

# Rating System in Russia

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# Rating Categories



- G
- PG
- R
- E

Rating systems of other countries

# G



Suitable for all viewers. It is noted by the board that a "G" movie rating in Russia doesn't indicate the movie is intended for children, simply that nothing in the movie will be disturbing or harmful to children.



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Ironiia sudby ili s legkim parom

# PG



Parental Guidance recommended for children under 15 years of age.  
May be some violence



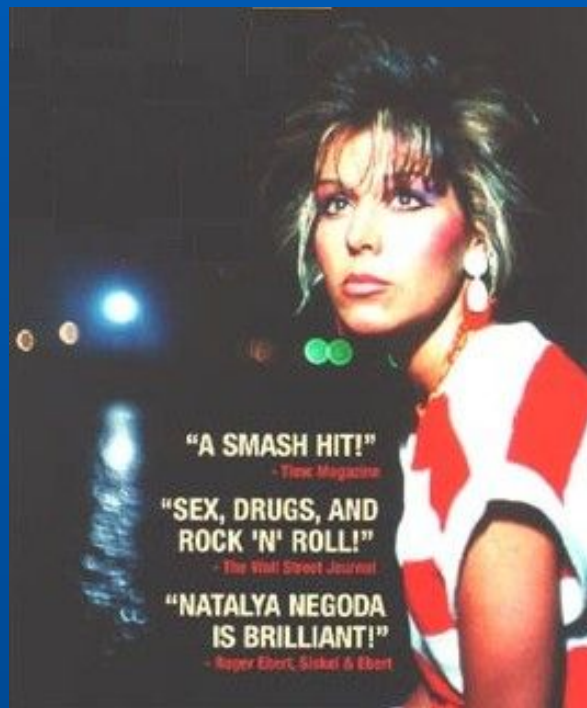
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Djentelmeny udachi

# R



Restricted. This category is legally restricted to adults. No one under 18 may view these movies in a cinema or rent them on videocassette.



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Malenkaia Vera

# E



Exempt from classification - thus not a rating as such.  
These are usually educational programs.



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V mire jivotnih

# MPAA Rating system



The MPAA film rating system was instituted in November 1968 as an alternative to federal regulation of motion picture content by the United States government. The United States came rather late to motion picture rating, as many other countries had used rating systems for decades. After the Production Code approval system was abandoned in the 1950s, movies had become more explicit in their portrayal of "realism." The realism movement had its advantages and disadvantages: while it allowed for movies like Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960) to be filmed, it also sparked a rise in low-budget exploitation movies that became more and more explicit in their sexual and violent content. The violent content of such movies as Sam Peckinpah's *Straw Dogs* shocked and alarmed the more conservative segment of the population. In 1967, two movies were released containing explicit profanity (*Ulysses* and *I'll Never Forget What's His Name*), and this was seen as the impetus for a form of regulation to be instituted. After a series of meetings with government representatives, the Motion Picture Association of America and National Association of Theater Owners agreed to implement a uniform ratings system for all of its movies, a system that would be enforced by distributors and exhibitors (including movie theaters). The rating system, legally, is entirely voluntary; however, few mainstream producers outside the pornography niche decline to submit to the rating system due to potential effects on revenues, so the system has a de facto compulsory status in the industry. Some foreign films do not bother to submit to the rating system, reasoning that they will not be distributed widely beyond their art-house audience, so the cost and expense are unnecessary. When the DVD home video format became popular, many film producers started translating some of their "R" rated movies to DVD with extra outtakes included which were never rated by the MPAA, and then attempting to use this as a marketing angle. For example, the DVD of *American Pie* exclaims on the box, "UNRATED! The Version You Couldn't See In Theaters".

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# *Rating systems of other countries*

- USA
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- New Zealand
- Hong Kong



# USA



- **G** - Movie suitable for all ages
- **PG** - Contains mature themes, may not be suitable for small children
- **PG-13** - Parent strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
- **R** - Contains mature themes (usually sex and/or violence). Children under 17 not admitted without an adult
- **NC-17** - No children under 17 admitted

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Some information about MPAA

# Canada



Movie ratings in Canada are mostly a provincial responsibility:

- [The Ontario Film Review Board](#)
- [The British Columbia system](#)
- [The Canadian Home Video Rating System for television](#)

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# United Kingdom



- **Uc (Universal Children)** Suitable for all but especially for young children (video only)
- **U (Universal)** Suitable for all
- **PG** All ages admitted, but Parental Guidance is recommended. It is the board's policy that movies rated "PG" should not disturb a child of about 8 years of age or older; however, "parents are advised to consider whether the content may upset young or more sensitive children."
- **12A/12** No one under 12 years of age may see a "12A" film (unless accompanied by an adult) in a cinema or rent or buy a "12" video.
- **15** No one under 15 years of age may see a "15" film or rent or buy a "15" video
- **18** Suitable only for adults. No one under 18 years of age may see an "18" film or rent or buy an "18" video.
- **R18** To be supplied only in licensed sex shops or cinemas to adults of not less than 18 years of age

