



# User guide

## Submitting an accredited classifier decision for a computer game

November 2024

### Introduction

This user guide is for submitting a classification decision (decision) for the purposes of section 22K(2) of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (Classification Act) in the Classification Portal (Portal) at [classificationportal.classification.gov.au](https://classificationportal.classification.gov.au).

To learn more about accredited classifiers, go to [classification.gov.au/for-industry/accredited-classifiers](https://classification.gov.au/for-industry/accredited-classifiers).

### Before you start

Before you start, you must:

- have a Portal account.
- be accredited as an AC.
- have the ‘accredited classifier’ role assigned to you for the organisation for which you are submitting the decision on behalf of.
- have the following information for your AC decision:
  - the organisation that requested you classify this game
  - the title or file number of any previous decision for the computer game, if relevant
  - the title
  - any other titles (English and Foreign language)
  - development studio/developer
  - publisher
  - production year
  - embargo information
  - synopsis

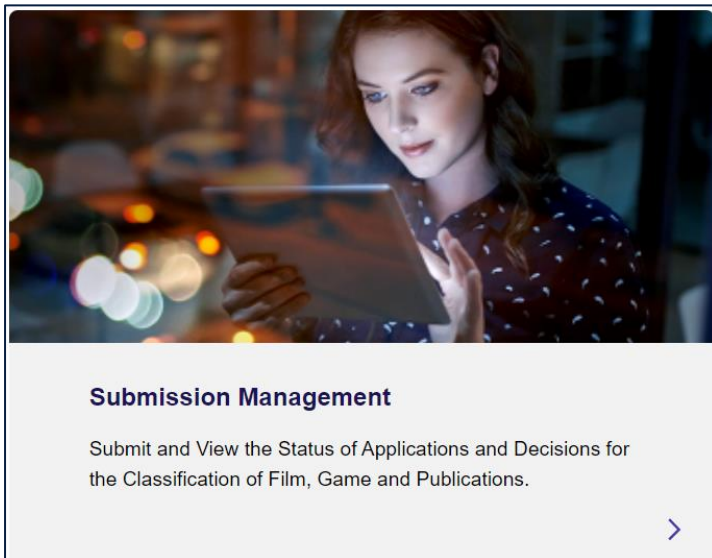
- release date of the game
- date you were requested to make the classification
- date the content was viewed
- impact level of each classifiable element (themes, violence, language, nudity, drug use, sex)
- consumer advice as per the list issued under section 12A of the Classification Act
- a brief explanation why the classification (rating) and consumer advice were given to the game, focusing on the classifiable element(s) that are most impactful
- anything else you wish to tell us about the content in the game, such as materials that may be contentious or sensitive. This might include simulated gambling, a link between incentives/rewards and nudity, drug use or sexual activity, sexual violence, family violence, self-harm, suicide or mental health themes.

You can learn how to link organisations in the **Portal FAQ** and how to request the ‘accredited classifier’ role in the **Management of accredited classifiers user guide** at [classification.gov.au/for-industry/frequently-asked-questions-and-guides](https://classification.gov.au/for-industry/frequently-asked-questions-and-guides).

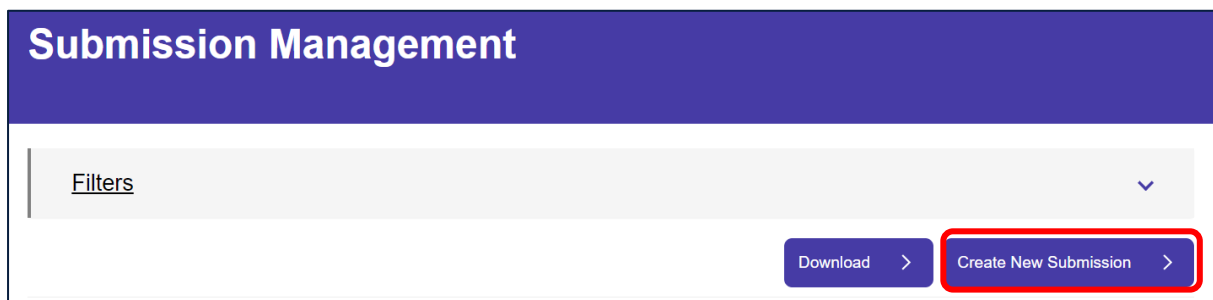
## Submitting an AC decision for a computer game

