

CHAPTER 83

THE CINEMATOGRAPH ACT

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CINEMATOGRAPH

*(8th May, 1913.)*511913.
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S.I. 3911989.

1. This Act may be cited as the Cinematograph Act. **Short title.**

2. In this Act— **Interpretation.**

"film" means any film containing celluloid which is intended for use in a cinematograph or any similar apparatus.

3. (1) No person may conduct or allow to be presented or given by means of a cinematograph, or other similar apparatus for the purposes of which inflammable films are used, any exhibition of pictures or other optical effects without the written permission of the Minister. **Permit to conduct cinematograph.**

(2) The Minister may refuse to grant such permission or grant it subject to the regulations made under this Act and subject to such special conditions and restrictions, to be specified in the permission, as to him may seem fit; and any such permission may be revoked by the Minister at any time.

4. Where the Minister grants any such permission upon the condition that the exhibition be conducted under the superintendence of some officer or person designated in the permission, then the officer or person so designated may at any time order such exhibition to cease or may give any other direction which he may think necessary for ensuring the safety from fire of the premises at which the exhibition takes place and of the people attending the exhibition. **Supervision of exhibition to ensure safety from fire.**

5. Any person who conducts or who in any way assists in conducting any such exhibition in contravention of the provisions of section 3, or the regulations made under this Act, or of any conditions or restrictions specified in a permission so granted, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. **Offence.**

Duty of occupier,
&=, of premises.

6. (1) It shall be the duty of the occupier or the person who manages or receives the rent of any premises at which it may be proposed to conduct any such exhibition, to ascertain whether the requisite permission of the Minister shall have been obtained and, if so, the terms of such permission; and it shall also be the duty of such occupier or person to give notice to the Commissioner of Police, if and so soon as he has reason to believe that there is an intention to proceed with the exhibition either without the Minister's permission or with such permission but without having everything done, which may be required under such permission to be done, previous to the exhibition taking place.

(2) Any occupier or person referred to in this section who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Film to be stored
when not in use.

7. All stocks of film except when actually being used or manipulated shall be kept either in a storeroom, or in fire-resisting receptacles, which shall not be used for any other purpose and shall be plainly marked "Film".

Reels of film to
be kept in metal
box.

8. Every reel of film shall, except when required to be exposed for the purposes of the work carried on in the premises, be kept in a separate and properly closed metal box.

Limit of film to
be exposed.

9. Not more than ten reels or forty pounds of film shall be exposed at any one time.

Provisions
applying to store
room.

10. The following provisions shall apply to every room used for the storing of film—

(a) The room shall be constructed of fire-resisting material in such manner as to prevent as far as is reasonably practicable any fire occurring in the room from spreading to other parts of the premises or to other premises and any fire occurring outside the room from reaching the contents thereof;

(b) The room shall be used for no other purpose;

(c) The room shall be kept properly ventilated;

(d) The furniture and apparatus shall be so arranged as to afford free egress to persons in the room in the event of fire;

(e) No open light or fire shall be allowed;

(f) The fittings shall, so far as is practicable, be of non-inflammable or fire-resisting material;

(g) No person shall smoke in or take matches into the room.

11. (1) Any police officer or any officer appointed for the purpose by the Minister may at all reasonable times enter any premises in which he has reason to believe that any cinematograph or any similar exhibition is being or about to be given, with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, and the conditions of any permission so granted have been complied with; and if any person prevents or obstructs anyone acting as aforesaid he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. **Power of entry and inspection.**

(2) Any constable duly authorized in writing by the Commissioner or any Deputy Commissioner of the Police Force, may at all reasonable times enter and inspect any room in any premises, which is used or which such constable has reasonable cause to believe is used, as a room for storing film.

(3) Every such constable on visiting any such premises shall, if so required, produce the said written authority to the occupier or manager or other person for the time being in charge of such premises.

(4) If any person refuses to permit any constable authorized under this Act to enter and inspect any premises, or hinders or obstructs any such constable in the execution of his duty under this Act, or refuses to give him facilities for the purposes, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

12. The Cabinet may make such regulations as they may deem expedient for regulating and controlling cinematograph and other similar exhibitions. **Regulations.**

13. Any person who is guilty of an offence against this Act or any regulations made thereunder or who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. **Penalty**

Burden of proof.

14. In any prosecution under this Act, the onus of proving compliance with the provisions of this Act or of any regulations made thereunder shall lie on the defendant.
