

Guidance: Relationship between Old and New Codes of Broadcasting Practice

The new codes of broadcasting practice for radio, free-to-air television and pay television have been in force since **1 April 2016**. This means they apply to all programmes broadcast **on or after 1 April 2016**. The old codes applied to programmes broadcast **before 1 April 2016**.

Below is a list of the new standards and their corresponding standard in the old codes:

Radio Code

New standards	Old standards
Standard 1: Good Taste and Decency	Standard 1: Good Taste and Decency
Standard 2: Programme Information	Standard 8: Responsible Programming
Standard 3: Children's Interests	(new standard)
Standard 4: Violence	(new standard)
Standard 5: Law and Order	Standard 2: Law and Order
Standard 6: Discrimination and Denigration	Standard 7: Discrimination and Denigration
Standard 7: Alcohol	Standard 9: Liquor
Standard 8: Balance	Standard 4: Controversial Issues - Viewpoints
Standard 9: Accuracy	Standard 5: Accuracy
Standard 10: Privacy	Standard 3: Privacy
Standard 11: Fairness	Standard 6: Fairness

Free-to-Air Television Code

New standards	Old standards
Standard 1: Good Taste and Decency	Standard 1: Good Taste and Decency
Standard 2: Programme Information	Standard 8: Responsible Programming
Standard 3: Children's Interests	Standard 9: Children's Interests
Standard 4: Violence	Standard 10: Violence
Standard 5: Law and Order	Standard 2: Law and Order
Standard 6: Discrimination and Denigration	Standard 7: Discrimination and Denigration
Standard 7: Alcohol	Standard 11: Liquor
Standard 8: Balance	Standard 4: Controversial Issues - Viewpoints
Standard 9: Accuracy	Standard 5: Accuracy
Standard 10: Privacy	Standard 3: Privacy
Standard 11: Fairness	Standard 6: Fairness

Pay Television Code

New standards	Old standards
Standard 1: Good Taste and Decency	Standard P2: Good Taste and Decency
Standard 2: Programme Information	Standard P1: Content Classification, Warning and Filtering
Standard 3: Children's Interests	Standard P3: Children
Standard 4: Violence	Standard P4: Violence
Standard 5: Law and Order	Standard P5: Law and Order

Standard 6: Discrimination and Denigration	(new standard)
Standard 7: Alcohol	Standard P10: Liquor
Standard 8: Balance	Standard P6: Balance
Standard 9: Accuracy	Standard P8: Accuracy
Standard 10: Privacy	Standard P9: Privacy
Standard 11: Fairness	Standard P7: Fairness

What will happen to the BSA's previous codes and other resources/guidance?

The previous BSA codes are superseded by the new codebook. Other resources, such as guidance, practice notes and advisory opinions, will continue to be used where relevant and appropriate. However, in the case of any inconsistency between the new codebook and any previous BSA material, the codebook will prevail.

The old codes will remain available on our website.

What has changed in the new codes?

The new codes are intended to reflect the Authority's present approach in determining complaints and are not significantly different to the current codes. Any changes made have largely been to better reflect this approach, or for consistency, ease of reference or readability.

Key changes made across all codes include:

- Radio Code: the addition of the Children's Interests and Violence standards (dealt with under the Responsible Programming standard in the current code)
- Pay Television Code: the addition of the Discrimination and Denigration standard
- Where appropriate, consistent guidelines for each standard across all three codes
- Increased emphasis on the context of a broadcast as relevant to determining whether a standard has been breached, in particular under the Good Taste and Decency standard
- 'Socially responsible programming' is not referred to in the new Programme Information standard but would be covered by other standards (for example, Law and Order)
- A focus on preventing broadcasts which might 'adversely affect' child viewers or listeners under the Children's Interests standard
- Additional guidelines outlining what may be relevant considerations under the Balance and Accuracy standards
- The introduction of Privacy guidelines and separate privacy guidance to replace the Authority's Advisory Opinion: Privacy Principles.

The new codebook also contains an introduction section, commentary on the standards, definitions and updated guidance on the complaints process, privacy, distinguishing fact and opinion, the BSA's powers to decline to determine a complaint and costs awards, which were not previously included in the codes.