



OFFICE OF FILM  
& LITERATURE CLASSIFICATION

*Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tuhituhinga*

# Comparing Classifications

feature films and video games

2012 & 2013



October 2014



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*Comparing Classifications: feature films and video games 2012 & 2013*

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This report was prepared by Henry Talbot of the Information Unit at the Office of Film and Literature Classification, Wellington, New Zealand. ©2014

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of the research

The classifications assigned to films and games by different countries are substantially variable as are the symbols, names and meanings used on classification labels. Nevertheless, it is interesting to compare New Zealand classifications with those of other jurisdictions to find out what is similar and what is different between us.

### Methodology

To enable comparisons to be made, we have developed and applied a scoring system.<sup>1</sup> Classifications are listed and ranked in increasing order of age restriction. A numerical score is attached to each classification, with less restrictive ones receiving lower scores. In general, classifications allowing parental/caregiver accompaniment below a given age are considered weaker than those that have an enforced age restriction.

260 films and 112 games are included in the analysis for 2012 and 2013. The film titles were mainly for cinematic release, but in some jurisdictions were only released in home viewing formats. Respectively, 102 films and 77 games were classified in all of the jurisdictions compared.

Note that the samples are selected from films and games that the New Zealand Classification Office deals with, that is, content for mature or age-restricted audiences. In New Zealand, classifications of films and games for general or younger audiences are adopted from Australia or the United Kingdom and supplied with an equivalent local label displayed.

### The comparisons for film show that:

- Overall, film classifications in New Zealand are less restrictive than those of Singapore and the United Kingdom, and more restrictive than those of the United States, Ontario, and Australia.
- The average strength of film classifications in all six jurisdictions (for 2012/13) has changed little since our last report (for 2010/11).
- Film classifications in the United Kingdom are most consistent with New Zealand's with 75% of titles in our comparison receiving a similar classification.
- Film classifications in the United States are the least consistent with New Zealand's with just 18% receiving a relatively consistent classification.
- In general, the greater range of age restrictions available in New Zealand (R13, R15, R16, R18 etc) means that decisions can be tailored more here than in jurisdictions with fewer labeling options. This means that in some jurisdictions a wide variety of content will receive the same classification. For example, there are only two restricted ratings for films in the United States and 87% of the film sample was rated R in that jurisdiction. The ESRB system for games (used in the United States and Ontario) also has only two restricted ratings, and 91% of the game sample was rated M17+ by the ESRB (all other titles were unrestricted).
- Australian film classifications are generally more liberal than New Zealand's mainly due to Australia's MA15+ classification. The Australian system places more emphasis on parental choice than New Zealand's.
- The United Kingdom's system is the most similar to New Zealand's, but its overall strength score is higher mainly because titles classified M in New Zealand were almost all restricted in the United Kingdom. The United

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<sup>1</sup> See strength score charts on pages 15 and 16 and notes on our methodology for establishing the comparative 'strength' or restrictiveness of classifications.

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Kingdom does not have a classification equivalent to New Zealand's unrestricted M 'suitable for mature audiences 16 years and over'.

- United States classifications are generally more liberal than New Zealand's, however, a significant number of M titles in New Zealand are rated 'R' in the United States. This may be because of differences in our levels of concern about depictions of sex, nudity, and offensive language.
- Ontario's system is based on parental consent rather than full age restrictions, even more so than Australia's. Nine out of 10 films in the sample were given a partial 'parental accompaniment' restriction in Ontario. Overall, it is a much less restrictive system than New Zealand's.
- Singapore's film classification system is the most restrictive of those compared. It is the only jurisdiction with an R21 classification (the highest age restriction in other jurisdictions is 18). While many titles received a classification relatively consistent with New Zealand's, there were a significant number of outliers. The Singapore sample also included the most number of titles modified by cuts in order to receive a lower classification.
- Of the 102 titles classified in all jurisdictions, the most highly restricted was the film *Blue is the Warmest Color*, followed by *Shame*.

#### **The comparisons for games show that:**

- Overall, game classifications in New Zealand are less restrictive than those of the United Kingdom and Ontario, and more restrictive than those of Singapore, Australia, and the United States.
- The average strength of game classifications in different jurisdictions (for 2012/13) is similar to our last report (for 2010/11).
- There have been changes since our last analysis however: the United Kingdom is included in the games comparison as it began enforcing the European PEGI system in 2012, and Australia began using an R18+ classification for games in 2013.
- Having adopted the European PEGI system and legally enforced its age ratings, the United Kingdom now has the most restrictive classification system for games of any jurisdiction in our study. Game classifications in the United Kingdom are most consistent with New Zealand's: 89% of titles in our sample received a relatively consistent classification in both jurisdictions.
- Game classifications in the United States are the least consistent with New Zealand's, with just 18% of the sample receiving a relatively consistent classification.
- For games classified in Australia in 2012, only 14% of titles were relatively consistent with New Zealand's, but this rose to 49% in 2013 after the introduction of an Australian R18+ classification for games. The overall impact of the introduction of R18+ is that games were more restrictively classified in Australia in 2013 than in New Zealand.
- The ESRB system in the United States is the least restrictive system for game classification because it is not legally enforced. However, when fully enforced in Ontario, the system is more restrictive than New Zealand's.
- Singapore's game classification system is considerably less restrictive than its system for films, and is one of the least consistent in this regard when compared with other jurisdictions.

