

L.N. 482 of 2020

**BROADCASTING ACT
(CAP. 350)**

**Amendment to the Requirements as to Standards and Practice
applicable to the Family Viewing and Listening, 2020**

IN EXERCISE and powers conferred by article 20(3) of the Broadcasting Act, the Broadcasting Authority has made the following requirements:

1. The title of these requirements is the Amendment to the Requirements as to Standards and Practice applicable to the Family Viewing and Listening, 2020 and these requirements shall be read and construed as one with the Requirements as to Standards and Practice applicable to the Family Viewing and Listening, hereinafter referred to as "the principal requirements".

Title.

S.L. 350.18.

2. Article 1.3 of the principal requirements shall be substituted by the following:

Substitutes article 1.3 of the principal requirements.

"1.3 The policy assumes a progressive decline throughout the evening in the proportion of children present in the audience. It expects a similar progression in the successive programmes scheduled from early evening until closedown: the earlier in the evening, the more suitable; the later in the evening, the less suitable. Within the progression, 9:30 p.m. is fixed as the point up to which the audiovisual media service provider will normally regard themselves as responsible for ensuring that nothing is shown that is unsuitable for children. But it is assumed that from 9:30 p.m. onwards, parents or guardians may reasonably be expected to share responsibility for what their children are permitted to see and listen to. Violence is not the only reason why a programme may be unsuitable for family viewing or listening. Other factors include bad language, innuendo, blasphemy, explicit scenes or descriptions of sexual behaviour, and scenes or portrayal of extreme distress."

3. Article 3.1 of the principal requirements shall be amended as follows:

Amends article 3.1 of the principal requirements.

(a) paragraph (v) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"v. adult related programmes are to be broadcast only

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after 9:30 p.m. Within the progression of successive programmes scheduled from early evening until closedown:

i. 9:30 p.m. is fixed as the point up to which the broadcasters will normally regard themselves as responsible for ensuring that no audiovisual media is broadcast that is unsuitable for children;

ii. after 9:30 p.m. audiovisual media services designed for adults may be broadcast;"

(b) paragraph (vi) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"vi. in audiovisual media services the classification signal and the signal of potential harmful content must be superimposed on the audiovisual media service, where they are visible during the first 60 seconds and should the programme be interrupted, during the first 30 seconds following commencement of broadcasts of the said programme after each break. In the case of a radio programme, the broadcaster has to air a notice before the beginning of the programme that the latter is addressed to a mature audience and should the programme be interrupted, before the following commencement of broadcasts of the said programme after each break;"

(c) paragraph (viii) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"viii. in so far as audiovisual media services are concerned, service media providers should adopt the following classification signage:

U for audiovisual media services suitable for persons of all ages.

The letter "U" should be encircled in a green colour.

PG for audiovisual media services which require parental guidance as they may not be suitable for young children.

The letters "PG" should be encircled in a yellow colour.

12A for audiovisual media services suitable only for persons of twelve years and over but younger people may only see them if they are accompanied by an adult.

The number "12A" should be encircled in an orange

colour.

- 12 for audiovisual media services suitable only for persons of twelve years.

The number "12" should be encircled in an orange colour.

- 15 for audiovisual media services suitable only for persons of fifteen years.

The number "15" should be encircled in a brown colour.

- 18 for audiovisual media services suitable only for persons of eighteen years.

The number "18" should be encircled in a brown colour.

(d) immediately after paragraph (viii) thereof, as substituted, there shall be added the following new paragraphs:

"ix. in the classification process of audiovisual media services in the manner prescribed in the preceding paragraph, service media providers shall also decide which signal or signals of potential harmful content will be broadcast with the classification in accordance with the procedure listed in paragraph (vi) of article 3.1. The signal or signals of the potentially harmful content shall reflect that reason or reasons that have led the service media provider to that particular classification and this by determining whether the audiovisual media service has content that includes violence, fear, sex, discrimination, alcohol and / or drug abuse or inappropriate language.

x. Audiovisual media service providers shall use the following potentially harmful content signalling system:



VIOLENCE



FEAR

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SEX



DISCRIMINATION



ALCOHOL ABUSE AND / OR DRUGS



INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE".

Adds new articles 5 and 6 to the principal requirements.

4. Immediately after article 4 of the principal requirements, there shall be added the following new articles:

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"5. A breach of any of the provisions of these requirements shall constitute an administrative offence punishable by the Broadcasting Authority in terms of Article 41 and the Fifth Schedule of the Broadcasting Act".

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6. The wording "audiovisual media service" and "media service provider" shall have the same meaning as that provided in the Broadcasting Act".