

## Rating & Labelling Information

Films supplied or exhibited to the public must be labelled with official labels (see below for exemptions). The labels are designed to inform the public about the censorship criteria that apply to a film. There are two categories:

### Unrestricted

The FVLB gives a rating to unrestricted films.  
The symbols are:

- G** suitable for general audiences
- PG** parental guidance recommended for younger viewers
- M** suitable for mature audiences aged 16 years and over

### Restricted

The FVLB forwards any material which may be restricted (or objectionable) to the OFLC for classification.

The OFLC may restrict a film to certain classes of people (e.g. on the basis of age) or for a specified purpose (e.g. for scientific or artistic purposes).

For example:

- R18** restricted to persons aged 18 years and over

**Objectionable films:** A film is "objectionable" if it is likely to be injurious to the public good. Objectionable films are effectively banned.

**Descriptions:** Most ratings and classifications come with descriptions (e.g. contains violence, sex scenes, offensive language etc). The description must be displayed with the rating or classification.

**Attaching the label:** Label or "stamp" sets contain two copies of the label:

- the **larger** copy is attached to the front of the display case (but where a film slick is to be viewed through the display case, attach the label to the slick, *not* to the outside of the case); and
- the **smaller** copy is attached to the film container (e.g. for a video cassette, this means on the cassette's spine or front face; for a film spool, on the spool's front face; for a DVD, on the DVD's surface (unless this would prevent viewing of the DVD)).

If the display case or film has an overseas or cancelled label already attached to it, then the current New Zealand label must be attached to cover the other label (as far as possible).

**Explaining the symbols to the public:** If you occupy premises where films are supplied or exhibited to the public, you must display a notice that explains the rating and classification symbols. This notice must be:

- at least 40 cm x 28 cm;
- easily readable at a reasonable distance; and
- displayed in a conspicuous place.

Notices can be purchased from the FVLB for \$5.50 each.

**Posters & advertising:** Film posters, trailers and other advertising material (including in newspapers and brochures) must show the rating or classification symbol (and any description) assigned to the advertised film.

A film poster is also a publication in its own right, and may be subject to restrictions. Film posters for public display must be submitted to the FVLB (or the OFLC for films classified by the OFLC) for approval.

**Exemptions:** Only unrestricted films qualify for exemption. Exempt films include films which:

- are wholly or mainly of an educational, scientific, religious, political or historical nature;
- depict wholly or mainly sporting events, commercial advertisement, or natural scenery; or
- record an event (e.g. a wedding) for those who took part in the event (or are connected with those who did so).

This list is not exhaustive and exemptions are not intended to be of a "blanket" nature. Contact the FVLB for help in deciding whether your film is exempt.

### Useful Definitions

Films, Videos, & Publications Classification Act 1993  
Films, Videos, & Publications Classification Regulations 1994

**film:** cinematograph film, video recording, any other record of visual moving images capable of subsequent display (including DVDs, computer animation); includes parts and copies of films

**film poster:** a poster, placard, video slick, photograph, or other pictorial printed matter that is intended for use in the advertising or exhibition of a film

**film slick:** a leaflet or notice that contains information about a film and is intended to be affixed to, or inserted inside any sleeve of, a display case

**FVLB:** Film & Video Labelling Body Incorporated

**OFLC:** Office of Film & Literature Classification

**trailer:** a short film used primarily for advertising a film (including any material on a film which is not part of the main feature)