## Introduction

The Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) is an Independent Crown Entity that classifies publications that may carry restrictions in New Zealand. The OFLC assesses publications against criteria in the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 and applies an unrestricted or restricted classification, or bans objectionable material.

The purpose of New Zealand's classification system is to prevent injury to the public good. Classifications also help the viewing public to make informed choices about films and games they wish to see and play.

The restricted classification label displays the age below which the film or game may not be supplied or exhibited, and labels also provide notes about content that may be of concern to viewers, such as offensive language or violence.

The classifications assigned to films and games by different countries are substantially variable as are the symbols, names and meanings used on classification labels. In this study we have developed a scoring system to assist with comparisons of the relative strengths of other countries' classifications in relation to ours. This interpretive approach may be problematic from the perspective of readers in other jurisdictions, and so we have provided the data behind our analyses and findings for others to adapt as they see fit.

In 2010 we piloted this system of comparison with 2008 and 2009 classifications from a similar group of countries. Where summary comparisons with the current data sets can be made, the findings are presented in summary format on page 41.

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## The Classification System in New Zealand

The OFLC is mainly concerned with films and video games that may contain restricted or objectionable content under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The legal test of an objectionable publication is whether it 'describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good'.

Most films and games examined by the OFLC are submitted by commercial parties through the Film and Video Labelling Body (FVLB), which also has responsibility for issuing classification labels. Films and games can also be submitted to the OFLC by enforcement agencies such as the Censorship Compliance Unit of the Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Customs, the New Zealand Police, Courts, or by members of the public with permission from the Chief Censor.

After examining a publication, the OFLC can assign one of the following types of classification:

- a) unrestricted
- b) objectionable, or
- c) objectionable except in one or more of the following circumstances:
  - i) if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained a specified age
  - ii) if the availability of the publication is restricted to specified persons or classes of persons, or
  - iii) if the publication is used for one or more specified purposes

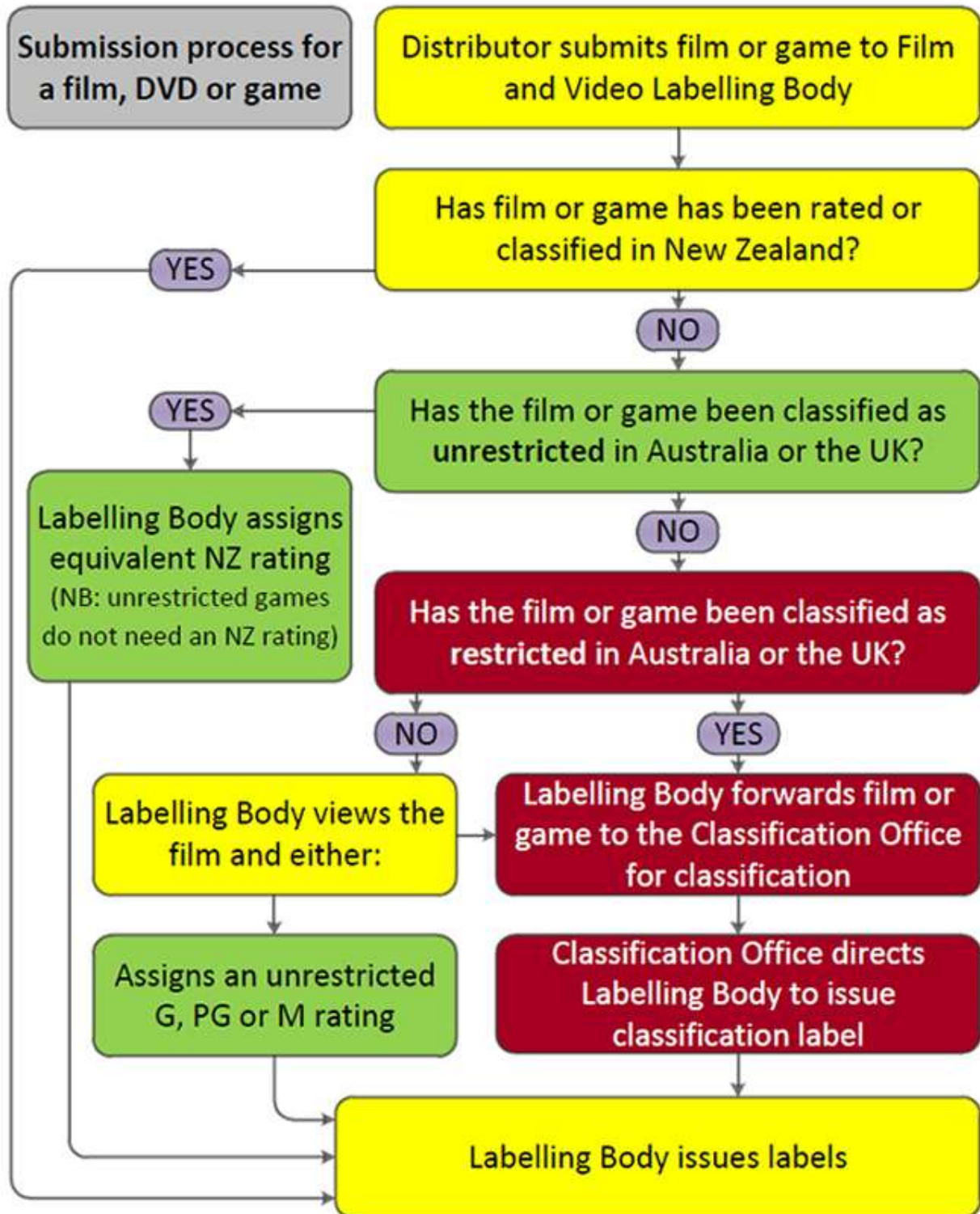
Classifications are legally enforced in New Zealand. For example, it is illegal to make a film or video game which is classified R18 available to someone who is under 18 years of age.