### Initial Navigation

1. Log in to the Classification Portal, select **Submission Management**.




2. Select **Create New Submission**.




3. Select **Computer games**.

What are you here to submit?



**Films for cinema, home entertainment and on demand**

Movies or episodic content made available online, in physical format or shown at a cinema or event.



**Computer games**

Computer games made available online or in physical format.




**Publications**

Publications, like magazines that should be restricted to adults (submittable publications).


4. Select **Classification**.

← What would you like to do?




**Classification**

Apply to the Classification Board for a classification, submit an accredited classifier decision or give notice of a deemed classification



**Title Change**

Request a title change.




**Request Review**

Apply for a review of a classification decision.


5. Select **Submit an Accredited Classifier decision**.

← How would you like the classification to be done?




**Apply for Classification by the Board**

The Board will make a classification decision.



**Submit an Accredited Classifier decision**

Submit your classification decision for a film or game.



**Submit a Notice of Classification**

Notify us of a broadcaster's decision for a film that you are making available in a non-broadcast format.

6. Select your organisation from the drop-down list then **Next**.

← Which Organisation is this Submission for?

**i** The organisation is the post-classification publisher who seeks to publish content classified for broadcast in other formats. You can only submit notices for organisations you have [linked with](#).

Selected:

7. Select the relevant tile for 'Is this submission related to a previous decision':

- a. If you select **No**, go to step 9.
- b. If you select **Yes**, go to step 8.

Your Dashboard > Submission Management > New Submission

## New Submission

← Is this submission related to a previous decision?

**i** If this submission is related to a previous decision, select the submission that the decision was associated with below. E.g. your submission is for a new version of a previously classified product.

**Yes**

My submission is for a new version of something that is previously classified.

>

**No**

My submission is for something that has not been classified before.

>

8. If the submission is for a computer game that has been classified previously:

- a. Select **Click to Search**, this opens up a search screen.

← Select previous decision for this Application

**i** Please select the Application that the previous Decision was associated with below

Selected:

**Click to Search** >

b. You can search by: File number, Title (exact title yes/no) or keywords, then select **Search**.

**Search Applications**

**Production Search Criteria**

File No

Title

Exact Title  
 No  Yes

Keywords

c. To get to the “Select” button in this case, you may need to use the scroll bar on the right-hand side and drag it down. Once it appears, choose **Select** then **Start Submission**.

**Search Applications**

**Production Search Criteria**

**Results**

✓ Title	File Number	Certificate Number (National Classification Database Record)
SMURFS	T84/11636	0030177C826A
BEWITCHED, BOTHERED & B-SMURFED	T87/1886	0030682D4999
SIDESHOW SMURFS	T87/1885	0030682D590A
SMURFS CHRISTMAS	T85/1603	0030681D3279
✓ SMURF'S EASTER SPECIAL	T85/3474	0030681D741B
SOUP & LA SMURF	T86/2528	0030682D1713
SMURFS II, THE	T85/599	0030681D421D
ROMEO & SMURFETTE	T86/974	0030681D951F
SMURFS & THE	T86/975	0030681D9620

## Basic details

9. Use the toggles to expand the sections on this page. Mandatory fields are marked with \*.
- If you completed step 8, the information from the original decision will appear.  
Keep any information that still applies, and edit any that has changed for this version.
  - Input all the relevant fields and then select **Save and Next**.
    - For **Dev Studio/Developers name(s) and Publisher name(s)**, select **Add** and then enter each name one at a time. If there are multiple names, you must repeat this step for each one.
    - For **Production Year**, enter a four-digit number (e.g. 2022).
    - For **Language**, use the look up function to search for a language. Select a language and/or subtitle language, then select **Add Language**. If there are multiple languages, you must repeat this step for each one.  
  
