

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: The Grudge
Other Known Title: Not Stated
Format: Film 35mm
Director/Author: Takashi Shimizu
Producer/Publisher: Sam Raimi, Rob Tapert, Taka Ishige
Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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Descriptive Note: Contains horror scenes.

Display Conditions: Nil.

Date of entry in Register: 27 January 2005

Date of direction to issue a label: 26 January 2005

Applicant: Secretary for Internal Affairs

Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable

OFLC No: 402077

Unexcised version of publication:

	Components	Running time
Feature:	The Grudge	92.32
Other timed components:	Nil	
Total running time:		92.32

Excisions: No Excisions Recommended.

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable.

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

The 35mm film entitled *The Grudge* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

This classification is due to the manner in which the publication deals with matters of horror, violence and cruelty.

Following complaints received about the rating of the film, the Chief Censor directed the Secretary of Internal Affairs, under s13(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, to obtain and submit a copy of the publication to the Classification Office. The publication was submitted on 21 December 2004.

The Grudge is a psychological drama/horror, containing many of the standard elements of the horror genre and typified by its concentration on scaring the audience with repeated suspense-building and sudden shocks. Elements of horror are involved in the feature's presentation of violence and cruelty. Some scenes, especially those involving the depiction of realistic domestic violence, suicide and gruesome murders, are also horrific in nature.

Younger viewers, with less ability to determine the real from the choreographed special effect, are likely to find some of the more frightening scenes with their heavily implied violence, disturbing to them in other real situations, especially considering that the violence occurs in bedroom cupboards and other domestic areas where children are encouraged to believe they are safe and protected. That the violently enraged and murderous 'spooks' are all Asian could also have a negative impact on the attitudes of younger viewers who have been disturbed or frightened by the publication. For these reasons the availability of the publication is restricted to persons 16 years of age and over.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the Bill of Rights on the application of the classification criteria. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression, but this is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression that reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that deal with matters of horror, cruelty and violence in a manner that is likely to be injurious to the public good.