The Films, Videos, Publications and Classification Regulations 1994 instituted a system in which certain classifications given to films by the Australian Classification Board (ACB) in the first instance, or the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) if no Australian classification exists, are adopted in New Zealand. That is, a G, PG or M in Australia, or a U, PG or 12/12A in the UK, will be automatically labelled with the New Zealand symbols of G, PG or M. This is called cross-rating and is performed by the FVLB. Games with unrestricted level content are exempt from the labelling requirements. This means unrestricted games may be supplied to the public showing classification labels from other jurisdictions – a situation that causes some consumer confusion. However, if distributors and suppliers wish to display a New Zealand classification label on an unrestricted level game, then the cross-rating system is applied in the same manner as for films. Games can no longer be cross-rated from the United Kingdom as it has adopted the European PEGI system.

For films not previously classified in Australia or the United Kingdom that may not require restriction under our legislation, the FVLB has a viewing panel who can assess the film and assign a rating of G, PG or M and descriptive note.



**Figure 1** illustrates the process the FVLB must follow when a film or game is submitted for classification.



## Jurisdictions for Comparison

For **film** classification comparison purposes, three jurisdictions with government-appointed regulators were selected:

- the Australian Classification Board (ACB)
- the Ontario Film Review Board (OFRB)
- Singapore's Media Development Authority (MDA).

In addition, two countries with industry-appointed regulators were selected:

- the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)
- the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

For **video game** classification, the following organisations were selected for comparison.

Two are government-appointed regulators:

- the Australian Classification Board (ACB)
- Singapore's Media Development Authority (MDA)

Two are industry run:

- the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system as applied in the United Kingdom since mid-2012
- the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) which is used in the USA, and in Ontario where some of the ratings are legally enforced.

Information on the meaning of the classifications used by each of the organisations selected for comparison is provided in Appendix A along with links to official websites.

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## Methodology

### Terminology

'Classifications' and 'ratings' have the same meaning in this report. Games and video games are also interchangeable terms, and 'film' has the same meaning regardless of format.

### Data

Other jurisdictions are compared to New Zealand rather than to each other, except in summary form, and so the sample for comparison includes films and games rated or classified in New Zealand in 2012 and 2013. Some titles were classified earlier or later in other jurisdictions.

The games list was compiled from our database, and the films list from information provided by the FVLB. The data used for comparisons in the study were gathered by OFLC staff from the websites of the classification or ratings organisations being compared. The data gathered were the film or game title, the classification, and in some cases the date of classification and information about cuts or modifications made to films or games.

We have excluded G and PG titles from the comparison as there is generally little variation across jurisdictions at this level, and have only included unrestricted M titles if they were rated or classified in New Zealand. Unrestricted film titles in New Zealand generally adopt the classification of the Australian Classification Board, and unrestricted games in New Zealand do not require a New Zealand label and mostly carry an overseas label in this market. Consequently, unrestricted M titles make up 34% of the film sample and 5% of game titles. All other titles in the samples received age restrictions in New Zealand.

In our previous report (using data from 2010 and 2011) we excluded from the comparison lists titles which were edited or modified in order to receive a classification in specific jurisdictions, as we wanted to ensure we were comparing like with like. Cuts are relatively common to games in Australia, and to films in the United Kingdom and Singapore. In this report, we have included modified films and games with their current classifications. The effect of the modifications to individual titles is discussed in our comparisons. No titles required modification or excisions in New Zealand. In total, 26 films and seven games included in the comparisons were modified. Sometimes, modifications were required by the regulator, and sometimes modifications were made by distributors to achieve a specific classification.