Language is set to English by default, you may delete if required.
    - For **Country of Origin**, use the look up function to search for a country. Select a country then select **Add Country**. If there are multiple countries, you must repeat this step for each one.

### Title Information ^

Game Title \*

Other title(s) (English and Foreign language)?

Add Other Title >

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Title ↑

! There are no records to display.

Dev Studio/Developers \* v

Publishers \* v

Production Year \* v

Languages \* v

Country of Origin \* v

Save and Next >

## Additional information

10. Use the toggles to expand the sections on this page. Input relevant fields and then select **Save and Next**. Mandatory fields are marked with **\***.

- a. For **Embargo information**, enter the information as relevant
- b. For **Synopsis, release date and Game DB URL**:
  - i. add a synopsis, if relevant
  - ii. input a release date (DD/MM/YYYY)
  - iii. input the Games DB URL, if available.
- c. For **Classification requested by**:
  - i. the company will auto-populate based on the organisation you selected at Step 6
  - ii. select the classification request date as per the date the organisation requested you to classify the game
  - iii. select the date you viewed the game. This date must be on or after the classification request date.

**Embargo Information** ▼

**Synopsis, release date and Games DB URL** ▼

**Classification requested by \*** ^

Company

.....

**Classification request date \***

DD/MM/YYYY 📅

**Date content viewed**

DD/MM/YYYY 📅

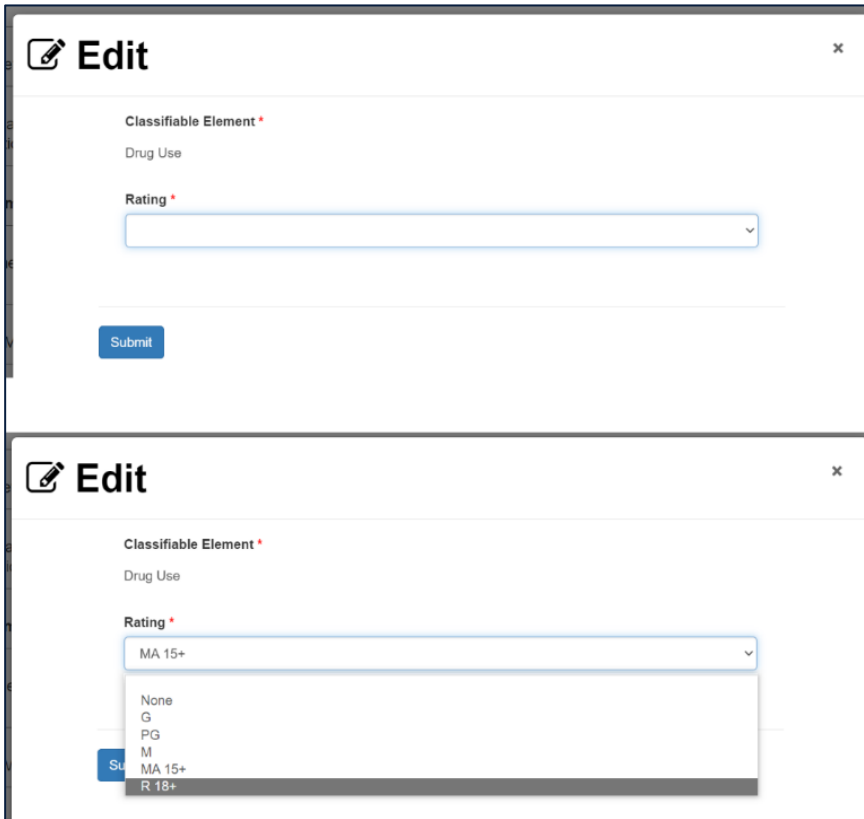
## Rating

11. Enter a value for each classifiable element (element). Select the chevron and select **Edit**, select the rating from the drop-down list, and select **Submit**. If the element is not present in the content, select 'None'. Repeat for each element.

**Classification Matrix**

**Select the impact level for each Classifiable Element:**

Classifiable Element	Rating
Themes	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">▼</span>  <span>📝 Edit</span> </div>
Violence	



12. After you have selected a rating for each element, answer the question “Does the game contain chance-based in-game purchases?”

**You must select “Yes” if your game contains chance-based in-game purchases. Chance-based in-game purchases consumer advice terms are only available under ‘Themes’ on the next page if you select “Yes” to this question.**

### Classification Matrix

Select the impact level for each Classifiable Element:

Classifiable Element	Rating
Themes	M
Violence	MA 15+
Language	M
Drug Use	R 18+
Nudity	M
Sex	M

Does the game contain chance-based in-game purchases?

No  Yes

Display Rating



If you have incorrectly indicated “No” to Chance-based in-game purchases and selected **Display Rating**, the following steps must be followed in order to make chance-based in-game purchase consumer advice terms appear on the next page:

- i. Select “Yes” to “Does the game contain chance-based in-game purchases”.
- ii. Temporarily change the rating of one of the classifiable elements to a different rating. (e.g. change ‘Sex’ to G classification).
- iii. Select ‘Display rating’.
- iv. Change back the rating of the classifiable element you changed in step ii to the correct rating. (e.g. change ‘Sex’ back to the correct M classification).
- v. Then, go to step 13.

13. Select **Display Rating** to generate the overall rating. The overall rating corresponds with the highest rated element(s).

### Classification Matrix

**Select the impact level for each Classifiable Element:**

Classifiable Element	Rating	
Themes	M	▼
Violence	MA 15+	▼
Language	M	▼
Drug Use	R 18+	▼
Nudity	M	▼
Sex	M	▼

**Does the game contain chance-based in-game purchases?**

No
  Yes

Display Rating

**Overall Rating \*** R 18+

14. In **Reason(s) for decision**, input text for both questions. Then select **Save and next**.

- a. Please input brief details or examples of the classifiable element(s) you identified with the highest impact within the computer game. You can provide timestamps, as relevant.

*Example: The game contains a breakdown of a familial relationship as well as adolescent behaviour related to risk-taking and questioning sexuality. In chapter 2 of the main story, a child is depicted witnessing a verbally abusive argument between their parents. The game contain use of the word ‘f\*\*k’ throughout.*

## Reason(s) for decision

Please provide a brief explanation why the classification was given to the computer game, focussing on the classifiable element(s) that are most impactful.

- b. Please input brief details or examples of contentious or sensitive content present in the game, if any.

*Example: In chapter 3 of the main story, a teenager references that their father is violent towards their mother. There is simulated gambling present as players can play slots in a casino.*

Is there anything else you wish to tell us about the content in the game, such as materials that may be contentious or sensitive? This might include:

- simulated gambling
- a link between incentives/rewards and nudity, drug use or sexual activity
- sexual violence
- family violence
- self-harm
- suicide
- mental health themes.

Previous

Save and Next



## Consumer Advice

The consumer advice (CA) section of the submission uses logic based on the ratings for each element you selected at Step 12. The form will only display the elements and consumer advice terms that may be applicable at the overall rating of the computer game, or one lower for any issues of community concern. If you selected “Yes” to the presence of chance-based in-game purchases, chance-based in-game purchase consumer advice terms will also appear under Themes when Themes is a minimum of M.

If an element or consumer advice term does not appear on the list, it is because it does not meet the logic for inclusion in the consumer advice or the term is not on the current consumer advice list issued under section 12A of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*.

15. Select **Add/Remove CA Terms** to add consumer advice terms for each classifiable element, select the applicable terms using the tick boxes, and then select **Add CA terms**. There may be a scroll bar on the right-hand side. Use the scroll bar to view additional consumer advice terms and the **Add CA Terms** button.

