



The M, MA15+ and R18+ classifications



The M classification

M is an advisory classification. This classification advises audiences that a level of maturity is required in relation to the film. While anyone can gain admission in a cinema to an M film, purchase or hire these films and games, material classified **M is not recommended for under 15s**.

The MA15+ classification

MA15+ films and games are **not suitable for people under 15** as the content is strong in impact.

A person aged under 15 cannot be admitted to a MA15+ film in a cinema or purchase or hire these films and games unless they are accompanied by his or her parent or adult guardian.

For cinema, the requirements are not met if the parent or adult guardian buys a ticket, but does not accompany the child for the duration of the film.

Who qualifies as a “guardian” for a person under 15?

The “guardian” must be an adult exercising “parental control” over the person under 15 years of age. The guardian needs to be 18 years or older.

An older sibling or friend would not generally satisfy this requirement, whereas a grandparent, aunt or uncle may.

The R18+ classification

R18+ films **are not suitable for people under 18** as the content is high in impact. People aged under 18 cannot be admitted to a R18+ film in a cinema, or purchase or hire these films.

Proof of age

Cinemas or retailers may verify a person’s age before they provide access to a MA15+ or R18+ material.

Proof of age (preferably in the form of photo identification) may be requested of the person claiming to be 15 or 18, or of the parent or guardian.

Where do you get photo ID?

An under 18 keypass, see <http://www.keypass.com.au>, is a widely accepted form of ID which includes a photograph and date of birth. In Tasmania, you can apply for a Tasmanian Government Personal Information Card through Service Tasmania or see http://www.go.tas.gov.au/standards/personal_information_card_application.htm.

Passports, learner driver licences and some educational institution IDs also include a photograph and date of birth.

Further information about government proof of age cards can be found at <http://australia.gov.au/services/service-task/apply-for/proof-of-age-card>

When can cinemas refuse entry, or retailers refuse to sell or rent MA15+ and R18+ products?

Cinemas and retailers are required to abide by the MA15+ and R18+ age restrictions. This means refusing entry to a MA15+ film, or selling or hiring these films or games to any person who reasonably appears to be under 15 and who is not accompanied by his or her parent or guardian.

Similarly, entry to a R18+ film in a cinema, or the sale or hire of an R 18+ film, can be refused to any person who reasonably appears to be under 18.

Need more information?

If you require further information, please contact the Classification Liaison Scheme on 02 9289 7100 or cls@classification.gov.au