### Master lists

The master lists in Appendix B are the data sets. Films were mainly for cinematic release, but in some jurisdictions were only released on home formats.

260 films and 112 games are included in the analysis.

Respectively, 102 films and 72 games were classified in all of the jurisdictions compared.

### Classification strength scores

A numerical score, referred to as a 'classification strength score', is used for comparisons to be made.

In the following tables, the classifications are listed and ranked in increasing order of age restriction. A numerical score is then attached to each classification, with weaker ones receiving lower scores.

In general, classifications allowing parental/caregiver accompaniment below a given age are considered weaker than those that have a legally enforceable age restriction. The exceptions are highlighted in yellow in Table 1: R (MPAA) and 12 (BBFC), and 18A (OFRB) and R13 (OFLC), which were given the same scores. This overlap was due to the likely restrictiveness in practice of R and 18A in the jurisdictions concerned. For example, it is unlikely that many under 13 year-olds would be allowed to see an 18A film in Ontario.

As restricted classifications are legally enforceable in New Zealand the classification strength scores in the following tables reflect this. The score is relative to the age below which a restriction applies. For example, R13 has a score of 11 and R15 a score of 13; R16 has a score of 14 and R18 a score of 16.

Classifications where parental accompaniment is a requirement are judged two points stronger than unrestricted films intended for a mature audience. That is, the unrestricted M (ACB and OFLC) has a score of 3, while the UK parental accompaniment classification 12A is scored 5.

In scoring game classifications the same assessments as for films were applied, for example, the lowest parental accompaniment category is ACB's MA15+ which, to be consistent with film classifications, has a classification strength score of 8.

Those interested in a deeper understanding of the cultural, political and legal bases of the respective classifications systems should reference the codes/standards/criteria used for assessment that are published by the classification bodies concerned.

In this comparison, we included Singapore because according to the 2013 census 12% of New Zealanders identified with at least one Asian ethnicity. This is the third highest group following European and Maori. From this, we assume that an Asian classification system is as valid to include for comparison as our traditional European and American comparison jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Disclaimer**

Weighting classifications using a scoring system could be considered a subjective exercise, and differently weighted classifications will produce different results to those presented here. Nevertheless, we are confident that the weighting system we have applied is reasonable given all the circumstances under comparison. In particular, legally enforceable age restrictions and those allowing parental choice or accompaniment are treated differently.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/infographic-culture-identity.aspx>

**Table 1: Classification strength scores for feature film classifications**

<b>2012-13</b>		
Jurisdiction	Classification	Strength Score
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Australia	G	1
New Zealand	G	1
Ontario	G	1
UK	U	1
USA	G	1
Singapore	G	1
Australia	PG	2
New Zealand	PG	2
Ontario	PG	2
UK	PG	2
USA	PG	2
Singapore	PG	2
USA	PG-13	3
Singapore	PG13	3
Australia	M	3
New Zealand	M	3
<b>Parental accompaniment (a restricted category)</b>		
UK	12A	5
New Zealand	RP13	6
Ontario	14A	7
Australia	MA15+	8
New Zealand	RP16	9
USA	R	10*
Ontario	18A	11*
<b>Restricted</b>		
UK	12	10*
New Zealand	R13	11*
New Zealand	R15	13
UK	15	13
New Zealand	R16	14
Singapore	NC16	14
USA	NC-17	16
Australia	R18+	16
New Zealand	R18	16
Ontario	R	16
UK	18	16
Singapore	M18	16
Singapore	R21	19
New Zealand	R18 T/FF	20**
<b>Banned</b>		
NZ	Objectionable	25
UK	Rejected	25
Australia	RC	25
Singapore	NAR	25

\*The 'overlap' in weighting is due to likely restrictiveness of each rating in practice: eg the likelihood that many under 13 year-olds would actually see an 18A rated film is low

\*\* The Classification Office applied a specific restriction to the film *Maniac*: the film may only be made available "for the purpose of study in a tertiary media or film studies course or screened as part of a film festival organised by an incorporated film society...and in all cases to persons who have attained the age of 18 years."

**Table 2: Classification strength scores for video game classifications**

<b>2012-13:</b>		
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Singapore	G	1*
ACB	G	1
ESRB	Early Childhood	1
OFLC	G	1
PEGI	3	1
ACB	PG	2
ESRB	Everyone	2
OFLC	PG	2
PEGI	7	2
ESRB	E10+	2.5
ACB	M	3
OFLC	M	3
ESRB	Teen	3
Singapore	Age Advisory	4**
<b>Parental accompaniment (a restricted category)</b>		
ACB	MA15+	8
ESRB (USA)	Mature 17+	9***
<b>Restricted</b>		
PEGI (UK)	12	10
OFLC	R13	11
PEGI (UK)	16	14
OFLC	R16	14
ESRB (Ontario)	Mature 17+	15
PEGI (UK)	18	16
Singapore	M18	16
ESRB	AO	16****
OFLC	R18	16
<b>Banned</b>		
ACB	RC	25
OFLC	Objectionable	25
Singapore	NAR	25

\*In Singapore, classified games do not require a label unless they're given an Age Advisory or M18 rating. If the rating is 'General', it means the game has been approved for distribution and may carry a label from another jurisdiction. 'General' is not advice about the game's suitability

\*\*Similar to New Zealand's 'M'. In Singapore, retailers are encouraged to exercise responsibility and not to sell to young people.

