











# CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPUTER GAME RETAILERS

Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

## 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 R18+ classification for computer games.

## Selling or hiring and computer games

Generally, all computer games displayed for sale/hire or being sold/hired must be classified. While there are some games that may be exempt from classification, this only applies to a very narrow range of games.

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions regarding the sale or hire of these computer games. It should be remembered however, that computer games classified M are not recommended for people under 15 years.

MA15+ is a legally restricted classification. Computer games 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.

## Classification markings for computer games

Classified computer games and advertising for these games, must display the correct classification marking. For game products this includes the classification and the consumer advice applicable to that particular game. The marking must be displayed on the lower left corner, on the lower back of the product and where possible on the spine.

Advertising such as posters, promotional display boxes, catalogues, demo discs, trailers and cinema ads for computer games must display the classification markings. Depending upon the type of advertisement and size, this generally includes the classification and the consumer advice applicable to the particular computer 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.

Below is an example of the new classification markings to be used for a computer game classified MA15+ using the consumer advice “Strong violence, Strong coarse language” for a standard film container (Note: These are not to scale).



Front cover 20x62mm



Back cover 20x34mm



Spine 12x12mm

## Demonstrating or screening computer games in store

Only classified computer games can be demonstrated in a public place. “Demonstrate” includes to screen or make available for play.

The G, PG and M classifications are advisory only and there are no legal age restrictions on the demonstration of 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 demonstration of MA15+ games in a public place in all States and Territories.

## 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, hired, 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 a computer game’s classification and consumer advice on the classification database at [www.classification.gov.au](http://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](mailto:cls@classification.gov.au).