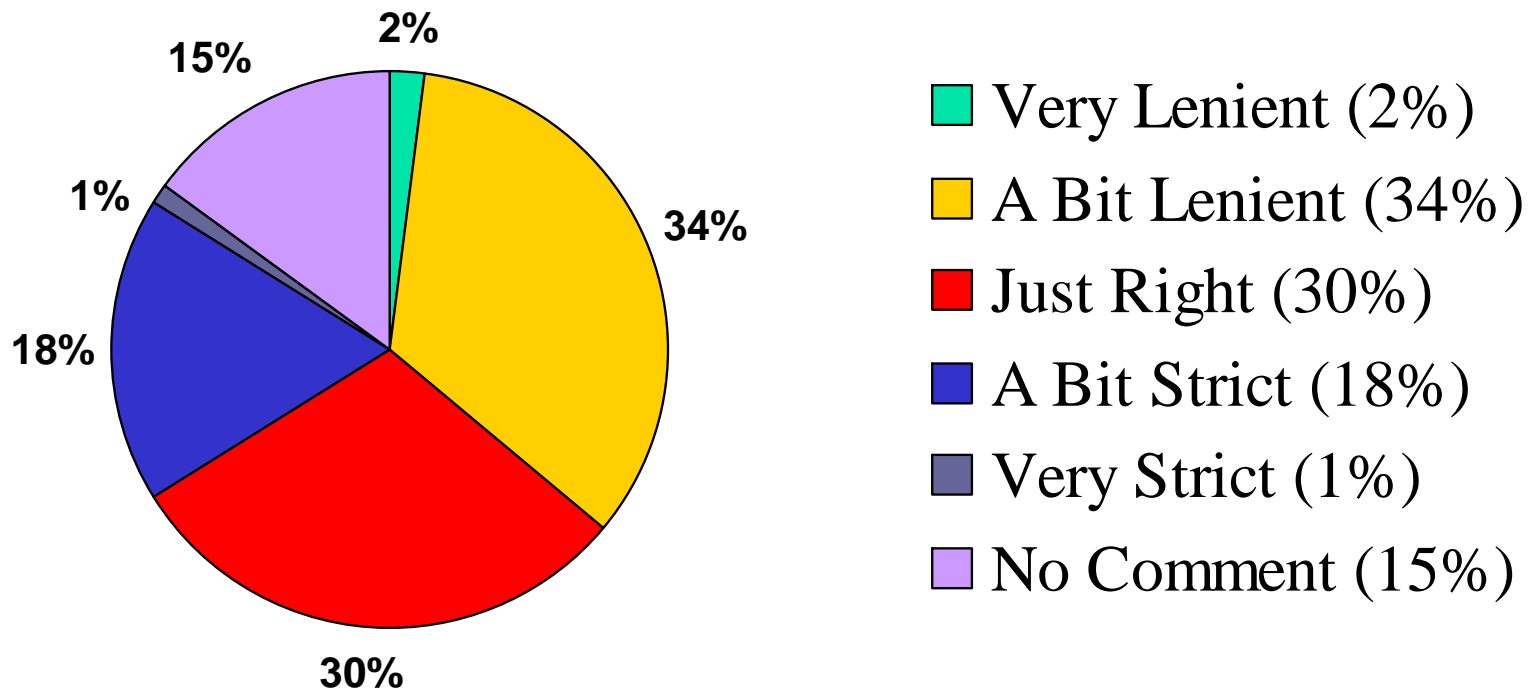
- Among parents with children under 18, 82% claimed that they would choose films for their children. 87% of parents with children under 14 would also do so. However, for parents with children from 15 to 18, only 43% would do so.
- 81% of the respondents considered the sub-categories IIA and IIB useful when choosing films for their children.
- Among parents with children under 18, 77% claimed that they would refer to the sub-categories IIA and IIB when choosing films for their children. 78% of parents with children under 14 would do so. 74% of parents with children from 15 to 18 would do so.