\*\*\*Non-statutory/voluntary system. However, practice to not sell to underage said to be high.

\*\*\*\*While AO is a non-statutory classification in the USA, it is given the same strength as 18 age restrictions as there is strong (mostly) commercial/retail compliance. It is enforced in Ontario.

## Data analysis

The film and game titles were placed in an 'Unrestricted', 'Restricted' or 'Banned' category. A title was considered restricted if there was a definitive age restriction or an age restriction below which parental accompaniment was required.

The following approaches to representing the data were undertaken:

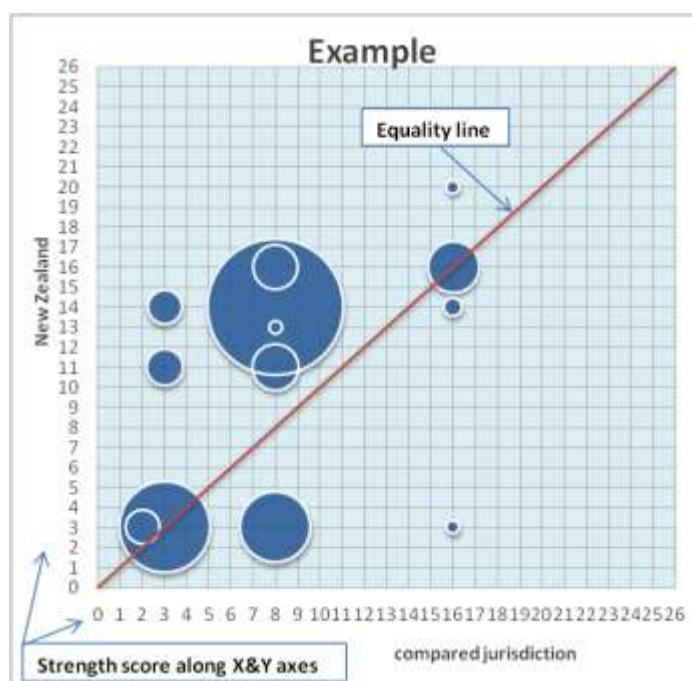
1. Graphical representations (bubble charts) comparing jurisdictions were created using the classification strength scores.
2. Cross-tabulations were used to identify similarities and differences between New Zealand film classifications and those of other jurisdictions (Tables 3-7), and New Zealand game classifications and those of other jurisdictions (Tables 8-12).

Assessment of the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the classification regimes is based on the classification strength scoring system adopted by the OFLC for this analysis.

### Explanation of bubble charts

A bubble chart represents three sets of data. It is a variation of a scatter chart (which represents two sets of data). The bubble charts represent classification strength scores given to film or game titles between any two jurisdictions. For example, one bubble will represent all titles classified R16 in New Zealand and 15 in the United Kingdom. Each bubble also represents a number of titles – the bigger the bubble, the more titles are represented. The bubbles are distributed according to their classification strength score in each jurisdiction. The strength score scale is on the vertical and horizontal axes.

The straight line dissecting the bubble chart is an equality line. If a bubble is on the equality line then a certain amount of titles (represented by the size of the bubble) were given the same classification strength score in both jurisdictions: for example, R18 in New Zealand and 18 in the United Kingdom.



Bubbles on this side represent titles given more restrictive classifications in New Zealand

Bubbles on this side represent titles given more restrictive classifications by the jurisdiction being compared

Higher strength scores mean increasingly restrictive classifications

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## Film Results

The following charts and tables show the relative strength of New Zealand film classifications compared to Australia's, the United Kingdom's, Ontario's, the United States' and Singapore's. See Appendix A for details about the classification systems used.

260 titles with New Zealand classifications ranging from M to objectionable made up the data set for comparison.

G and PG classifications were excluded as largely irrelevant to the work of the OFLC whose job it is to deal with material that may need restriction in order to prevent injury to the public good. Not all films in the master list of 260 can be compared jurisdiction by jurisdiction. The number of titles that can be compared range from 131 for United States cf. New Zealand, to 260 for Australia cf. New Zealand.

The 88 New Zealand M classifications in the comparisons were either assigned by the Film and Video Labelling Body's viewing panel, who apply the classification principles and criteria in section 10 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Regulations 1994; or, by the OFLC applying classification criteria and principles as set out in section 3 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. There is one restricted film in the data set that was classified by the Film and Literature Board of Review. Board of Review members are also required to apply the criteria in section 3 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 in their decision-making.

