



New classification exemption arrangements for film festivals, computer game expos and cultural institutions

What is changing?

On 11 September 2015, new classification exemption arrangements commence for special events like film festivals and computer game expos and for cultural institutions wishing to exhibit unclassified films, computer games and certain publications.

Event organisers will no longer be required to apply to the Director of the Classification Board for an exemption from the usual classification requirements. Rather, they will be able to self-assess their eligibility for an exemption.

These new arrangements provide for a faster and simpler process.

How do the new exemptions work?

There are two types of exemptions under the new arrangements: those for **registered events** and those for **approved cultural institutions**. Both registered events and approved cultural institutions are able to exhibit unclassified films, computer and publications (subject to the conditions below).

Registered events

For an exemption to apply, events that wholly or mainly involve the showing of films, computer games or publications, such as a film festival or a computer games expo, must be registered on the Attorney-General's Department's online classification portal.

Approved cultural institutions

Approved cultural institutions must carry on activities of an educational, cultural or artistic nature and have a sound reputation. Approved cultural institutions may include art galleries and museums.

Approved cultural institutions are not required to register their events. However, event organisers must use persons trained by the Attorney-General's Department to assess the unclassified material for the exemption to apply.



What conditions apply?

Conditions apply to registered events and events run by approved cultural institutions, including:

- children under 15 years of age may not be present at the exhibition of any unclassified material that would likely be classified M or MA 15+ unless they are accompanied by an adult
- only adults may access unclassified content that would likely be classified R 18+ or (for publications) Category 1—Restricted
- information about audience age restrictions must be clearly and prominently displayed. (Classification symbols should not be used for this purpose as the material is unclassified)
- unclassified content that would likely be classified Refused Classification, X 18+ or Category 2—Restricted cannot be exhibited.

In addition, unclassified films that are included in registered events must not be screened more than four times per state or territory. Special conditions apply to travelling film festivals that tour to regional, rural or remote areas, which may register each discrete tour stop separately.

Can I get a waiver from these conditions?

In exceptional circumstances where these conditions cannot be met, an organisation may apply to the Director of the Classification Board for a waiver or variation of any rule or condition. Such applications should be made well in advance of when a decision is required and applicants will need to provide reasons justifying their request.

Are there any fees involved?

At present, no fees will be charged under the new exemption arrangements.

What happens if I don't meet the conditions?

If you do not meet the conditions for an exemption, you will not be able to exhibit unclassified films, computer games or publications legally.

Where can I get more information?

Visit [Classification website](#) or email CAE@classification.gov.au.