

Classification Template



R18 - To be shown only in specially licensed cinemas, or supplied only in licensed sex shops, and to adults


The R18 category is a special and legally-restricted classification, primarily for explicit works of consenting sex or strong fetish material involving adults. Films may only be shown to adults in specially licensed cinemas, and video works may be supplied to adults only in licensed sex shops. R18 video works may not be supplied by mail order.

The following content is not acceptable:


- Material which is in breach of the criminal law, including material judged to be obscene under the current interpretation of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 (see Annexe)
- Material (including dialogue) likely to encourage an interest in sexually abusive activity which may include adults role-playing as non-adults
- The portrayal of sexual activity which involves real or apparent lack of consent. Any form of physical restraint which prevents participants from indicating a withdrawal of consent
- The infliction of pain or acts which may cause lasting physical harm, whether real or (in a sexual context) simulated. Some allowance may be made for moderate, non abusive, consensual activity
- Penetration by any object associated with violence or likely to cause physical harm
- Sexual threats, humiliation or abuse which do not form part of a clearly consenting role-playing game. Strong physical or verbal abuse, even if consensual, is unlikely to be acceptable

These Guidelines will be applied to the same standard regardless of sexual orientation of the activity portrayed.

18 works are for adults and can contain the following strong issues:

	Tally				
Very strong violence					
Frequent strong language (e.g. 'f***') and / or very strong language (e.g. 'c***')					
Strong portrayals of sexual activity					
Scenes of sexual violence					
Strong horror					
Strong blood and gore					
Real sex (in some circumstances)					
Discriminatory language and behaviour					

15 Works are only suitable for age 15 years and over and can contain the following content

	Tally				
<p>Discrimination The work as a whole must not endorse discriminatory language or behaviour, although there may be racist, homophobic or other discriminatory themes and language.</p>					
<p>Drugs Drug taking may be shown but the work as a whole must not promote or encourage drug misuse (for example, through instructional detail). The misuse of easily accessible and highly dangerous substances (for example, aerosols or solvents) is unlikely to be acceptable.</p>					
<p>Imitable behaviour Dangerous behaviour (for example, hanging, suicide and self-harming) should not dwell on detail which could be copied. Whether the depiction of easily accessible weapons is acceptable will depend on factors such as realism, context and setting.</p>					
<p>Language There may be strong language. Very strong language may be permitted, depending on the manner in which it is used, who is using the language, its frequency within the work as a whole and any special contextual justification.</p>					
<p>Nudity There are no constraints on nudity in a non-sexual or educational context. There may be nudity in a sexual context but usually without strong detail.</p>					
<p>Sex Sexual activity may be portrayed, but usually without strong detail. There may be strong verbal references to sexual behaviour, but the strongest references are unlikely to be acceptable unless justified by context. Works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal or stimulation are unlikely to be acceptable.</p>					
<p>Threat There may be strong threat and horror. A sustained focus on sadistic or sexual threat is unlikely to be acceptable.</p>					
<p>Violence Violence may be strong but should not dwell on the infliction of pain or injury. The strongest gory images are unlikely to be acceptable. Strong sadistic violence is also unlikely to be acceptable. There may be detailed verbal references to sexual violence but the depiction of sexual violence must be discreet and justified by context</p>					