

= Parental Advisory =

The Parental Advisory label (abbreviated PAL) is a warning label first introduced by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in 1985 and later adopted by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) in 2011 . It is placed on audio recordings in recognition of excessive profanities or inappropriate references , with the intention of alerting parents of potentially unsuitable material for younger children . The label was first affixed on physical compact discs and cassette tapes , and it has been included on digital listings offered by online music stores to accommodate the growing popularity of the latter platform .

Recordings with the Parental Advisory label are often released alongside censored versions that reduce or eliminate the questionable material . Several retailers will distribute all varieties of the product , occasionally with an increased price for censored versions , while some sellers offer the amended pressings as their main options and choose not to distribute the explicit counterparts . However , the label has been questioned for its perceived ineffectiveness in limiting the amount of inappropriate material that young audiences are exposed to .

= = Background = =

Shortly after their formation in April 1985 , the Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC) assembled a list of fifteen songs with deemed unsuitable content . Particular criticism was placed on " Darling Nikki " by Prince , after the daughter of PMRC co @-@ founder Mary " Tipper " Gore recognized its references to masturbation . The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) responded by introducing an early version of their content warning label , although the PMRC was displeased and proposed that a music rating system structured like the Motion Picture Association of America film rating system be enacted . The RIAA alternatively suggested using a warning label reading " Parental Guidance : Explicit Lyrics " , and after continued conflict between the organizations , the matter was discussed on September 19 during a hearing with the United States Senate Committee on Commerce , Science , and Transportation . Notable musicians , Frank Zappa , Dee Snyder , and John Denver each testified at this hearing with strong opposition to PMRC ? s warning label system , and censorship in general . Approximately two months after the hearing , the organizations agreed on a settlement in which audio recordings were to either be affixed with a warning label reading " Explicit Lyrics : Parental Advisory " or have its lyrics attached on the backside of its packaging .

In 1990 , a black @-@ and @-@ white warning label reading " Parental Advisory : Explicit Lyrics " was introduced as a standard for affected records to follow , and was to be placed on the bottom right @-@ hand section of a given product . By May 1992 , approximately 225 records had been marked with the warning . In response to later hearings in the following years , it was reworded as " Parental Advisory : Explicit Content " in 1996 . The system went unchanged until 2002 , when record labels affiliated with Bertelsmann Music Group began including specific areas of concern including " strong language " , " violent content " , or " sexual content " on compact discs alongside the generic Parental Advisory label . The Parental Advisory label was first used on music streaming services and online music stores in 2011 . That year , the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) revised its own music censorship policies to incorporate more prominent usage of the warning label .

= = Application = =

The " Parental Advisory Label Program " in the United States and the " Parental Advisory Scheme " in the United Kingdom lack agreed @-@ upon standards for using the warning label , although they provide guidelines for its recommended inclusion . Although a voluntary practice that is ultimately left to the discretion of record labels , the RIAA suggests that material with " strong language or depictions of violence , sex , or substance abuse to such an extent as to merit parental notification " be affixed with the Parental Advisory label . The BPI additionally requests that " racist , homophobic , misogynistic or other discriminatory language or behavior " be taken under consideration when determining the appropriateness of a record .

Audio recordings that include Parental Advisory labels in their original formats are generally released in censored versions that reduces or completely eliminates the questionable material , They are recognized as " clean " editions by the RIAA , and are left unlabeled in their revised formats . American retailers including Best Buy and f.y.e. distribute explicit and censored records ; Target has sold both varieties of a given record , although has occasionally offered only the explicit version depending on the product . Walmart and their affiliated properties are well known for only carrying censored versions of records ; in one instance , the retailer refused to distribute 21st Century Breakdown (2009) by Green Day because they were not given the " clean " copies that they requested . Online music stores , including the iTunes Store , generally have the Parental Advisory logo embedded into digital files .

= = Impact = =

Since its introduction , the effectiveness of the Parental Advisory label has frequently been called into question . Jon Wiederhorn from MTV News suggested that artists benefited from the label and noted that younger customers interested in explicit content could more easily find it with a label attached . On behalf of Westword , Andy Thomas implied that the label was purposeless on the grounds that a young customer " would get a copy of the album sooner or later from a friend or another lethargic record store clerk " like the cashier that sold him a labeled pressing of La Sexorcisto : Devil Music , Vol . 1 (1992) by White Zombie in his childhood . He noted that its intended reaction in parents was varied ; his lax mother was indifferent towards the warning , while the mother of his stricter companion did not allow her child to listen to the record .

Danny Goldberg from Gold Village Entertainment opined that the Parental Advisory label offered minimal value other than " being a way for certain retailers like Wal @-@ Mart to brand themselves as ' family friendly ' " ; he felt that children were successful in getting content they desired " even before the Internet " , and believed that the label had little impact on sales figures . In contrast , the RIAA maintains that " it 's not a PAL Notice that kids look for , it 's the music " . They stated that research they had gathered revealed that " kids put limited weight on lyrics in deciding which music they like , caring more about rhythm and melody " and implied that the label is not a deciding factor for a given purchase . Tom Cole from NPR commented that the Parental Advisory label has become " a fact of music @-@ buying life " , which made it difficult for current consumers to understand the widespread controversy that came about from its introduction .

= = Edited counterparts = =

It is fairly common for an album which received the Parental Advisory seal to be sold alongside an " edited " version which removes objectionable content , usually to the same level as a radio edit . However , the RIAA Uniform Guidelines say " An Edited Version need not remove all potentially objectionable content from the sound recording . " These albums are packaged nearly @-@ identically to their explicit counterparts , usually with the only indicator being the lack of Parental Advisory seal . (A notable exception is Box Car Racer , in which a black box reading " EDITED VERSION " is placed where the Parental Advisory seal would be) .

Most of the time , the edited version will only edit the content which is absolutely necessary , in order to be as identical to the explicit counterpart as possible . However , some edited albums , such as Halfway Between the Gutter and the Stars (" Star 69 ") and Curtain Call : The Hits (first 2 tracks) will have tracks removed completely , while others , such as Take Off Your Pants and Jacket (" Happy Holidays You Bastards " renamed " Happy Holidays ") and The Slim Shady LP (4 tracks were renamed) will remove objectionable content from song titles . The edited version of Life After Death is notable for having so many tracks omitted that it was able to be condensed to one disc in spite of being a double album .

The edited version of an album will normally edit to the level in which the content would be considered appropriate for radio airplay . Strong language is almost always edited out (however the edited version of The Marshall Mathers LP left in nearly all profanities other than " fuck " , with the

exception of the album 's singles in which the existing radio edits were used) , in addition to racial slurs (most albums will remove " nigga / nigger ") . Specific drug references are also usually edited out , primarily slang terms for illegal drugs . Generally , however , some edited albums are not consistent with editing violent and sexual lyrics , as often , these lyrics are left in unedited . An example is " Tomb of the Boom " on the edited version of Speakerboxxx / The Love Below , which leaves in detailed lyrics about street violence (including sound effects of gunfire and police sirens) and sexual innuendos , both of which would normally be edited out , but on the other hand , all obscenities are muted .