



Classification requirements for film retailers

Film 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 films

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

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions regarding the sale or hire of these films. It should be remembered however, that films classified M are not recommended for people under 15 years.

MA15+ and R 18+ are legally restricted classifications. Films 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. Films classified R 18+ can only be sold or hired to people 18 years or older.

Display of classification markings for films

Classified films and advertising for these films, must display the classification and the consumer advice applicable to that particular film. The markings must be displayed on the front, back and, where possible, on the spine.



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 films 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 film.

Below is an example of the classification markings to be used for a film classified MA15+ using the consumer advice "Strong violence, Strong coarse language"



Screening films in store

Only classified films can be screened in a public place. The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions on the screening of these films. It should be remembered however, that parental guidance is recommended for PG films; and M films are not recommended for people under 15 years.

MA15+ and R18+ are legally restricted classifications. It is an offence to screen a MA15+ film in a public place unless the place is restricted to persons over 15 years or, if persons under 15 years are present, they are accompanied by their parent or adult guardian, or in Queensland by an adult.

A R18+ film cannot be screened in a public place or in the presence of a person who is under 18 years.

Advertising an unclassified film

Prior to classification

Unclassified films can be advertised prior to classification.

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

Generally other advertising needs the **advertising message** →

A yellow rounded rectangular button with a black border and the text 'Check the Classification' in black.

After classification

In some states and territories there are restrictions on screening trailers for MA15+ and R 18+ films in a public place.

Website advertising

Film 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 films are being sold or hired.

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 film'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.

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The [Digital Services team](#) will help you to create accessible documents and forms and answer any questions. Please let the team see your documents before getting full sign off from the Minister's office, so there is time to make any necessary changes. The team will produce an accessible PDF for you from your word document.

The following checklists may assist you to make your documents accessible.