4. Young Persons' Habits of Viewing Category III Films



- Among the 55 young persons surveyed (aged from 13 to 17), 30 had watched Category III films, 23 did it at their own homes, 15 at their friends' homes, 2 in cinema and 1 on the Internet.
- 21 young persons had Category III films which were either self-owned or provided by friends under 18. 13 got them from video clubs/shops, 6 from shops selling unauthorized tapes/discs, 4 from parents (3 with parents being aware of it, one unaware), 3 made self-recorded copies, 3 downloaded from the Internet.

5. Respondents' Opinions towards the Current Film Classification Standards

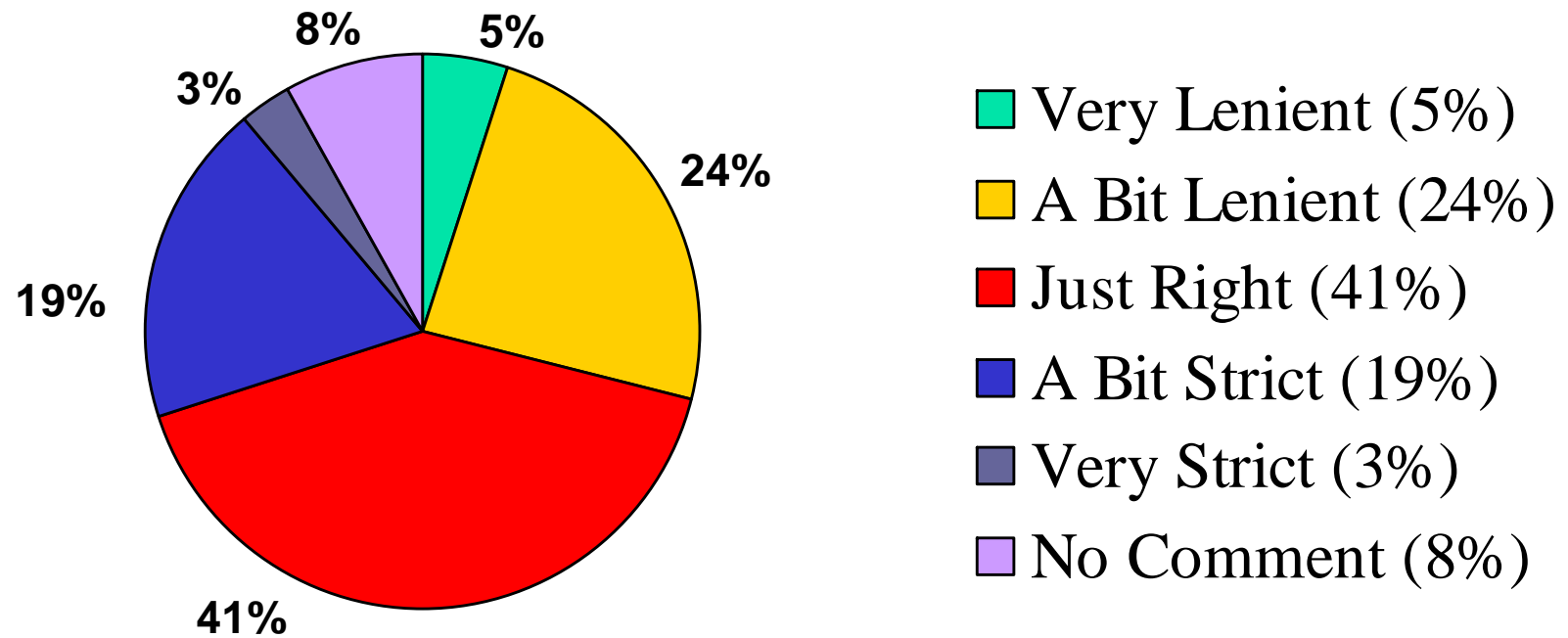




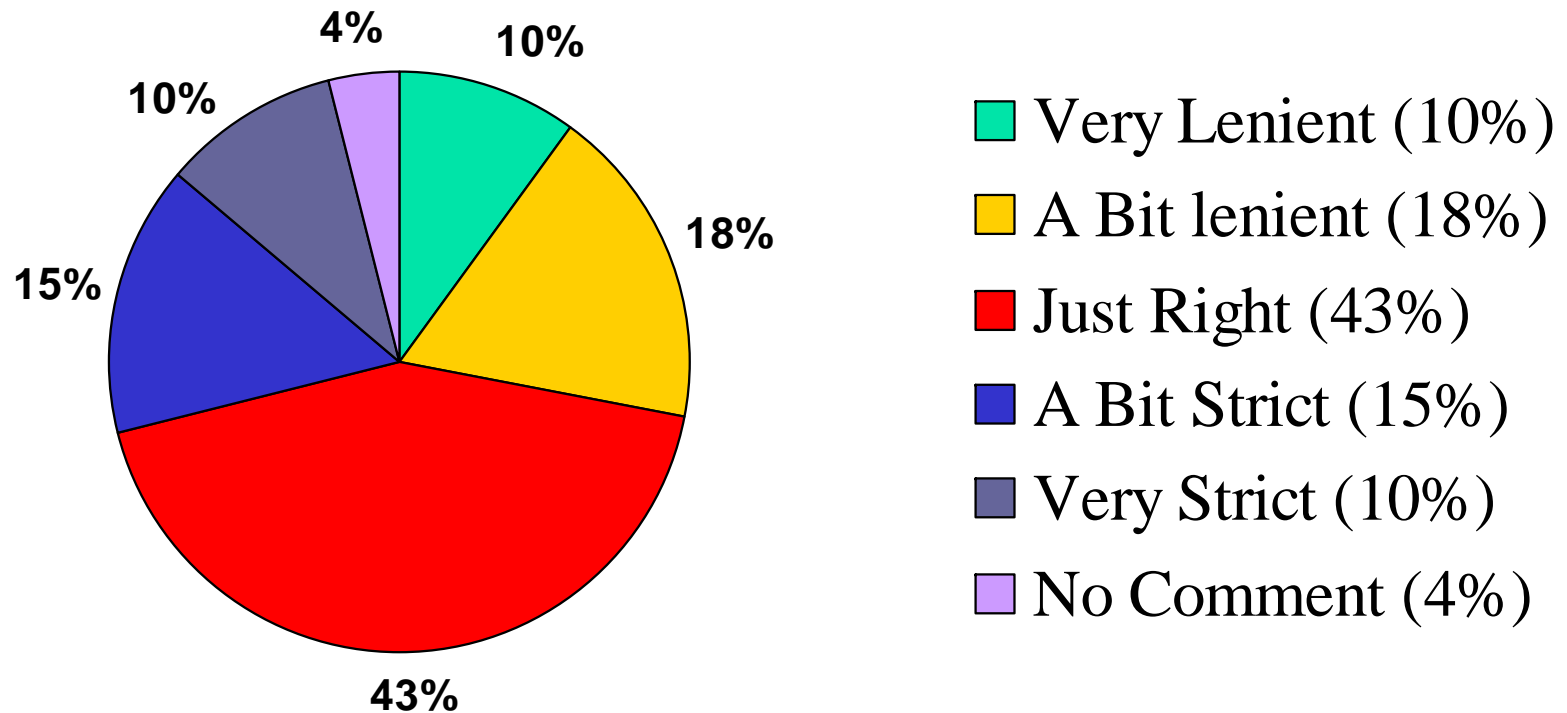
6. Opinions on Classified Film Segments

- Thirty segments depicting sexuality, violence, horror and offensive behaviour, which had been classified by TELA, were shown to respondents.
- A large proportion of respondents considered that, of the 30 segments classified by TELA, 18 were appropriate, 5 were lenient and 7 were strict.

7. Public Advisers' Opinions towards the Current Film Classification Standards



8. Movie-goers' Opinions towards the Current Film Classification Standards



Conclusion



- The findings of the survey show nearly full awareness of the film classification system by the general public. 99% of them know the existence of the system.
- Most of the public (86%) considered the current film classification system acceptable.
- The results of the supplementary surveys for public advisers and movie-goers also indicate general acceptance of the existing classification standards.
- The overall survey therefore suggests that TELA's classification standards are in line with the expectations of the community.