



Publications—Overview

Classifications	National Classification Code ¹	Examples
<p><i>Category 1 – restricted</i></p> <p>Legally restricted to people 18 and over.</p> <p>Cannot be sold in QLD or in certain areas of NT.</p> <p>Material classified ‘Category 1 - Restricted’ must be distributed in a sealed wrapper.</p> <p>Covers must be suitable for public display. Publications with covers which are considered not suitable for public display will not be permitted in this classification category unless sealed in plain opaque wrapping.</p> <p>The Board determines whether it needs to be sold or delivered in opaque packaging with the classification marking on both the publication and packaging.</p>	<p>Publications (except RC publications and Category 2 restricted publications) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) explicitly depict nudity, or describe or impliedly depict sexual or sexually related activity between consenting adults, in a way that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; or (b) describe or express in detail violence or sexual activity between consenting adults in a way that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; or (c) are unsuitable for a minor to see or read. 	<p>Fictitious, stylised, and very detailed descriptions and/or depictions of non-sexual violence is allowed with almost no restriction within an artistic context. Comic books, manga and novels would very rarely exceed what is allowed at a Cat 1 level.</p> <p>Detailed descriptions and/or stylised, artistic depictions of nudity, sexualised imagery, and violence.</p> <p>Real images of nude persons within the context of a magazine but with no depiction of genitals, and only implied sexual activity.</p> <p>Comic books with sexual content may contain sexual fetishes. Depiction of genital contact is still not allowed.</p> <p>Works of art can be the exception to the rule in terms of nudity, sexuality and fetishism. Think world famous artists (e.g. Mapplethorpe).</p> <p>Depictions of real violence is only allowed within the context of photojournalism / informative work or artistic renderings of real events.</p> <p>Detailed descriptions of sexual violence in novels or stylised, implied depictions in comic books are allowed. Real depictions of sexual violence are not allowed.</p> <p>Rule of thumb: real depiction is unlikely to be allowed in this category, unless in non-fiction or novel, or work of art.</p> <p>Mitigating factors: stylised depictions (drawings, comic book, manga illustrations, written words only etc.), tone (humour, satire, artistic merits), treatment (informative, artistic etc.). All will tend to keep to Cat 1 or unrestricted.</p> <p>Exceptions always possible.</p> <p>Contributing factors: real-life images; extremely detailed descriptions or real-life depictions; publications instructing or promoting criminal actions or activities. All will tend to push to Cat 2 or RC.</p>

¹ [Federal Register of Legislation - National Classification Code \(May 2005\)](#)

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<p>Category 2 – restricted</p> <p>Legally restricted to people 18 and over. Cannot be sold in QLD or in certain areas of NT. Must be sold or delivered in packaging with the marking displayed prominently. In TAS & WA publications can be displayed for sale in general outlets if they are in sealed wrapping. Material classified ‘Category 2 - Restricted’ may not be publicly displayed and may only be displayed in premises that are restricted to adults.</p>	<p>Publications (except RC publications) that:</p> <p>(a) explicitly depict sexual or sexually related activity between consenting adults in a way that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; or</p> <p>(b) depict, describe or express revolting or abhorrent phenomena in a way that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult and are unsuitable for a minor to see or read.</p>	<p>Any depictions that can potentially offend some large sections of the adult community and are unsuitable for a minor to see or read.</p> <p>Detailed nudity and depictions of explicit sexual activity between consenting adults are allowed, including genital detail.</p> <p>Depictions of sexual violence should not be detailed; stylised implied depictions of sexual violence are allowed e.g. sexual violence between one or more individuals.</p>
<p>Refused Classification (RC)</p> <p>Cannot be hired or sold in Australia. Material classified as RC contains content that is outside generally accepted community standards and exceeds what can be included in the 18+ categories.</p>	<p>Publications that:</p> <p>(a) describe, depict, express or otherwise deal with matters of sex, drug misuse or addiction, crime, cruelty, violence or revolting or abhorrent phenomena in such a way that they offend against the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults to the extent that they should not be classified; or</p> <p>(b) describe or depict in a way that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult, a person who is, or appears to be, a child under 18 (whether the person is engaged in sexual activity or not); or</p> <p>(c) promote, incite or instruct in matters of crime or violence.</p>	<p>Any material considered to be offensive (cause extreme disgust – likely to offend most people) and or exploitative (purposefully debase or abuse for the enjoyment of the readers, and lacking moral, artistic or other values.)</p> <p>Manuals, magazines, novels, manga or comic books instructing and/or promoting terrorism, or depicting real violence, real sexual violence, or including sexualised depictions of a person under 18, or normalising abhorrent and illegal activities such as paedophilia, are RC.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <p>Descriptions of sexual activity involving minors, sexualised nudity involving minors and incest fantasies.</p> <p>Detailed depictions and instructions of drug use are not allowed.</p>

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<p><i>Unrestricted</i></p> <p>The Board may determine that a publication does not warrant restriction to adults. Such publications are classified 'Unrestricted'.</p> <p>The 'Unrestricted' classification encompasses a wide range of material. It is not likely to include material that offends a reasonable adult to the extent that it should be restricted.</p> <p>Some publications classified 'Unrestricted' may not be recommended for readers under 15 years of age.</p> <p>The Board can add a consumer advice of "M - not recommended for under 15." If in the Board's view the content warrants a mature perspective. Publications with this consumer advice are NOT legally restricted.</p>	<p>All other publications.</p> <p>Generally, descriptions and depictions of classifiable elements in publications classified 'Unrestricted' may contain some detail. However, the impact will not be so strong as to require legal restriction. The impact of covers of 'Unrestricted' publications will be low.</p> <p>Publications which emphasise both violence and sexual activity and/or nudity will not be permitted in this classification category. Publications which deal with sexual matters and/or nudity should not be exploitative.</p> <p>Covers must be suitable for display in public. The impact of any descriptions, depictions and references on covers should be low. Publications with covers which are not suitable for public display will not be permitted in the 'Unrestricted' category.</p> <p>Bona fide artworks which may offend some sections of the adult community may be classified 'Unrestricted' when authentically set in a particular historical or cultural context.</p>	<p>The overwhelming majority of publications.</p>