

## CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CENSORS

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### **Introduction:**

At the time of creation of the Censorship of Films Act, 1938, as a provincial subject and different boards, were functioning at Lahore, Karachi and Sindh under the Cinematograph Act, 1938. Films certified by one board could not be exhibited in another province, although under the process of censorship in that province. Sometimes a film passed by one board, was declared unsuitable for exhibition in the other province by their respective board. In order to bring uniformity in the decision of the boards and to mitigate the film producers/importers inconvenience and financial hardships, the subject of censorship, was centralized through enactment of the Censorship of Films Act, 1965 in November, 1965. The head office remained at Islamabad from 1965 to 1995 and, was shifted to its present location thereafter. As a first step, two branches of the board, were established at Islamabad and Sindh considering in view, the geographical configuration of the country. Subsequently, on persistent demand of the Film Industry, one more branch of the board, was established at Lahore. After fall of Sindh in 1995 a new branch, was established at Karachi in its place in 1996. In September 1996, the Motion Picture Ordinance 1996, was promulgated, which repealed the Censorship of Films Act, 1965 and the Cinematograph Act, 1938.

**Main functions:**

The main function of the Central Board of Film Censors is to examine the suitability of films for public exhibition or other use under the guidelines provided by the Federal Government in the shape of film censorship code. Imported films have the option to apply for censorship of their films to any of the offices of the Board at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, whereas imported films are examined by the Board only at Islamabad. Films belonging to Foreign Missions are also examined at Islamabad. The Motion Picture Regulations, 1979 and the rules made thereunder focus on the broad public frame, moral and administrative procedures for the certification of films for public exhibition. The film censorship code covers all the important aspects of society and lays down the guidelines for film making in Pakistan. To make the film industry abide by the code for censorship, strict measures are adopted from time to time and, while certifying films, every effort is made to ensure that no scene, dance or dialogue sets through which is derogatory to the accepted moral standards of the society. A film is declared unsuitable for public exhibition if, directly or indirectly, it undermines Islam, national security or foreign relations or glorifies crime or depicts themes, which are derogatory in character and liable to corrupt impressionable minds.

**For further information please visit website [www.cbfc.gov.pk/services.htm](http://www.cbfc.gov.pk/services.htm)**