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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Department of Information & Cultural Affairs

NOTIFICATION

No. 5180 - ICA (N) dated, Howrah, the 30th October, 2025.— In exercise of the power conferred by section 9 of the West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1954 (West Ben. Act XXXIX of 1954), the Governor is pleased hereby to make the following amendments in the West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation of Public Exhibition) Rules, 1956, as subsequently amended (hereinafter referred to as the said rules):-

Amendments

In the said rules:-

- (1) in sub-rule (6) of rule 4, after the words “annexed to Form I or Form IA” *insert* the words “ or Form IB”;
- (2) after rule 7A, *insert* the following rule :-

“Form of licence for digital screening through electronic server

7B. A licence for a permanent cinema granted under the Act for exhibiting films made in any format but displayed through electronic server having legal access through a contract or digital address shall be as nearly as possible in Form IB appended to these rules and shall be subject to the condition detailed in the Schedule annexed thereto. The conditions in the Schedule shall be deemed to be incorporated in the licence.”;

- (3) after Form IA, *insert* the following form:-

“FORM IB

Form of a Permanent Licence for digital screening through electronic server

(Rule 7B)

THE WEST BENGAL CINEMAS (REGULATION) ACT, 1954

(WEST BENGAL ACT XXXIX OF 1954)

Government of West Bengal

No.

(a) situated at (b) within the district of / town of Calcutta is licensed under the sub-section (1) of section 3 of the West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1954 (West Bengal Act XXXIX of 1954), as a place where exhibition by means of digital screening through electronic server may be given for persons.

The licence has been granted to (c) and shall, subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2) of rule 6 of the West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation of Public Exhibition) Rules, 1956, remain in force only so long as the said (c) owns, leases or manages the said (a)

This licence is granted subject to the conditions set forth in the Schedule annexed to this licence.

The 20

Commissioner of Police, Calcutta or

District Magistrate of

(a) Name of Cinema House

(b) Address

(c) Name of applicant

THE SCHEDULE

Conditions to be attached to a permanent licence for holding video shows issued under the provisions of the West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1954

1. The licensee shall not exhibit, or permit to be exhibited, in the said ^(a) any film other than a film which has been certified in Form IVA, VA, VIA or VIIA as suitable for public exhibition by an authority constituted under section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (Act XXXVII of 1952), and which, when exhibited, displays the prescribed mark of that authority, and has not been altered or tampered with in any way since such mark was affixed thereto.
2. The licensee shall not exhibit or permit to be exhibited, in the said ^(a) any film which has been certified by the authority constituted under section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (Act XXXVII of 1952), as suitable for public exhibition restricted to adults only, to any person who is not an adult, as defined in section 2(a) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

Note: This condition shall not be construed as prohibiting the exhibition of such film to children below the age of three years.

3. (1) There shall be prominently exhibited at each public entrance whenever the premises are open to the public a notice indicating in tabular form and in clear bold letters and figures –
 - (a) the title of each film to be shown on that day, other than trailers and advertisement films;
 - (b) the approximate times of commencement of each such films;
 - (c) whether each such film has received an “A”, “U”, “UA” or “S” certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification; and
 - (d) whether persons below the age of 18 years other than children below the age of 3 years will be admitted or not.

