

Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (2004)

Extract p. 27 and 28.

Full code available at the Australian Broadcasting Authority website

http://www.aba.gov.au/contentreg/codes/television/commercial_TV.shtml

The General (G) Classification

2. Material classified G is not necessarily intended for children but it must be very mild in impact and must not contain any matter likely to be unsuitable for children to watch without supervision.

2.1 Violence: Visual depiction of physical and psychological violence must be very restrained. The use of weapons, threatening language, sounds or special effects must have a very low sense of threat or menace, must be strictly limited to the story line or program context, must be infrequent and must not show violent behaviour to be acceptable or desirable.

2.2 Sex and nudity: Visual depiction of, and verbal references to, sexual behaviour must be brief, infrequent, contain little or no detail and be strictly limited to the story line or program context. Restrained, brief and infrequent visual depiction of nudity only when absolutely necessary to the story line or program context.

2.3 Language: Very mild coarse language generally considered socially offensive or discriminatory may only be used infrequently when absolutely justified by the story line or program context.

2.4 Drugs: Visual depiction of, or verbal reference to illegal drugs must be absolutely justified by the story line or program context, contain very little detail and be handled with care. The program must not promote or encourage drug use in any way. The use of legal drugs must also be handled with care.

2.5 Suicide: Only limited and careful verbal reference to suicide is acceptable, when absolutely justified by the story line or program context, and provided that it is not presented as romantic, heroic, alluring or normal.

2.6 Themes: Themes dealing with social or domestic conflict must have a very low sense of threat or menace to children and must be justified by the story line or program context.

2.2.7 Dangerous imitable behaviour: Dangerous imitable behaviour should only be shown when absolutely justified by the story line or program context, and then only in ways which do not encourage dangerous imitation.

3. Other: Where music, special effects and camera work are used to create an atmosphere of tension or fear, care must be taken to minimise distress to children.

The Parental Guidance Recommended (PG) Classification

3. Material classified PG may contain careful presentations of adult themes or concepts but must be mild in impact and remain suitable for children to watch with supervision.

3.1 Violence: Visual depiction of violence must be inexplicit, restrained and justified by the story line or program context. More leeway is permitted when the depiction is stylised rather than realistic, but all violence shown must be mild in impact, taking into account also the language, sounds and special effects used.

3.2 Sex and nudity: Visual depiction of and verbal reference to sexual behaviour must be restrained, mild in impact and justified by the story line or program context. Restrained visual depiction of nudity is permitted, but only where justified by the story line or program context.

3.3 Language: Low-level coarse language may only be used infrequently, when justified by the story line or program context.

3.4 Drugs: Mild visual depiction of and restrained verbal reference to illegal drug use, if justified by the story line or program context, but the program must not promote or encourage illegal drug use. The use of legal drugs must be handled with care.

3.5 Suicide: Visual depiction of and verbal reference to suicide or attempted suicide must be inexplicit and restrained, and be mild in impact. It must not be presented as the means of achieving a desired result or as an appropriate response to stress, depression or other problems.

3.6 Themes: The treatment of social and domestic conflict and other themes that are directed to a more adult audience should be carefully handled and mild in impact.

3.7 Other: Supernatural or mild horror themes may be included.