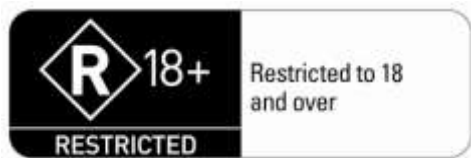




Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

The M, MA15+ and R18+ classifications



The M classification

M is an advisory classification. This classification advises audiences that a level of maturity is required in relation to the film. While anyone can gain admission to an M film, material classified **M is not recommended for under 15s**.

The MA15+ classification

MA15+ films are **not suitable for people under 15** as the content is strong in impact. There are **legal restrictions** governing who can be admitted to MA15+ films.

In Queensland, a person aged between 2 and under 15 cannot be admitted to a MA15+ film unless they are accompanied by an adult **for the duration of the film**. That is, a child under 2 can be admitted to a MA15+ film.

The requirements are not met if the adult buys a ticket, but does not accompany the child in the cinema for the duration of the film.

Who qualifies as an “adult” for a person under 15?

Any person 18 years or older is an adult and may accompany a person aged between 2 and under 15 to a MA15+ film.

The R18+ classification

R18+ films are **not suitable for people under 18** as the content is high impact. There are **legal restrictions** governing who can be admitted to R18+ films.

People aged between 2 and under 18 cannot be admitted to a R18+ film. That is, a child under 2 can be admitted to a R18+ film.

Proof of age at the cinema

Cinemas may verify a person's age before they provide access to a MA15+ or R18+ film.

Proof of age (preferably in the form of photo identification) may be requested of the person claiming to be 15 or 18, or of the parent or guardian.

Where do you get photo ID?

An under 18 keypass, see <<http://www.keypass.com.au>>, is a widely accepted form of ID which includes a photograph and date of birth.

Passports, learner driver licences and some educational institution IDs also include a photograph and date of birth.

When can cinemas refuse entry to under 15s to MA15+ and R18+ films?

Cinemas are required to abide by the MA15+ and R18+ restrictions. This means refusing entry to a MA15+ film to any person who reasonably appears to be aged between 2 and under 15 and who is not accompanied by an adult.

Similarly, entry to a R18+ film can be refused to any person who reasonably appears to be aged between 2 and under 18.

What are the penalties for breaking MA15+ and R18+ laws?

It is an offence to exhibit a MA15+ film to a person aged between 2 and under 15 unless they are accompanied by an adult or a R18+ film if a person aged between 2 and under 18 is present. There are limited defences to these offences.

Fines are up to \$750 for. Fines for companies may be even higher.

Classification notice

A notice explaining what the classifications G to R18+ mean must be displayed in a prominent place where films are being exhibited. Notices are available by contacting the Classification Operations Branch on 02 9289 7100 or can be downloaded from <<http://www.classification.gov.au>>.

Need more information?

If you require further information, please contact the Classification Liaison Scheme on 02 9289 7100 or cls@classification.gov.au