

CLASSIFICATION ZONES

The Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (the Code) sets out different classification zones. Material can only be broadcast in a zone appropriate for its classification.

Classification categories

The following outlines the different classification categories:

P or C – material that satisfies the requirements under the *Children's Television Standards 2009*.

G – material that while not necessarily intended for children is very mild in impact; must not contain any material that is likely to be unsuitable for children to watch unsupervised.

PG – material which may contain adult themes or concepts but must be mild in impact and remain suitable for children to watch with supervision.

M – material for mature audiences, recommended for viewing by persons aged 15 years and over. The impact must be moderate (i.e. higher than mild but lower than strong).

MA15+ – material only suitable for persons aged 15 years or over because of the intensity and/or frequency of certain elements. The impact may be strong.

For more detail refer to Appendix 1 of the Code: *Television Classification Guidelines*.

Program classifications and any applicable consumer advice are usually displayed at the beginning of a program. This information can also be found on most digital devices via the electronic program guide (EPG) and in television guides within newspapers, magazines and online.

Classification zones

From 1 December 2015 the following classification zones will apply to all commercial free-to-air television broadcast channels:

	School days							
	5am	6	12pm	3	7.30	8.30	5am	
P, C	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
G	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
PG	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
M	Blue	White	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
MA15+	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue

	School holidays, public holidays and weekends							
	5am	6	12pm	3	7.30	8.30	5am	
P, C	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
G	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
PG	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
M	Blue	White	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
MA15+	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue

 Blue shading indicates when content is permitted

The PG classification zone will run all day on weekdays and weekends. This brings the primary channels into line with the commercial free-to-air broadcasters' multi-channels. This means that content classified PG, G, C and P can be broadcast at any time.

The M classification zone runs:

- School days - 7.30pm to 6.00am; 12 noon to 3.00pm
- Weekends, public holidays and school holidays - 7.30pm to 6.00am.

The MA15+ classification zone runs from 8.30pm to 5.00am on any day. The AV classification, which was in the previous Code of Practice, has been subsumed into MA15+ classification, consistent with other media classification schemes.

Films classified M or MA15+ are subject to separate rules:

- A film classified M may only be broadcast between 8.30 pm and 5.00am on any day, or between noon and 3.00pm on any school day
- A film classified MA15+ may only be broadcast between 9.00pm and 5.00am.

More information

Additional information and a copy of the Code of Practice can be found on the Free TV website www.freetv.com.au

Or you can contact us at:

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