



Classification requirements for amusement arcade games

Computer game classifications

Classification markings	Content	Classification description
	Very Mild	General
	Mild	Parental guidance recommended
	Moderate	Recommended for mature audiences
	Strong	Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian
	High	Restricted to people 18 years and over

Computer games available for play

Generally, all computer games being made available for play must be classified.

While there are some games that may be exempt from classification, this only applies to a very narrow range of games (i.e. business, accounting, professional, scientific and educational computer games).

NB classifications do not apply to mechanical games such as pinball, basketball, dance and wack-em' games etc

For internet game apps see the IARC Fact Sheet on this webpage.

Age recommendations and restrictions

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions regarding who can play these computer games. It should be remembered however, that parental guidance is



recommended for PG computer games and M computer games are not recommended for people under 15 years.

MA15+ and R 18+ are legally restricted classifications. Computer games classified MA15+ can only be sold or hired to people 15 years or older, unless they are accompanied by their parent or guardian, or in Queensland by an adult. Computer games classified R 18+ can only be sold or hired to people 18 years or older.

Display of classification markings for games

Classified computer games and advertising for these games, must display the correct classification marking.

Classification markings must be prominent, readily identifiable and clearly legible. In order to be 'prominent', a marking should be visible upon first glance. In order to be 'readily identifiable', a viewer must be able to recognise the marking as one of the determined markings set out in the instrument. In order to be 'clearly legible', a viewer must be able to read the marking and any consumer advice from a reasonable distance. What constitutes a reasonable distance may change depending on the product.

The classification marking must also be easily distinguishable from the background and any other information or moving image with which the marking is displayed.

It is an offence to make a computer game available for play unless the determined markings and relevant consumer advice (if any) are displayed on the device used for playing the game.

Below is an example of the classification marking for a computer game classified MA15+ with consumer advice "Strong violence, Strong coarse language".



Advertising an unclassified computer game

Prior to classification

Unclassified computer games can be advertised prior to classification.

The letters **CTC** can be used for small print advertising and session time displays to indicate a computer game is to be classified.

Generally other advertising needs the **advertising message**



After classification

In some states and territories there are restrictions on screening trailers or demonstrating MA15+ and R 18+ computer games in a public place.

Website advertising

Computer game advertising on websites needs to display the advertising message or classification markings.

Classification approved notice

A notice explaining what each of the classification categories mean must be displayed in a prominent place where computer games are being offered to play.

Further information

Each state and territory has classification legislation which covers what material is legal, how it is to be marked, displayed, delivered, sold and advertised and penalties for breaching requirements. This information sheet is provided as a general guide only and you should refer to the relevant Classification Act. Links to each state and territory Classification Act are available at www.classification.gov.au.

You can check a computer game's classification and consumer advice on the classification database at www.classification.gov.au. There are also downloads of the classification markings, the classification approved notice and classification legends.

You can also contact the Compliance and Education team at the Classification Branch on Ph: 02 9289 7100 or cae@classification.gov.au.