



通訊事務管理局
COMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY



A Guide to
Programme
Classification on
Domestic Free Television

What is Programme Classification on Television?

Television has always exerted a very powerful influence on community. In Hong Kong, domestic free television programme services reach into the homes of a great number of people as a medium for entertainment, information and education. Given their pervasiveness, members of the public would expect a more stringent regulation for protection of younger audience.

Programme classification serves to provide information to television viewers on the programmes they watch. To facilitate parents in selecting programmes for their children, the Communications Authority (CA) requires domestic free television broadcasters to –

- classify programmes which are generally not suitable for viewing by children into “Parental Guidance Recommended” (PG) or “Mature” (M) category, and
- schedule these programmes outside the family viewing hours.

The CA has also designated **4:00 pm to 8:30 pm each day as the family viewing hours**, during which time nothing unsuitable for children shall be broadcast.

“PG” Programmes

- may contain adult themes or concepts but must remain suitable for children to watch under the guidance of a parent or guardian
- should be scheduled at times **other than the family viewing hours**



“M” Programmes

- for viewing only by the mature audience
- should only be broadcast **between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am the following day**





How to Identify “PG” / “M” Programme Classification?

The broadcasters are required to carry aural and visual advisories on the classification of the programme and describe the principal elements which have contributed to the classification and indicate their intensity and/or frequency before such a programme is broadcast. A classification symbol should be superimposed on the screen in the left or right corner and remain visible for four seconds after the programme begins and when the programme resumes after every break.

The broadcaster should also make reasonable efforts to carry the appropriate classification symbols in the promotional material for its classified programmes and to include the classification in its programme guide and the programme schedule it sends out for publication.

Other Information

Members of the public may send to the CA complaints about any television or radio broadcast materials, through one of the following ways:

Post 20/F, Wu Chung House
 213 Queen’s Road East
 Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Fax 2507 2219

E-form Complaint form at the CA website:
[https://eform.one.gov.hk/form/
oqa017/en/](https://eform.one.gov.hk/form/oqa017/en/)

