



**OFFICE OF FILM
& LITERATURE
CLASSIFICATION**

Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tuhituhinga

Policy Advice No. 2

Notification of Classification Decisions

The Office of Film and Literature Classification (the “Office”) is aware of the need of film and video distributors (a) to receive timely notification of classification decisions, and (b) to be notified by an even-handed process that maximises certainty. With respect to films and videos submitted by the Labelling Body under s12 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Act 1993 (the “Act”), the Act does not establish a procedure for the notification of classification decisions beyond that contained in s36.

Once the Office has signed a classification decision, that decision is legally enforceable. Notification cannot take place before that time because no classification decision would have been made. Notification before that time would therefore create uncertainty and expose distributors to legal and commercial risk if the subsequent classification decision were different from what was notified. In order to preserve certainty and minimise commercial and legal risk to distributors, the Office will if requested by the Labelling Body

- immediately notify the Labelling Body by fax or telephone of the classification decision when it has been signed off by the Office, after which the Labelling Body will notify the distributor;
- send by courier the direction to issue a label and the film or video back to the Labelling Body;
- issue the reasons for the decision to the Labelling Body if it or the distributor requests them.

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