

FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION CLASSIFICATIONS

Free-to-air television broadcasters (TV you get for free) in New Zealand are required to ensure that programmes are appropriately classified (ie. rated). They must use one of the agreed classification symbols (set out below) and must display this at the beginning of each programme and after each ad break. They must also consider using a warning if the programme content may offend or disturb a number of people. If a programme is classified as anything other than G (General) there are restrictions on what time it can be shown.

For the purposes of these classifications a **child** means a boy or girl 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.*

A0

ADULTS ONLY Programmes containing adult themes and directed primarily at mature audiences. *A0 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.*

**A0
9.30PM**

ADULTS ONLY 9.30PM–5AM Programmes containing stronger material or special elements which fall outside the A0 classification. These programmes may contain a greater degree of sexual activity, potentially offensive language, realistic violence, sexual violence, or horrific encounters.

UNCLASSIFIED PROGRAMMING

News and Current Affairs

News and current affairs programmes are not required to be classified. However, broadcasters must be mindful that young people may be watching during children's ordinary viewing hours and should give consideration to including warnings where appropriate.

Sports and Live Programmes

Sports and live programmes are not classified but broadcasters must take all reasonable steps to ensure the programme conforms to the timeslot in which it is being shown.

If you have any other questions about classifications or warnings used on free-to-air television see www.bsa.govt.nz or call the BSA at 0800 366 996.