- (2) The nature of any certificate received in respect of a film from the Central Board of Film Certification shall be clearly indicated by the letter "U", "A", "UA" or "S" in any advertisement of the film displayed at the premises.
4. The licensee shall not display, or cause to be displayed, any photo-graph, picture or poster which depicts or represents or purports to represent a scene or shot which has been excised from any film under the orders of the Central Board of Film Certification or the Central Government.
5. Not more than five shows shall be held, at the place licensed, between 9 a.m. and midnight on any week day. Outside these hours, i.e., before 9 a.m. or after midnight, no show shall be allowed at the licensed place on any week day except with the previous permission of the licensing authority obtained in writing at least seven days in advance.
- Note:** There will be no restriction on the number of shows on Sundays and public holidays, provided that no show shall be allowed after midnight.
6. No obscene, immodest or objectionable poster, placard, hoarding or pictorial publicity material shall be displayed at the show-windows or lobbies of cinema houses or at any other place within the licensed premises.
7. No loud-speaker or amplifier relaying music or commentary for the purpose of attracting customers shall be allowed to be fixed outside the licensed premises.
8. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (2) the licence shall not be transferable and shall be for the benefit only of the licensee.
- (2) Where during the period of validity of the licence,—
- (a) the proprietorship of the business to which the licence relates passes from the licensee to any other person by reason of the death of the licensee or of a transfer effected by the licensee with the previous approval in writing of the licensing authority; or
- (b) a Receiver appointed by a competent court takes possession of such business for management, the licensing authority may, on receipt of an application in writing in this behalf from the successor-in-interest of the licensee or the Receiver within one month from the date of the passing of proprietorship or taking of possession of the business, as the case may be, or within such further time as the licensing authority may, in the public interest, allow for special reasons to be recorded in writing, substitute the name of such successor or Receiver in the licence as the licensee for the remainder of the period of its validity and thereupon the licence shall be available for the benefit of such successor or Receiver.
- (3) An application for the renewal of such licence shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules.
9. The licensee shall observe the rules notified by the Government from time to time in respect of cinematograph shows.
10. The licensee shall observe the classification of the seats and the prices therefor approved by the licensing authority and shall not amend or alter the same in any way without the prior approval of the licensing authority.
11. The licensee shall not convert the basic structure of the cinema house without prior approval of the licensing authority.
12. All building or other regulations for observance at place of public amusement imposed by the municipal bye-laws or by any other law or by rules under any other law, for the time being in force, shall be strictly adhere to.
13. The licensee shall maintain the cinema house in a good state of repair with due regard to the safety of the persons attending the shows therein.
14. No portion of the place licensed shall be occupied or used as a hotel, boarding or lodging house, factory, workshop or manufactory or for storage purposes, except as the licensing authority may allow, nor shall such place be used for residential purposes by day or night.

However, a small part of the floor of the cinema house may be used as a counter for sealed drinking water bottle or tea or coffee or packed snacks or for all of them.

15. The relative positions of the digital display board / screen and seats shall be such as may be specified in each case by the licensing authority at the time of granting the licence so that undue eye-strain may not be caused to persons attending the cinematograph exhibition.
16. In any portion of the premises which is regularly used for a closely seated audience, all seats shall be securely fixed to the floor. There shall in all cases be an unobstructed seatway or space between any two consecutive rows of seats which is at least 10 inches in depth in the case of fixed seats and 12 inches in depth (measured with the seat raised) in the case of tip-up seats, measured between perpendicular, between the back of one seat and the foremost portion of the seat, arm or frame behind. In new buildings to be constructed, the seatway shall in no case be less than 12 inches.
17. The number of persons admitted at any time into any part of the place licensed shall not exceed such number as may be specified in the licence as the number of persons who may be accommodated in such part. No person shall be permitted to remain in any of the intersecting gangways.
18. All tickets for cinema shows shall be sold either from such a number of counters and through internet booking, registered Kiosks (manned or unmanned) or any other emerging Technology as the licensing authority may determine as per proposal of the applicant.
19. In every place licensed shall be kept such number of chemical extinguishers, fire-buckets, hand-pumps or other small fire appliances as the licensing authority shall direct. The licensee shall comply with all directions issued by the licensing authority for the purpose of safe-guarding the public in case of fire.
20. There shall be exit door/s, on any of the sides of the auditorium, opposite or any other side of the Entrance door/s. Open space should be provided which should be not less than one-fourth of the width of the auditorium.
21. For the purpose of operating the machines for digital screening during show-time, there shall be sufficient number of qualified operators.
22. Secondary lighting shall be provided either by installation of the battery-operated system or otherwise so as to provide a secondary means of illuminating the exit indicators and the auditorium.
23. Every holder of a licence shall have all electrical installations in the cinema house regularly attended to by a qualified electrician holding a certificate of competency issued by the State Government under rule 48(1) of the Indian Electricity Rules, 1937.
24. The licence shall be produced by the licensee on demand by any police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector or by the Licensing Authority or by the Chief Electrical Inspector or by the Executive Engineer, PWD or any person authorised by them in this behalf.
25. Smoking shall not be permitted within the place of exhibition of films through digital screening."

By order of the Governor,

SANTANU BASU

Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal