

# ABA investigations 1996–2004

## Breaches of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice, by issue

From 1 July 1996–30 June 2004, the ABA conducted 308 investigations in which breaches of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice were found. The number of breaches in any one year peaked at 57 in 1998–99 and 1999–2000, compared with 15 in 2003–04.

In the eight years, the top six breach issues were complaint handling (26.6 per cent), classification / other (17.9 per cent),

bias / inaccuracy / fairness (12.3 per cent), violence (11.4 per cent), non-program matter (10.7 per cent) and sex / nudity (8.4 per cent). In 2003–04, highest number of code breaches related to violence on television, constituting 40 per cent of breach findings.

**Table 1 Breaches by issue: 1996 – 2004**

Issue	1996–97 No. %	1997–98 No. %	1998–99 No. %	1999–00 No. %	2000–01 No. %	2001–02 No. %	2002–03 No. %	2003–04 No. %	Total No. %
Sex/Nudity	1 6.3	9 23.7	3 5.3	7 12.3	3 5.4	0 0.0	3 8.6	0 0.0	26 8.4
Offensive language	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 1.8	1 1.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 0.6
Violence	0 0.0	1 2.6	1 1.8	7 12.3	9 16.1	5 14.7	6 17.1	6 40.0	35 11.4
Suicide	0 0.0	1 2.6	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 1.8	0 0.0	1 2.9	0 0.0	3 1.0
Drug use	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 1.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 2.9	0 0.0	2 0.6
Classification, other	4 25.0	13 34.2	6 10.5	9 15.8	8 14.3	3 8.8	11 31.4	1 6.7	55 17.9
Bias/Inaccuracy/ Fairness	2 12.5	6 15.8	1 1.8	5 8.8	6 10.7	8 23.5	5 14.3	5 33.3	38 12.3
Failure to correct errors of fact	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 3.5	1 1.8	3 8.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	6 1.9
Privacy	1 6.3	2 5.3	0 0.0	3 5.3	3 5.4	3 8.8	4 11.4	0 0.0	16 5.2
Unfair identification of individuals	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 5.9	1 2.9	1 6.7	4 1.3
Grief and trauma	0 0.0	1 2.6	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 0.3
NPM – Content*	1 6.3	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 1.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 0.6
NPM – Amount*	0 0.0	0 0.0	32 56.1	1 1.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	33 10.7
Host selling	2 12.5	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 1.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	3 1.0
Complaint handling	5 31.3	5 13.2	14 24.6	20 35.1	23 41.1	10 29.4	3 8.6	2 13.3	82 26.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 100.0</b>	<b>38 100.0</b>	<b>57 100.0</b>	<b>57 100.0</b>	<b>56 100.0</b>	<b>34 100.0</b>	<b>35 100.0</b>	<b>15 100.0</b>	<b>308 100.0</b>

Source: ABA investigations database  
\*NPM = Non-program matter, includes advertisements, program promotions and station promotions.

**Table 2 The top six breach issues 1996–2004**

Issue	No.	%
1 Complaint handling	82	26.6
2 Classification / other	55	17.9
3 Bias / inaccuracy / fairness	38	12.3
4 Violence	35	11.4
5 NPM – amount	33	10.7
6 Sex / Nudity	26	8.4

**Table 3 The top five breach issues in 2003–04**

Issue	No.	%
1 Violence	6	40
2 Bias / inaccuracy / fairness	5	33.3
3 Complaint handling	2	13.3
4 Classification / other	1	6.7
5 Unfair identification of individuals	1	6.7