



# INFORMATION SHEET FOR MAGAZINE RETAILERS

Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

## Magazine classifications

There are 4 types of classification for submittable magazines:

**Unrestricted** – Some of these magazines are not recommended for people under 15 years.

**Category 1 Restricted** – These magazines are legally restricted to people 18 years and over and contain stronger and more detailed images than Unrestricted.

**Category 2 Restricted** – These magazines are legally restricted to people 18 years and over, can only be sold in certain places and contain stronger images than Category 1 Restricted.

**Refused Classification (RC)** – These magazines cannot be legally sold.

## Sale of classified magazines

It is an offence under Australian classification laws to sell an unclassified magazine that should have been submitted for classification. This applies to both locally published and imported magazines. If a magazine has been classified in a modified form, then it must be sold with those modifications such as black dots, pages removed etc.

Retailers should note that they are liable for breaches of these legal requirements and penalties of up to \$15,000 per magazine can apply, depending upon the offence.

## State and Territory differences

### Unrestricted

These magazines are not legally restricted, however, some are not recommended for people under 15 years.

### Category 1 Restricted

In QLD, it is illegal to sell Category 1 Restricted magazines and in prescribed areas of the NT.

In all other States and Territories, Category 1 Restricted magazines:

- are legally restricted and can only be sold to people 18 years and over, and
- can only be displayed for sale in general outlets (eg a newsagency, convenience store or service station) if they are in sealed wrapping. In SA, VIC, NT and WA the wrapping must be opaque.

In WA, a retailer needs to be registered with the WA Censorship Office before they can sell Category 1 Restricted magazines.

### Category 2 Restricted

In QLD, it is illegal to sell Category 2 Restricted magazines and in prescribed areas of the NT.

In ACT, NSW, NT, SA and Victoria, Category 2 Restricted magazines can only be displayed for sale or sold in a restricted publications area, for example an adult shop.

In Tasmania and WA, Category 2 Restricted magazines can be sold in premises that are not restricted publications areas, provided certain conditions are met. In WA, a retailer needs to be registered with the WA Censorship Office before they can sell Category 2 Restricted magazines.

Category 2 Restricted magazines are legally restricted and can only be sold to people 18 years and over.

## Combination magazine & video/DVD packs

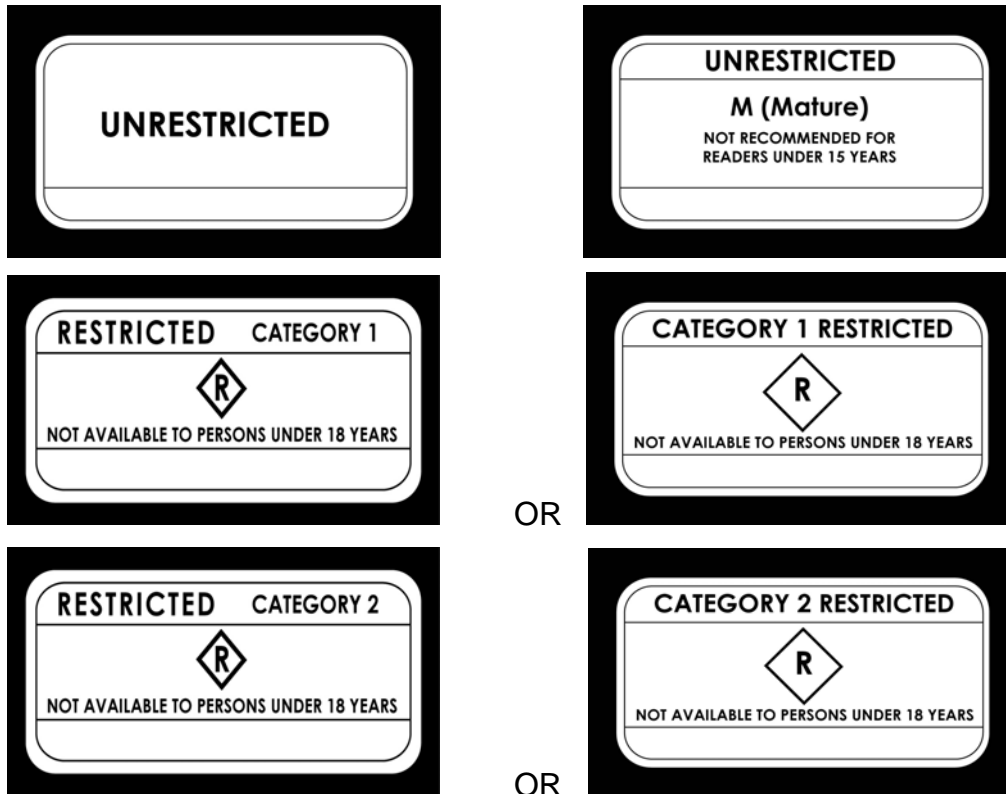
Unrestricted or Category 1 Restricted magazines may be packaged with R18+ films. Retailers need to note that:

- both the magazine and film need to be classified and display the correct classification markings
- the pack can only be legally sold to people over 18 years of age and over (Category 1 Restricted cannot be sold in QLD),
- the sale of films classified X18+ or unclassified in these packs is prohibited.

## Classification markings

Classified magazines must display the correct classification markings. For Category 1 Restricted magazines contained in sealed opaque wrapping, the marking must also be displayed on the wrapping.

The classification markings must be clearly legible, prominent and the typeface and colour must be easily distinguishable from the background. New classification markings came into effect on 1 July 2007 and are:



Minimum size is 30mm x 70mm

Under classification law it is an offence to:

- sell a classified magazine without classification markings.
- sell an unclassified magazine which has a marking that indicates the magazine has been classified.
- sell a classified magazine which has a marking that indicates the magazine has a different classification.

Retailers and distributors should note that they are both liable for breaches of these legal requirements and penalties of up to \$5,000 per magazine can apply, depending upon the offence.

## 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.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au). Information about policy issues relating to the National Classification Scheme in Australia is also available from this website.

You can check whether a film or publication is classified on the classification database at [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au). There is information about how to apply for classification and how to comply with classification legislation requirements. You can also find out about serial classification for publications which commenced on 1 December 2005.

You can also contact the Classification Liaison Scheme, located within the Classification Operations Branch of the Attorney General's Department, on Ph: (02) 9289 7100 or [cls@classification.gov.au](mailto:cls@classification.gov.au).