

**No. M-11018/46/2023-DO(FC)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**  
**'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001**  
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Dated: 7 August, 2024

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:** Exemptions from certification process for film festivals — regarding.

**Reference:** (1) *Policy for certification of films for film festivals issued vide Ministry's Office Memorandum No. 808/5/2004-F(C) (Pt) dated 17.01.2006.*

(2) *Additional Guidelines for certification of films for film festivals issued vide Ministry's Office Memorandum M-11018/46/2023-DO(FC) dated 01.05.2023.*


I am directed to refer to the detailed exemption policy guidelines issued by this Ministry under the reference above (copy enclosed) regarding the exemption of both Indian and foreign films from the certification process for exhibition in non-commercial film festivals, where viewership is confined to delegates.

2. Attention is drawn to paragraph 3, point 3 of the Office Memorandum No. 808/5/2004-F(C) dated 17.01.2006 issued by this Ministry regarding the composition of the Preview Committee, as per which the committee should comprise persons who are related to the film industry or are critics/writers connected with film. In this regard, the following additional guideline is hereby notified, effective immediately for compliance:

**"There should be at least three (03) preview committee members and all members should be independent of the entity organizing such screenings."**

3. Accordingly, the Festival Director shall enclose a certificate to the effect that the preview committee members are independent of the entity organizing such screenings (as per **Annexure 6**).

**Encl:** As Above

  
(Santosh Kumar Maurya)  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel. 23382487

**To**

All Film Festival Organizers/Authorities/Individuals/Entities, etc.

**Annexure-6**

**CERTIFICATE**

I/We hereby certify that the preview committee members are independent of the organization/entity making the application.

Signature  
(Name & Designation of the festival director/organizer)

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*14/12/2014*



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**F.NO.808/5/2004-F(C)(Pt)**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**'A' Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001.**

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2006

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Policy for certification of films for film festivals.**

In accordance with Section 9 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Central Government may, by order in writing exempt, subject to such conditions and restrictions, if any, as it may impose, the exhibition of any film or class of film from any of the provisions or any rules made thereunder. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been receiving requests from various festival authorities for according exemption from the process of certification for films for exhibition in their festivals. A need was felt for framing a concrete policy drawing up detailed guidelines on the issue. Accordingly, a broad based Committee was constituted comprising film-makers, academicians, etc. to recommend a policy framework to the Government on the matter.

2. After detailed deliberations, the Committee submitted its report to the Government on 16.11.2005 with certain recommendations which have since been accepted. The following guidelines are notified with immediate effect:

- (i) In those festivals which are non-commercial in nature and viewership is confined to delegates (definition of delegates would include filmmakers, media students, critics, film theorists, film lovers and all those associated with the production and business of film and members of the press duly registered with the festival authorities as well as its jury), the Government would grant exemption for both Indian and foreign films. However, the exemption would be subject to fulfillment of the conditions prescribed in para 3 below.
- (ii) The request for exemption from the process of certification will be disposed of within 15 days from the date of receipt of the proposal complete in all respects from the Director of the Festival.




- (iii) In exceptional cases, the Ministry of I&B will have the powers to reject, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the request for exemption to any film(s) if, in its opinion, it would impinge on the security or integrity of the country or affect law and order or affect relations with other countries.
- (iv) In case of rejection, the Director of the Festival shall have the option to appeal to the next higher authority in the Ministry of I&B i.e., the Additional Secretary/Secretary, as the case may be, who shall dispose of the appeal within 15 days from the date of receipt in the Ministry.

3. In order to consider the request for exemption from the process of certification for films to be screened in festivals, the following documents shall be sent by the Director of the Festival addressed to Joint Secretary (Films) along with the request for exemption:

- (i) List of films to be screened in the festival.
- (ii) Synopsis of each of the films.
- (iii) Composition of the Preview Committee, which should comprise persons who are related to the film industry or are critics/writers connected with films.
- (iv) Report of the Preview Committee certifying that the films have been recommended for exhibition at the festival.
- (v) Certificate from the Director of the Festival to the effect that the screening of such films would be limited to delegates (definition of delegates would include film-makers, media students, critics, film theorists, film lovers and all those associated with the production and business of film and members of the press duly registered with the festival authorities as well as its jury.)
- (vi) Certificate from the Director of the Festival to the effect that the festival is non-commercial in nature.

4. The above mentioned guidelines may also be accessed through this Ministry's website [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in)

  
(VISHVAJIT SAHAY)  
DIRECTOR (FILMS)  
TELE:2338 65 36

Copy to:

1. Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification, 91-E, Walkeshwar Road, Mumbai.