# New Zealand



The Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) first divides films into two categories ; *unrestricted* and *restricted*. Unrestricted films are assigned a rating label. Restricted films are assigned a classification label. The common labels in each category are as follows:

- Unrestricted
- Restricted

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# Hong Kong



- **I** - suitable for all ages
- **IIA** - not suitable for children
- **IIB** - not suitable for young persons and children
- **III** - for persons aged 18 or above only

While Categories I, IIA and IIB are advisory in nature, the age restriction (18 or above) for Category III films is strictly enforced. Apart from films, packagings of Category III videotapes and laserdiscs and advertising materials of Category III films must be approved by the Film Censorship Authority (FCA) before they can be published or publicly displayed.

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# New Zealand Unrestricted



- **G** - Suitable for all
- **PG** - Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers
- **M** - Mature. Suitable for people 16 years or older. Parental decision whether to let children watch a particular film

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# New Zealand Restricted



- **R13** - Restricted to 13 year-olds and older
- **R15** - Restricted to 15 year-olds and older
- **R16** - Restricted to 16 year-olds and older
- **R18** - Restricted to 18 year-olds and older
- **R** - A special restriction (details of the restriction noted to the right of the label). Equivalent to the old 'RP' classification.

# The Ontario Film Review Board



- **Family** - Film appropriate for viewing by a person of any age
- **Parental Guidance** - Parents should exercise discretion in permitting a child to view the film
- **14A** - Persons younger than 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- **18A** - Persons younger than 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult
- **Restricted** - Film restricted to persons 18 years of age or older

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# The British Columbia system



- **General.** All ages. The contents of these motion pictures are suitable for viewing by all ages
- **Parental Guidance.** All ages. Parental guidance advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all
- **14 Accompaniment.** Anyone under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Parents cautioned. These films may contain violence, coarse language, and/or sexually suggestive scenes
- **18 Accompaniment.** Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Parents strongly cautioned. Will likely contain explicit violence, frequent coarse language, sexual activity and/or horror
- **Restricted.** No one under the age of 18 may view under any circumstances. Content not suitable for minors. May contain scenes of explicit sex and/or violence. However, the film classification office considers these films to have some artistic, historical, political, educational or scientific merit
- **Adult.** No one under 18 may view under any circumstances. May contain explicit sexual scenes and/or violence. However, the classification office considers these films to be tolerable to the community

# The Canadian Home Video Rating System for television



- **G** - Suitable for viewing by all ages
- **PG** - Parental guidance advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all children
- **14A** - Suitable for people 14 years of age or older. Those under 14 should view with an adult. No rental or purchase by those under 14. Parents cautioned. May contain violence, coarse language and/or sexually suggestive scenes
- **18A** - Suitable for people 18 years of age or older. Persons under 18 should view with an adult. No rental or purchase by those under 18. Parents strongly cautioned. Will likely contain explicit violence, frequent coarse language, sexual activity and/or horror
- **R** - Restricted to 18 years and older. No rental or purchase by those under 18. Contents not suitable for minors. Contains frequent sexual activity, brutality/graphic violence, intense horror, and/or other disturbing content.
- **E** - Exempt. Contains material not subject to classification, such as documentaries, nature, travel, music

# British Board of Film Classification



The British Board of Film Classification (common short form - BBFC) is the organisation responsible for film classification within the UK. The BBFC was established in 1912 as the British Board of Film Censors. In 1984 it changed to its current name to 'reflect the fact that classification plays a far larger part in the Board's work than censorship' [1]. At that time it also took responsibility for classifying videos for hire or purchase to view in the home as well as films shown in cinemas. Home video and cinema versions of a film often receive the same certificate, although occasionally a film may receive a more restrictive certificate for the home video market, as it is easier for children to watch a home video than to be admitted into a cinema. The Board is an independent, non-governmental organisation. In the case of films shown in cinemas, local authorities have the final legal say about who can watch a particular film. Almost always local authorities accept the Board's recommendation for a certificate for a film. There have been some notable exceptions. In 2002, local authorities, apparently under pressure from distributors and cinema chains, threatened to ignore the BBFC's ruling that *Spiderman* receive a 12 rating, and allow children younger than 12 to see the film. Fortunately, the BBFC were already in the process of replacing the 12 rating with a new 12A which allowed under-12s to see the film, provided that they are accompanied by an adult. Therefore, *Spiderman* was reclassified as 12A. Local authorities do not have such power for video recordings. Historically the Board has faced strong criticism for an over-zealous attitude in censoring film. The Board reached the height of its notoriety in the 1970s when it banned a series of films that were released uncut and were popular in other countries. Notable titles include *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Straw Dogs* and *The Last House on the Left*. Britain's film certificates generally remain more restrictive than in other countries such as France, Germany and the United States. One extreme example in 2003 saw the release of *More* with an 18 certificate in Britain (the cuts related to detailed drug use). The film was released with the equivalent of a 12 certificate in France.

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