



**OFFICE OF FILM  
& LITERATURE  
CLASSIFICATION**

*Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tuhituhinga*

**Policy Advice No. 5**

**Submission of video games exempt from  
labelling requirements**

**A. Unrestricted video games**

1. The combined effect of sections 8(1)(q) and 8(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 is that

- an unrestricted video game,
- any video game carrying an Australian G, PG or M rating, and
- any video game carrying a British U, Uc, PG, 12 or 12A rating,

is exempt from New Zealand labelling requirements.

2. Nevertheless, any person who supplies a video game to the public is responsible for ensuring that the video game does indeed satisfy the exemption requirements. The existence of an Australian or British rating on a video game will not guarantee that it is exempt from New Zealand labelling requirements if, under New Zealand law, the video game has restricted or objectionable content. The Department of Internal Affairs is entitled to seize and submit to the Classification Office any video game not carrying a New Zealand label that it believes should be restricted or banned.

3. Provided the video game is playable, the Classification Office must classify any video game submitted to it by the Department of Internal Affairs, the New Zealand Customs Service, the Police, the Courts, and the Film and Video Labelling Body. The classifications available are the same as those for films, videos and DVDs: G, PG, M, R13, R15, R16, R18 and Objectionable.

4. Any person intending to supply a video game to the public and who does not want to rely on the exemption provisions of the Act may submit the video game to the Film and Video Labelling Body for a New Zealand label. The Film and Video Labelling Body will cross-rate the video game unless a classification is specifically requested, in which case it will be submitted to the Classification Office for classification. If the video game is not objectionable, the Classification Office will then direct the Film and Video Labelling Body to issue a label that displays the classification given by the Classification Office to the video game.

5. Any person intending to supply to the public identical copies of a video game that has been classified by the Classification Office may apply to the Film and Video Labelling Body for labels that display the classification given to the video game by the Classification Office.

6. The presence of a New Zealand label legally affixed to a video game means that it will not be seized by the Department of Internal Affairs. The presence of New Zealand labels on unrestricted video games will also help to reduce the consumer confusion that results from a variety of foreign labels.

## B. Restricted video games

7. Any video game that

- carries an Australian MA15+ label, or
- has been refused classification in Australia, or
- carries a British 15, 18 or R18 label, or
- has restricted content under New Zealand law,

is not exempt from New Zealand labelling requirements and must be submitted to the Film and Video Labelling Body for a label. The Film and Video Labelling Body will then submit the video game to the Classification Office for classification and a direction to issue a label before it issues a label.

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