



Notification Number: 2013/669/UK

Video Recordings Act 1984 (Exempted Video Works) Regulations 2014

Date received : 09/12/2013

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Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2013) 03273

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2013/0669/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201303273.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2013 0669 UK EN 09-12-2013 UK NOTIF

2. Member State

UK

3. Department Responsible

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
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3. Originating Department

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
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4. Notification Number

2013/0669/UK - X00M

5. Title

Video Recordings Act 1984 (Exempted Video Works) Regulations 2014

6. Products Concerned

The draft Video Recordings Act 1984 (Exempted Video Works) Regulations 2014 concern music, sports, religious or educational video works supplied (sold or rented) in physical formats such as DVDs, Blu-ray disc, cartridges and VHS tapes. The Regulations narrow the exemption from classification requirements for any such products placed on the UK market. At present, such works only lose their exempt status if they contain content that would be suitable to be viewed by over 18s only. The regulations would alter that threshold so that works that contain material that is unsuitable for younger children (i.e. under 12) would also require classification. Products that have received statutory classification by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) must then carry the appropriate BBFC age symbol on their packaging before being supplied. The Video Recordings Act 1984 already requires video works in any other genres - such as feature films - to be classified by the BBFC.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The Video Recordings Act 1984 requires hard copy video works such as DVDs/Blu-ray discs to be classified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) and labelled with the appropriate age symbol before they can be supplied in the UK. It is an offence to supply a classified work in breach of the age rating on its classification certificate. However, currently many music, sports, religious and educational video works are exempt from this requirement. The draft Regulations change these exemptions so that in future the products will have to be classified if they contain material that is unsuitable for younger children. The draft Regulations operate by describing a series of specific depictions or effects that are unsuitable for younger audiences and will mean a music, sports, religious or educational video work loses its exempted status. If products in these genres do not contain the material specified in the draft Regulations then they will remain exempt. The draft Regulations have been subject to informal consideration by relevant organisations such as the music industry trade body the BPI, the British Video Association. They have been formally published for comment by any interested parties and that consultation will close on 31 January 2014. The UK Government hopes to take the Regulations through the Parliamentary process immediately after EU Technical Standards Directive clearance. The Regulations will apply only to products placed on the UK market after the date of commencement.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The broad policy aim is to ensure children are better protected from exposure to inappropriate content. The nature of the currently-exempted video works (particularly those about music) have changed considerably since the 1984 Video Recordings Act.

The Regulations will ensure the UK has in place a classification system for all video works that is meaningful, effective and proportionate and provides the appropriate levels of protection, including ensuring that parents and



consumers have access to the information they need when making decisions about a product's suitability for their children. Without these changes, children can be lawfully sold videos containing age inappropriate content. The Regulations do not ban such videos but merely require prior classification before being placed on the market. This is the framework that applies for all other forms of video works at present (which was notified in draft under the TSD with reference 2009/495/UK). This is a proportionate approach in light of the public policy of safeguarding children.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

Basic Texts have been forwarded within the framework of a previous notification: 2009/0495/UK: 2009/0664/UK

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

15. Impact assessment

Yes

16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT aspect

No - The draft has no significant impact on international trade

SPS aspect

No - The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure

European Commission

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