

INFORMATION FOR LIBRARIES

LENDING FILMS AND PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES

Who classifies films and computer games?

The Classification Board and Classification Review Board classify films and computer games so that members of the community can make decisions about the type of material they choose to watch or play. The Classification Operations Branch in the Attorney-General's Department provides Secretariat support for the Board and Review Board.




How do I know which films and computer games will suit which ages of student?

Films and computer games are classified into either advisory or legally restricted classifications. Anyone can watch films and play games that are classified G, PG and M. If a film or a computer game is classified MA 15+ the content is considered to be strong enough to impose restrictions on students who are under 15 years. R 18+ films are for adults. There is no R 18+ classification for computer games. Some educational films and games may be exempt from classification.


Each classification carries a classification marking which can be used to help decide on the suitability of a film or computer game for their students.

Consumer advice is also provided with films and computer games. The G category does not usually carry consumer advice. These are phrases next to the classification symbol which provide extra information about the content of the film or computer game. The phrases indicate the strongest classifiable elements contained in the film or computer game.

ADVISORY CLASSIFICATIONS – G, PG, and M

	This classification is for a general audience. There may be some films and computer games in this category that are of no interest to children and young teenagers.
	Material in this classification might upset, frighten, or confuse children and young teenagers, and an adult may be required to provide guidance.
	This classification is recommended for people who are 15 years and over. It is not against the law to lend this material to younger people, however, this category is more suited to mature audiences because the films and computer games may contain themes and scenes which require a mature perspective.

THE RESTRICTED CLASSIFICATIONS– MA 15+ and R 18+

 <p>MA 15+ RESTRICTED</p> <p>Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian</p>	<p>This classification is also suited to people who are 15 years and over.</p> <p>Material in this classification is stronger than the M classification.</p> <p>This classification is legally restricted. The restrictions apply to persons who are under 15 years. If people under 15 years want to borrow these films or computer games they must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.</p>
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What is the difference between M and MA 15+?

Both of these classifications can be seen by people who are 15 years or older. However, material classified MA 15+ is legally “restricted”. This restriction means films or games classified MA 15+ can only be borrowed if:

- (a) the person is 15 years or older, or
- (b) the person under 15 years is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

What does guardian mean?

The legal definition of “guardian” is not identical across State and Territory jurisdictions. You should clarify the meaning of guardian with your policy department or governing body.

 <p>R 18+ RESTRICTED</p> <p>Restricted to 18 and over</p>	<p>This classification applies only to films.</p> <p>The material in this classification is for adult audiences.</p>
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A detailed description of each classification is contained in the *Classification Guidelines for Films and Computer Games 2005*.