



Revised guidelines for C and P program classification

The ABA has released a revised *Form ABA 13 Application for C and P Program Classification* and accompanying Guidelines.

The Guidelines are designed to assist applicants for C and P classification. They consist of: *Criteria for a Children's Program; Assessment Procedures for C or P Classification; and Application Requirements.*

As part of its review of the form and Guidelines, the ABA released a discussion paper, in July 2003, which sought comment on the structure, usefulness and general relevance of the Guidelines. There were eight submissions and two letters of support, and the ABA has taken these into consideration. The review was confined to the Guidelines and did not include

the Children's Television Standards.

The application form

Form ABA 13 – Application for C and P program classification must be submitted with all applications. Amendments emphasise that a program may aim at overlapping groups within the C audience. It now invites applicants to submit a resume of their previous production experience.

Guidelines

Criteria for a Children's Program gives the ABA's interpretation of CTS 2(a)–(e), including the factors taken into account when assessing programs.

The 'twens' is now recognised as a distinct segment of

the child audience, as is the overlap in the developmental stages of children in the age ranges of 5–7 years, 7–11 years, and 10–13 years.

Assessment Procedures for C or P Classification describes ABA assessment procedures.

Submitters to the review generally endorsed the 'holistic' approach to assessment and reporting which the ABA has pursued over the past two years.

The ABA advises applicants that it is not resourced to provide detailed feedback on current or future projects outside the formal application process, but does provide such feedback early in the production process as part of the provisional classification procedure. Although ABA staff endeavour to provide useful feedback in a timely manner they are not able to provide detailed advice before making a final decision.

Application Requirements lists the documentation which must accompany the application form: scripts, tapes and production information.

The ABA has reduced documentation requirements for second series and renewals, and removed the requirement for multiple copies.

Application requirements for Provisional C and Provisional P classification are unchanged.

Applicants for C drama classification are advised that scripts at second draft stage are now accepted. Scripts may also be submitted in smaller blocks, of no fewer than 13, rather than the previous requirement of complete series (or 26 episodes).

Applicants are reminded to advise the ABA of any substantive alterations to character or story development as they occur.

Accreditation scheme

In the review, the ABA considered implementing an accreditation scheme for experienced children's program producers. There was a general lack of support for the concept and the ABA decided instead to implement streamlined application requirements.



The Guidelines:

For copies of the revised Guidelines contact the ABA
 email: kids@aba.gov.au
 tel: (02) 9334 7700, 1800 861 766
 web site: www.aba.gov.au/tv/content/childtv/index.htm

Submissions to the review

Visit: www.aba.gov.au/tv/content/childtv/assessment/review03/index.htm