See Appendix B for the films data set.



## New Zealand and Australia

Chart 1 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and Australian classifications.

- The chart shows a large cluster of titles on New Zealand's side of the equality line. All of these titles have a more restrictive classification in New Zealand as expressed by higher strength scores.
- The largest bubble (n=112) represents films age restricted to people 16 and over in New Zealand (R16 strength score=14) and given the parental accompaniment MA15+ classification (score=8) in Australia.
- A smaller group represented in the top of the large bubble were classified R18 in New Zealand and MA15+ in Australia.
- Further to the left of the equality line 7 films were classified R16 in New Zealand and M in Australia, and below them 7 classified R13 in New Zealand and M in Australia.
- Looking to the lower right of the equality line, 30 films were classified MA15+ (score=8) in Australia and M (score=3) in New Zealand.
- At the far lower right 1 film was classified R18+ in Australia and M in New Zealand (the documentary *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer*). Australia's higher restriction was due to the depiction of sex in the film.
- The topmost right bubble is Maniac which was restricted in New Zealand to those studying tertiary media/film studies or attending the film as part of a film festival. It was classified R18+ in Australia.

**Chart 1: Comparison of relative strength of New Zealand and Australian film classifications**

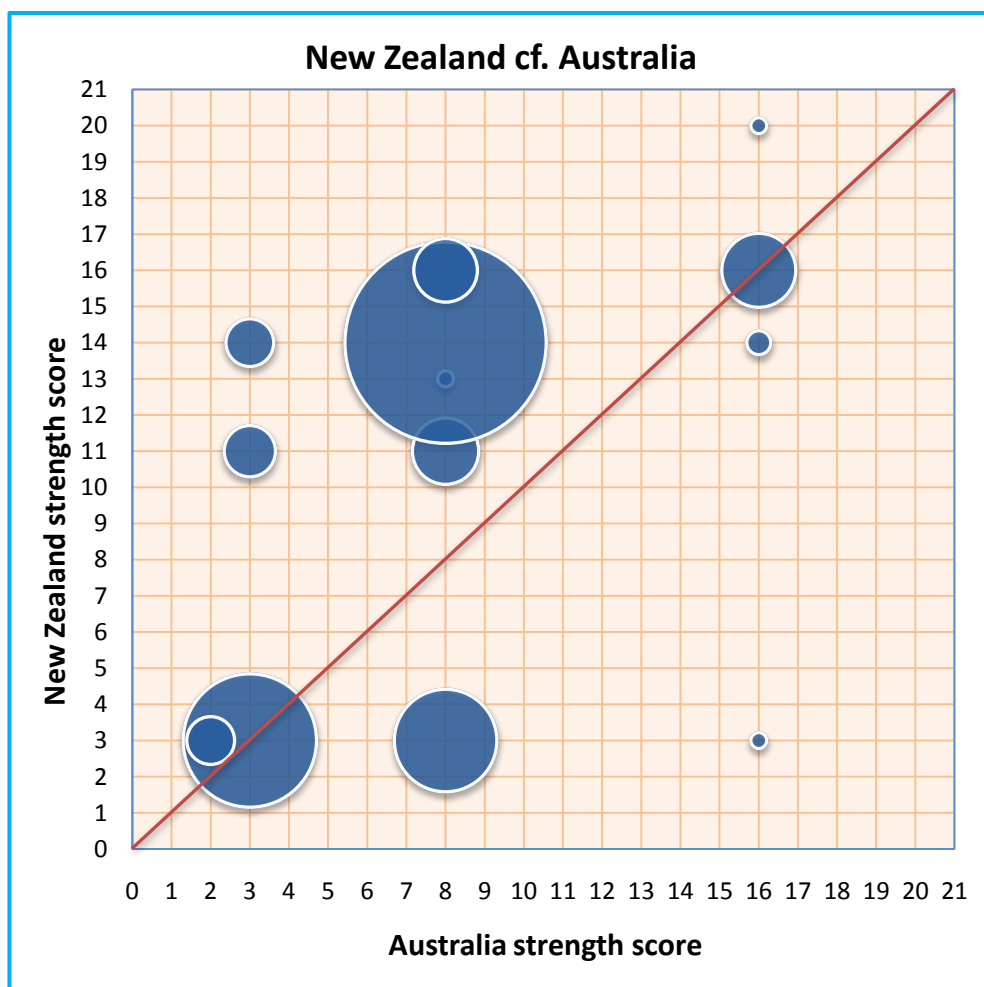
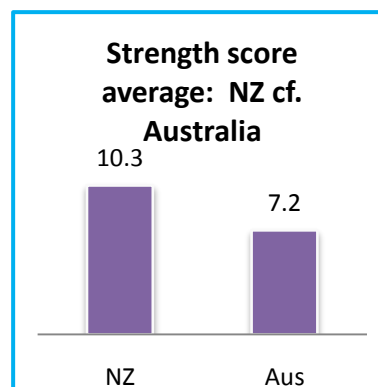


Chart 1 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	ACB	NZ Score	ACB Score	Count
M	M	3	3	50
M	MA15+	3	8	30
M	PG	3	2	7
M	R18+	3	16	1
R13	M	11	3	8
R13	MA15+	11	8	13
R15	MA15+	13	8	1
R16	M	14	3	7
R16	MA15+	14	8	112
R16	R18+	14	16	2
R18	MA15+	16	8	12
R18	R18+	16	16	16
R18 T/FF	R18+	20	16	1

Overall, 34% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 54% of titles were given a New Zealand classification with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the Australian classification, compared with 12% of Australian films with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification.



