

Classification requirements for cinema managers.



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

Age restrictions on viewing films

Generally, all films screened must be classified. While there are some films that may be exempt from classification, this only applies to a narrow range of films screened in cinemas.

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 R18+ can only be screened to adults aged 18 years and over (or children under 2 in Queensland).



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** →

After classification

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

Advertising – screening trailers with feature films

Advertising prior to classification

Unclassified films and computer games can be assessed for their likely classification by an Authorised Advertising Assessor or by the Classification Board before they are classified. Advertising an unclassified film or computer game can only occur when the advertising has been assessed to be at the same classification level as the feature film, or with feature films of a higher classification. This means:

If a film or computer game is assessed	You can show trailers for the film or computer game with films classified
with a likely classification of G	R 18+, MA 15+, M, PG and G
with a likely classification of PG	R 18+, MA 15+, M, and PG
with a likely classification of M	R 18+, MA 15+ and M
with a likely classification of MA 15+	R 18+ and MA 15+
with a likely classification of R 18+	R 18+

A trailer for an unclassified film or computer game which can be advertised must screen the advertising message tag before the trailer.

Once a film is classified, the advertising message must be **replaced** with the classification tag within 7 days of notification of the film's classification to the distributor.

Advertising after classification

Cinemas can only show trailers for films or computer games with the same or lower classification as the feature film. This means:

If the feature film is classified	You can show trailers for films or computer games classified
G	G
PG	PG and G
M	M, PG and G
MA15+	MA 15+, M, PG and G
R18+	All films and computer games



Classification & consumer advice at cinema point of sale

Cinemas must provide the classification and the consumer advice for all films being screened. It is preferable that this is at the point of sale so that consumers can make a purchase choice with the classification information at hand.

Where it is not practicable for the cinema to have classification information at the point of sale, it must be available before the point of entry to the film.

Advertising – loop trailers in foyers

Advertising prior to classification

Trailers for unclassified films screened in a cinema foyer must have the advertising message. The advertising message does not need to be updated after the film is classified.

Advertising after classification

Trailers for classified films screened in a cinema foyer need to display the classification marking or the advertising message. There are restrictions on screening trailers for MA 15+ and R 18+ films in a public place in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory.

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.

