



Classification requirements for computer game retailers

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

Selling or hiring computer games

Generally, all computer games displayed for sale/hire or being sold/hired must be classified. While there are some games that may be exempt from classification, this only applies to a very narrow range of games.

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions regarding the sale or hire of these computer games. It should be remembered however, that computer games classified M 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 computer games

Classified computer games and advertising for these games, must display the correct classification and consumer advice markings.

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.

Advertising such as posters, promotional display boxes, catalogues, demo discs, trailers and cinema ads for computer games must display the classification markings. Depending upon the type of advertisement and size, this generally includes the classification and the consumer advice applicable to the particular computer game.

Below is an example of the classification markings to be used for a computer game classified MA15+ using the consumer advice "Strong violence, Strong coarse language" for a standard film container (Note: These are not to scale).



Demonstrating or screening computer games in store

Only classified computer games can be demonstrated in a public place. "Demonstrate" includes to screen or make available for play.

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions on the demonstration of 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. There are restrictions on the demonstration of MA15+ and R 18+ games in a public place in all States and Territories.

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 sold, hired or offered for 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.