

PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN

The new Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (the Code) contains extensive protections to ensure free-to-air television remains the safest place for children to watch their favourite programs.

About the Code

The Code of Practice sets out a range of rules about what can be shown on commercial television. The new Code is effective 1 December 2015.

Program classifications and classification zones

The Code contains general rules about program classifications and classification zones. Program classifications are designed to help inform you and your family's viewing choices.

Most material on television, including commercials, has to be classified. **News, current affairs and sports programs** are not subject to classification requirements – but licensees are still **required to exercise care**, taking into account the likely program audience and the public interest of the material.

Under the Code, G and PG classified material can be shown at any time, but M and MA15+ material can only be shown at certain times, when children are unlikely to form a significant part of the audience. A separate Fact Sheet about classifications and the different times that certain content can be shown, can be found [here](#).

Parental locks

Most digital televisions, digital set-top-boxes and personal video recorders have a Parental Lock.

The Parental Lock function allows you to block content based on the classification level. For more information on Parental Locks and how to use them, [click here](#).

Information for viewers

Program classification symbols and warnings 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.



Special restrictions at certain times

Because the classification zones have changed as part of the new Code, there are some special rules to help families and children adjust.

These rules regulate the material that can be shown during G, PG and sports programs at particular times. The classification zones apply to commercials, programs, community service announcements and program promotions.

Generally in G, PG or sports programs between 5.00am to 6.00am and between 7.30pm to 8.30pm, all non-Program material must be classified PG or lower.

For some of these programs (sports programs and films classified G or PG) that continue past 8.30pm, the rule remains in place until 9.30pm. There is an exception to the rule for films classified G or PG that are neither promoted to children nor likely to attract substantial numbers of children.

Restrictions on program promotions during kids' programs

During any **G classified program** between 5.00am and 8.30pm that is **principally directed to children**, broadcasters cannot show a program promotion for a program that is classified M or MA15+. There is an exception to this rule for programs that are coming up next in a broadcaster's schedule.

Restrictions on commercials for certain products or services

The Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice contains restrictions on when certain products and services can be advertised, such as:

- alcohol;
- betting and gambling;
- R18+/X18+ films; and
- adult services.

For a copy of Free TV's *Code of Practice - Advertising Restrictions* Fact Sheet [click here](#).

Need more information?

Additional information, as well as a copy of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice, can be found on the Free TV Australia website at www.freetv.com.au

Or you can contact us at:

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