\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

Australian classifications are inconsistent with New Zealand ones largely because of the differing principles the systems are based on. The Australian system emphasizes parental choice at the MA15+ level while these films are likely to be given the R16 age restriction in New Zealand. Our research shows that parental accompaniment classifications have relatively low support from the New Zealand public.

In Table 3, of the 121 films classified R16 in New Zealand, 93% are classified MA15+ in Australia and a further 6% are classified unrestricted 'M' indicating that, overall, the Australian classification system is more liberal than New Zealand's.

**Table 3: New Zealand classifications compared to Australian classifications**

Number of titles = 260		Australia				Key
New Zealand	No. of titles	7	65	168	20	Unrestricted
		PG	M	MA15+	R18	Partial Restriction*
	88	M	7	50	30	1
			8%	57%	34%	1%
	21	R13		8	13	
				38%	62%	
	1	R15			1	
					100%	
	121	R16		7	112	2
				6%	93%	2%
	28	R18			12	16
					43%	57%
	1	R18 T/FF				1

\*For theatrical release films: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian while viewing the film. For films on video (DVD/Blu-ray): purchase restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian

### *New Zealand and the United Kingdom*

Chart 2 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and United Kingdom classifications.

- Of the 209 films compared, most cluster around the equality line showing that they received relatively consistent classifications in the two countries.
- To the lower right of the equality line, a large bubble represents 43 films that were classified '15' in the United Kingdom (a full restriction) and M (unrestricted) in New Zealand.
- The small bubble further to the right is *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer* which was restricted to adults in the United Kingdom, as in Australia, and unrestricted 'M' in New Zealand.
- The largest bubble represents 87 films classified 15 in the United Kingdom and R16 in New Zealand. Amongst them, in order to receive a 15 classification, the film *Saving General Yang* had 6 seconds of a scene of animal cruelty cut.
- Four other films in the comparison were edited to achieve a specific classification in the United Kingdom. They were: *Boss*, *Thalaivaa*, *Vishwaroopam*, and *The Angels' Share*.

**Chart 2: Comparison of New Zealand and United Kingdom film classifications**

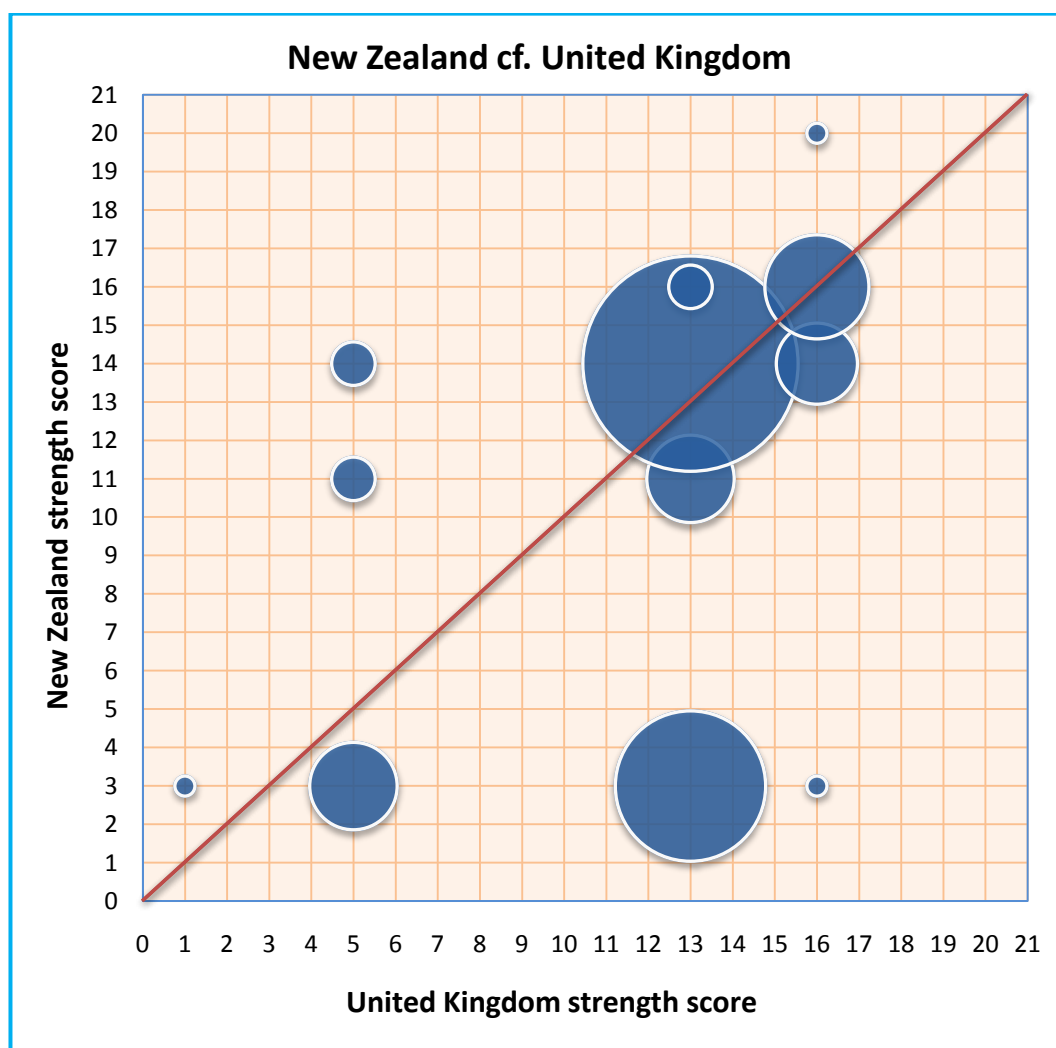
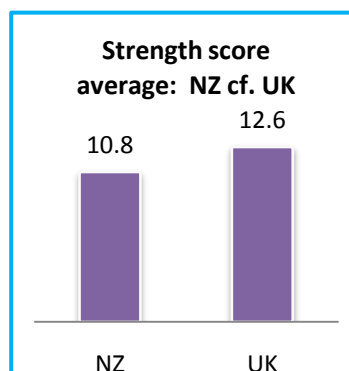