- a. Consumer advice terms are **mandatory** for elements corresponding with the overall rating.
- b. Consumer advice terms are **optional** for elements that are one rating lower than the overall rating. If relevant, input only the issues of community concern present in the game at one rating lower.
- c. Consumer advice terms for chance-based in-game purchases are **mandatory** if you selected “Yes” to the question “Does the game contain chance-based in-game purchases?”.

**Consumer Advice Terms**

Select applicable CA terms for Classifiable Element

**Drug Use - R 18+ \***

Add / Remove CA Terms >

CA Term

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! There are no records to display.

**CA Term(s)** ×

**Classifiable Element \***

Drug Use

**Consumer advice**

High impact drug use

High impact drug references

High impact interactive drug use

Cancel

Add CA Terms >

16. After selecting the consumer advice terms you need, select ‘Display Consumer Advice’. The system will then generate the overall consumer advice.

- a. If the overall consumer advice reflects your classification decision, select ‘Save and Next’.
- b. If the overall consumer advice does not reflect your classification decision, please select the correct consumer advice terms in the relevant classifiable elements and if needed, go to the previous page and change the classification matrix.

Display Consumer Advice

**Overall Consumer Advice \***

High impact drug use, family violence, chance-based in-game purchases and online interactivity and chat

## Upload media

17. You can upload or provide links to media, and then select **Save and Next**.

These options are available to you:

- **online via Box** – upload media files directly to Box (file size limited to 3GB).
- **online via another method** – enter the location or file path, including relevant access code or password in the text box. Please advise if the link is only available for a specified period .
- **a physical copy of the content** – if you are posting a DCP drive or other physical media via a courier.

The screenshot displays the 'Upload Media' step in a classification portal. On the left, a progress bar indicates the status of various steps: 'Done Basic Details', 'Done Additional Information', 'Done Assessment', 'Done Consumer Advice', 'Doing Upload Media', and 'To do Declare and Submit'. The main content area is titled 'Upload Media' and features a dropdown menu labeled 'How will you provide media?'. The dropdown is open, showing three options: 'Online via Box', 'Online via another method', and 'A physical copy of the content'. Below the dropdown are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Save and Next >'.

## Declare and submit

18. Select **Download Summary** if you would like to download a copy of the submission.

i
You can download a copy of your decision for your records.

Download Summary

19. Review the “**Your classification decision**” section to check that the overall rating and consumer advice reflects your classification decision.

If it does not correctly reflect your decision, please use the ‘Previous’ button at the bottom of the page to return to previous pages.

### Your classification decision

Please check that the overall rating and overall consumer advice below reflect your classification decision.

If they are incorrect, please use the 'Previous' button at the bottom of the page to return to the Classification Matrix or Consumer Advice Terms sections of the form. If you make any changes in either section, be sure to select 'Save and Next' to ensure they are recorded.

**Overall rating**

R 18+

**Overall consumer advice**

High impact drug use, family violence, chance-based in-game purchases and online interactivity and chat

20. Review the declaration, select the tick boxes to agree, then select **Submit**.

### Declare and Submit

In submitting this decision, I make the below declaration:

**I acknowledge that:**

my decision will take effect when it is included on the National Classification Database (NCD) \*

the Classification Board may check my decision and request access to the game \*

the publisher of the game and I will both be notified: \*

- if my decision is selected for a check by the Classification Board
- if the Classification Board is considering revoking my decision
- of the outcome of any check by the Classification Board.

**I declare that:**

the information I have provided in this form is true and correct. \*

Previous
Submit >

## After submission

The classification decision takes effect under the Classification Act when it is included in the National Classification Database at [classification.gov.au](https://classification.gov.au).

If you have made an error in the submission, please email [accreditedclassifier@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:accreditedclassifier@infrastructure.gov.au). The department will notify you of the next steps.