











Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AMUSEMENT ARCADE GAMES

Computer game classifications

Old markings	New 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

There is no R 18+ classification for computer games.

Computer games available for play

Generally, all computer games being made available for play must be classified.

While there are some games that may be exempt from classification, this only applies to a very narrow range of games (i.e. business, accounting, professional, scientific and educational computer games). **NB classifications do not apply to mechanical games such as pinball, basketball, dance and wack-em' games etc**

Age recommendations and restrictions

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions regarding who can play these computer games. It should be remembered however, that parental guidance is recommended for PG computer games and M computer games are not recommended for people under 15 years.

MA15+ is a legally restricted classification. There are restrictions on the availability to play MA15+ games in a public place in all States and Territories.

Display of classification marking for games

Classified computer games and advertising for these games, must display the correct classification marking.

It is an offence to make a computer game available for play unless the determined markings and relevant consumer advice (if any) are displayed on the device used for playing the game.

New classification markings were introduced on 26 May 2005. Computer games classified before 26 May 2005 can display either the old or the new classification markings. All computer games classified on or after 26 May 2005 must display the new markings.

The classification markings must be placed in the lower left corner of the main title board in the form of a combination box (at least 40mm high and 124mm wide) with both the colour classification symbol rectangle and the consumer advice.

Below is an example of the classification marking for a computer game classified MA15+ with consumer advice "Strong violence, Strong coarse language". Generally, G games have no consumer advice. These games can be marked with a G combination box with "General" where the consumer advice would be or a G classification symbol rectangle as shown below. (Note: These are not to scale).

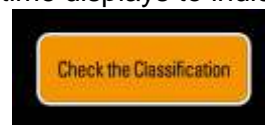


Advertising a computer game

Prior to classification

Unclassified computer games can be advertised prior to classification.

- The letters **CTC** can be used for small print advertising and session time displays to indicate a computer game is to be classified;
- Generally other advertising needs the **advertising message** →



Website advertising

Computer game advertising on websites needs to display the advertising message or classification markings and a classification legend.

Classification approved notice

A notice explaining what each of the classification categories mean must be displayed in a prominent place where computer games are being offered to play.

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.aq.gov.au. Information about policy issues relating to the National Classification Scheme in Australia is also available from this website.

You can check a computer game'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 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.