

Film Examination Law

November 11, 1948

Article 1: Films, regardless of whether they are produced in this country or abroad, may only be screened after the studio submits it for examination and approval and obtains a licence according to this Law.

Article 2: Handling matters concerning film examination and banning, is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior's Film Examination Office, its organization regulations will be determined separately.

Article 3: Film tape possessors shall apply for examination with the examination organ before screening.

Article 4: Films having one of the circumstances listed in all following clauses, shall be revised, cut or prohibited from screening:

- 1 those damaging the interests of the Republic of China or the honour of the nation;
- 2 those destroying public order;
- 3 those impairing good customs;
- 4 those advocating superstition and heresy.

According to the provisions of all clauses of the previous paragraph, the Ministry of the Interior will formulate separate film examination standards, and will implement them after petitioning the Executive Yuan for approval.

Article 5: Where films are deemed not to have circumstances listed in all clauses of Article 4 after examination, they are issued a license permitting screening.

Films produced in this country, without having been inspected and having obtained export certificates, may not be transported abroad for screening.

Article 6: Films' screening permission licenses have a period of validity of three years, where screening is required after this period, examination shall be requested again.

Article 7: Films having obtained screening permission licences, if their names are changed or when their plot is modified, examination shall be requested again.

Article 8: For films having obtained screening permission licenses, one screening permission licence shall be requested, filled out and issued for every copy of the film.

Article 9: Where the screening region of films, because of special content, may be restricted, this is indicated on the screening permission licence.

Article 10: Films that are found to contain matters harmful to children through examination, a restriction against children of twelve years or fewer viewing them may be imposed, and this is indicated on the screening permission licence.

Article 11: Films having obtained screening permission licenses, if the matters listed in all clauses of Article 4 become possible because of changes occurring in domestic or foreign situations, may be recalled for reinspection and reappraisal.

Article 12: Films that have been revised, cut or prohibited from screening, if the reasons for revising, cutting or prohibiting them from screening disappear because of changed circumstances, film possessors may request examination again.

Article 13: When film possessors request examination, they shall pay film examination fees of 20 Yuan per 500 metres, those shorter than 400 metres are calculated as having 500 metres, those of which registration is registered again as per the provisions of Article 6, Article 7 or Article 12, registration fees are doubled.

Article 14: Films having obtained screening permission licences, when they are screened, the screening person shall present the licence to the local controlling organ for inspection, no fees may be charged.

When films are screened as per the previous clause, if it is discovered that this exceeds the originally approved scope, the local controlling organ, apart from ceasing screening and provisionally detaining films, it shall report this to the Ministry of the Interior Film Examination Office for action.

Article 15: The Ministry of the Interior Film Examination Office may send personnel carrying certificates to go to film screening venues and conduct inspections

Article 16: Of those screening films without requesting examination as per Article 3, the films will be detained, and the film possessor is punished with a fine of 1000 to 3000 Yuan, the screening person is fined with a fine of 1000 Yuan to 2000 Yuan or cessation of business of one to three days, the detained films, if found to contain circumstances listed in all clauses of Article 4 through examination, apart from punishment, will be confiscated.

Article 17: Of those screening films without requesting examination again as per Article 6, or not requesting added screening permission licences as per Article 8, the films will be detained, the film possessor is punished with a fine of 500 Yuan to 1000 Yuan, the screening person is punished with a fine of 500 to 1000 Yuan or cessation of business of one to two days.

Films detained as per the previous clause, after imposing fines, may be requested to be examined again, or added screening permission licences may be applied for.

Article 18: Of those screening films without requesting examination again as per Article 7, the films will be detained, the film possessor is punished with a fine of 1000 to 2000 Yuan, the responsible screening person will be punished with cessation of business of one to three days.

Films detained as per the previous clause, after imposing fines, may be requested to be examined again.

Article 19: When screening films not in compliance with the provisions of Article 9 or Article 10, the screening person is punished with a fine of 500 to 1000 Yuan or cessation of business of one to two days.

Article 20: Of those counterfeiting or altering screening permission permits and screening films, the films are detained, and the person responsible for counterfeiting is punished with a fine of 1000 to 3000 Yuan, the responsible screening person is also punished with cessation of business of three

days. The detained films, if found to contain circumstances listed in all clauses of Article 4 through examination, apart from punishment, will be confiscated.

If the detained films are not found to contained circumstances listed in all clauses of Article 4 after examination, after punishment by the examination organ and approval, their return may be applied for.

Article 21:

Of those screening films without revision or cutting according to examination organ decisions, the films are detained, the responsible person is punished with a fine of 1000 to 3000 Yuan, the responsible screening person is also punished with cessation of business for three days.

Concerning films detained as per the previous clause, after punishment by the examination organ and approval, their return may be applied for.

Article 22: Of those screening prohibited films, the films are confiscated, the film possessor is punished with a fine of 4000 Yuan, the screening person is punished with a fine of 2000 Yuan and cessation of business of three days.

Article 23: For screening films without presenting permits as per Article 14, the screening person is punished with cessation of business of one to three days.

Punishment in the above clause is executed by the local controlling organ.

Article 24: The administrative punishments and fines listed in Article 16 until Article 23, are handled by the Ministry of the Interior Film Examination Office

Article 25: Implementation rules for this Law will be formulated by the Ministry of the Interior.