

# FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION CLASSIFICATIONS

Free-to-air television broadcasters in New Zealand are required to ensure that programmes are appropriately classified (i.e. rated) and screened in the appropriate timeband. The following classifications should be broadcast on all content except news, current affairs, sports and live content. Classifications are usually displayed at the beginning of each programme and after each advertising break. Broadcasters should also use an appropriate audience advisory (a warning or message) if a programme is likely to disturb, distress or offend a significant number of viewers, or if programme content is likely to be outside audience expectations. If a programme is classified as anything other than G (General) there are restrictions on when it can be shown.

For the purposes of these classifications a **child** means a person under the age of 14 years.

**G**

## GENERAL

Programmes which exclude material likely to be unsuitable for children. Programmes may not necessarily be designed for child viewers but should not contain material likely to alarm or distress them.

*G programmes may be screened at any time.*

**PGR**

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED

Programmes containing material more suited for mature audiences but not necessarily unsuitable for child viewers when subject to the guidance of a parent or an adult.

*PGR programmes may be screened between 9am and 4pm, and after 7pm until 6am.*

**AO**

## ADULTS ONLY

Programmes containing adult themes and directed primarily at mature audiences.

*AO programmes may be screened between midday and 3pm on weekdays (except during school and public holidays as designated by the Ministry of Education) and after 8:30pm until 5am.*

## UNCLASSIFIED PROGRAMMING

News, current affairs, sports and live content is not, because of its distinct nature, subject to classification. However, broadcasters must be mindful of children's interests (Standard 3) and other broadcasting standards and include audience advisories (i.e. a warning) where appropriate.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT CLASSIFICATIONS OR AUDIENCE ADVISORIES USED ON FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION SEE [WWW.BSA.GOV.T.NZ](http://WWW.BSA.GOV.T.NZ) OR CALL BSA AT 0800 366 996**