2. All Regional Officers/Additional Regional Officers of CBFC.
3. The Chief Producer, Films Division, 24, Dr. G.Deshmukh Marg, Mumbai-400 026.
4. Director, National Film Archive of India, Law College Road, Pune-411 004.
5. Director, Directorate of Film Festivals, Sirifort Auditorium Complex, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110049.
6. CEO, Children's Film Society, India, 24-Peddar Road, Mumbai - 400 026.
7. CEO, Prasar Bharati, PTI Building, New Delhi.
8. Director, Film & Television Institute of India, Law College Road, Pune-411 004.
9. Director, Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, E.M.Byepass Road, P.O.Panchasayar, Kolkata-700094.
10. Managing Director, National Film Development Corporation, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai.
11. Smt. Bina Paul Venugopal, Deputy Director, Kerala State Chalāchitra Academy, Manibhavan, Sasthamangalam Junction, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 010.
12. Shri Arun Bhattacharya, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister & Principal Secretary, I&CA Department, Government of West Bengal, Department of Information and Culture Affairs, Writers' Building, Kolkata-700 001.
13. Shri Kiran V.Shantaram, Chairman, M/s. Asian Film Foundation, 1/18, Broadway Shopping Centre, Dadar T.T. Mumbai-400 014.
14. M/s. Third Eye 3, Asian Film Festival, 'Prabhat' Sharda Cinema Building, Dadar, Mumbai-400 014.
15. Shri Supran Sen, Vice President, Foundation for Promotion of Film Arts and Crafts, 829, Adarsh Nagar, New Link Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai-400 012.

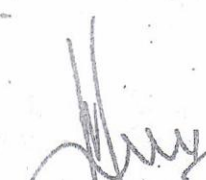


16. Shri Vidyun Singh, Director (Programmes), Habitat World, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003.
17. Shri Kiran Shantaram, Hony. Secretary, Mumabi Academy of the Moving Image, Rajkamal Studios, SS Rao Road, Parel, Mumbai-400 012.
18. Ms. Indu Shrikent, ACE & Osian's Cinefan (Society for Art, Culture and education) 42 Golf Links, New Delhi-110 003.
19. Ms Jayshree Raveendran, Executive Director, M/s. Ability Foundation, 27, Fourth Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar, Chennai-600 020.
20. Shri Vijaya Singh, CEO, M/s. Digital Talkies Pvt. Ltd., 1-E, Jhandewalan Extension, Naaz Cinema Complex, New Delhi.
21. Shri M.A.Srinivas, Joint Secretary, M/s. Suchitra Film Society, No.36, 9<sup>th</sup> Main Banashankar-II stage, Bangalore-560 070.
22. Shri Rajeev Nath, Festival Director, M/s. Centre for Development of Imaging Technology, C-Dit City Centre, Behind SMSM Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
23. Ms. Anuja Ghosalkar, M/s. Point of View, 2, New Pushpa Milan, Worli Hills, Mumbai-400 018.
24. Shri Jabbar Patel, Director, Pune International Film Festival, Pune Marathon Bhavan, Near Mitra Mandal Colony, Opp. Parvati P.O., Pune-411 009.
25. Shri Sudhir Nandgoankar, Programme Officer, International Film Festival, Mumbai, Rajkamal Studio, SS Rao Road, Parel, Mumbai-400 012.
26. M/s Ray Society, Anuj Chambers 24, Park Street Floor 5, Kolkata-700 016.
27. Ms. Alike Khosla, Director Operations, M/s. Breakthrough, C-3/15, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016.
28. Federation of Film Societies of India, C/o Prabhat Chitra Mandal, Sharda Cinema Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dadar, Mumbai-400 014.

29. Film Federation of India, B-3, Everest Building, Tardeo, Mumbai-400 034.
30. Film & Television Producers' Guild of India Limited, G-1, Morya House, Veera Industrial Estate, Oshiwara Link Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400 053.
31. Shri Rajiv Mehrotra, Managing Trustee, Public Service Broadcasting Trust, A-86 Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110 013.
32. Smt. Vijaya Mulay, President Indian Documentary Producers' Association, 223 Famous Cine Building, 20 Dr. E. Mosses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai-400 011.
33. Shri C.Sudarsana Srinivasan, President, South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Film Chamber Buildings, T.R. Sundaram Avenue, Post Box No.6226, 604 Anna Salai, Cathedral P.O., Chennai-600 006.
34. Dr. N. Bhaskar Rao, Centre for Media Studies, Research House, Saket Community Centre, New Delhi-110 017.
35. President, Indian Motion Pictures Producers' Association, IMPPA House, Unit-11, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai-400050.
36. Director, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, R.No.209-211, Famous Cine Building, 20. Dr. E. Mosses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai-400 011.
37. Sh Rahul Roy, Films For Freedom, A 19 Gulmohar Park, New Delhi.

Copy also to:

1. PS to MIB&PA.
2. PS to Additional Secretary, Min. of I&B
3. PS to JS(films), Min. of I&B.

  
(P.P. NAIR)  
DESK OFFICER  
TELE:23386769



No. M-11018/46/2023-DO(FC)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
'A' Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001

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New Delhi, 01<sup>st</sup> May, 2023

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Request for exemptions from certification process for film festivals – regarding.**

**Reference: Policy for certification of films for film festivals issued vide Ministry's Office Memorandum (OM) No. 808/5/2004-F(C) (Pt) dated 17.01.2006**

I am directed to refer to the detailed policy vide this Ministry's O.M. under reference, for granting exemption to both Indian and foreign films from the process of certification for exhibition in film festivals which are non-commercial in nature and viewership is confined to delegates'

2. The request for exemption from the process of certification are to be disposed of within 15 days from the date of receipt of the proposal complete in all respects from the Director of the Festival. However, there are difficulties in the scrutiny of the requests, which have incomplete/improper documents or have inadequate time left for processing and even some applications with scanned/forged signatures have also been detected.

3. Therefore, in order to streamline the processing of requests for exemption from the process of certification for films, the film festival organizers/authorities/individuals/entities, etc., the following additional guidelines are notified in continuation to the ibid O.M. with immediate effect for compliance:

- i. Festival Directors may apply timely so as to enable proper scrutiny and completion of documents in case of any deficiencies. Application may be preferably be sent one month in advance, but at least 15 days prior to the event as has been prescribed in para 2(ii) of ibid O.M. Advance copy may also be sent through email on jsfilms.inb@nic.in.
- ii. Festival Directors may provide appropriate & complete documents as has been prescribed in para 3 of ibid O.M. All documents shall be duly signed by the Director/Organizer of the Festival on each page. *For the purpose of uniformity, the formats for the application & its documents are being enclosed as Appendix.*
- iii. An application with scanned signature(s) pasted on the original documents will not be accepted and the application would be treated as ineligible in limine.
- iv. Self-attested copy of PAN Card or Aadhar Card or any other ID Card of the Festival Director & the members of the Preview Committee shall be sent along with the application for verification of ID & signature.

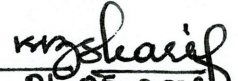
  
01.05.2023

(मो. जाह्द शरीफ)  
MD. ZAHID SHARIF  
अवर सचिव/Under Secretary  
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मन्त्रालय  
Min. of Information & Broadcasting  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi



- v. Brief Bio-data of each Preview Committee member shall be provided as has been prescribed in 3(iii) of ibid O.M.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority

  
01.05.2023

(Md Zahid Sharif)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel. 23382487

To:

All Film Festival Organizers/Authorities/Individuals/Entities, etc.

(मो. जाहद शरीफ)  
(MD. ZAHID SHARIF)  
अवर सचिव/Under Secretary  
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मन्त्रालय  
Min. of Information & Broadcasting  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Format for Exemption of Films

To

The Joint Secretary (Films)  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India  
Room No. 649-A, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan,  
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110001

**Subject:** Request for exemption from the provisions relating to Certification of Films for **(Name of the Festival)** from **(Period of the Festival)** at **(Venue of the Festival)** organized by **(Name of the Organization)**-Reg.

Sir,

**(Name of the Organization)** is organizing a **(Name of the Festival)** from **(Period of the Festival)** at **(Venue of the Festival)** in which **(No. of films)** will be screened that are not certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. **There is No Sale of Tickets.** The exhibition of the films will be **limited to delegates (details, if any)** duly registered with us.

2. We enclose the following documents for your kind information:

- (i) List of films to be screened in the festival that are to be exempted from certification by the Central Board of Film Certification (as per **Annexure-1**)
- (ii) Synopses of the films (as per **Annexure-2**)
- (iii) Composition of the Preview Committee (as per **Annexure-3**)
- (iv) Preview Committee Report (as per **Annexure-4**)
- (v) Certificate/Declaration from the Festival Director to the effect that the screening will be non-commercial and limited to delegates (as per **Annexure-5**)

3. Accordingly, it is requested to grant exemption from the provisions of certification in respect of the said films.

Yours faithfully,

Signature  
(Name & Designation of the festival director)



**LIST OF FILMS TO BE SCREENED IN THE FILM FESTIVAL**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Title of movie in English &amp; Original Language</b>	<b>Date/Year of Release</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Category of Certificate in origin country</b>	<b>Name of the Director</b>	<b>Duration of Movie</b>
1.						
2.						

Signature  
(Name & Designation of the festival director/organizer)

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**SYNOPSIS OF THE FILMS**

Sl. No.	Title of Movie in English & Original Language	Synopsis

Signature  
(Name & Designation of the festival director/organizer)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE PREVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(should comprise persons who are related to the film industry or are critics/writers connected with films)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Preview Committee Member	Nationality	Occupation in Film Industry	ID Copy provided (PAN/Aadhar/other)*	Brief Bio with experience
1.					
2.					

\*- Self – attested copy of PAN Card or Aadhaar Card or other ID Card of the Preview Committee shall be sent along with application for verification of ID & signature

Signature  
(Name & Designation of the festival director/organizer)

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**PREVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

We hereby certify that we have previewed all the films being screened at (Name of film festival) and recommended the same for exhibition. **There is nothing of objectionable nature in the previewed films and are recommended for screening in the film festival.**

*Signatures*

(Names of the preview committee members)

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CERTIFICATE

I/We hereby certify that the screening of films at the **(Name of the film festival)** from **(period of the film festival)** would be limited to delegates duly registered with organization and the said film festival is non-commercial in nature.

Signature  
(Name & Designation of the festival director/organizer)

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