Chart 2 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	BBFC	NZ Score	BBFC Score	Count
M	U	3	1	1
M	12A	3	5	15
M	15	3	13	43
M	18	3	16	1
R13	12A	11	5	4
R13	15	11	13	15
R16	12A	14	5	4
R16	15	14	13	87
R16	18	14	16	13
R18	15	16	13	4
R18	18	16	16	21
R18 T/FF	18	20	16	1

Overall, 75% received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. However, 21% of titles were given a classification in the United Kingdom with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification.



\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

The strengths of New Zealand and United Kingdom classifications are relatively consistent. This is mainly due to the general equivalency of the higher level age restrictions. Of the 104 films classified R16 in New Zealand, 84% were classified '15' in the United Kingdom, and of the 25 titles classified R18, 84% were given the equivalent '18' classification in the United Kingdom. The main reason that the United Kingdom is more restrictive overall is because all but one of the 60 films classified 'M' unrestricted in New Zealand were given partial or full restrictions in the United Kingdom (classified either '12A', '15' or '18').

In the United Kingdom, age restrictions begin at 12A in cinemas which means that those under 12 can only be admitted with parental accompaniment.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 4: New Zealand classifications compared to United Kingdom classifications**

New Zealand		No. of titles	United Kingdom			
			1	23	149	36
			U	12A	15	18
New Zealand	60	M	1	15	43	1
			2%	25%	72%	2%
	19	R13		4	15	
				21%	79%	
	104	R16		4	87	13
			4%	84%	13%	
25	R18			4	21	
				16%	84%	
1	R18 T/FF				1	
					100%	

Key
Unrestricted
Partial Restriction*
Restricted

\*For theatrical release films: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian while viewing the film

<sup>3</sup> When released on home formats, 12A films are given a '12' classification which means the retailer cannot sell or rent the item unless the customer is over the age of 12.

### *New Zealand and the United States*

Chart 3 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and United States film classifications.

- Of the 131 films compared, over half were classified R16 in New Zealand and R in the United States (see the biggest bubble in the chart). While these seem equivalent at face value, the strength score for the American R rating is 4 points lower as it is not a full restriction. Those under 17 can still see an R-rated film if accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Conversely, the lower right hand bubble is 20 films rated R in the United States but classified M (unrestricted) in New Zealand.
- Two films shown on the high end of the equality line (*Blue is the Warmest Colour* and *Shame*) received the NC-17 rating. This has a same meaning in cinemas as the New Zealand R18 classification, yet American cinemas often refuse to screen NC-17 films at all. Having films rated in the United States is not a legal requirement, and so many films which may have received an NC-17 rating are released 'unrated' at retail, or at the small number of cinemas which allow unrated films to be screened.
- Two outliers to the left of the chart were rated unrestricted PG-13 in the United States and given full restrictions in New Zealand; these were *Amour* (classified R13) and *The Look of Love* (R16).

**Chart 3: Comparison of New Zealand and United States film classifications**

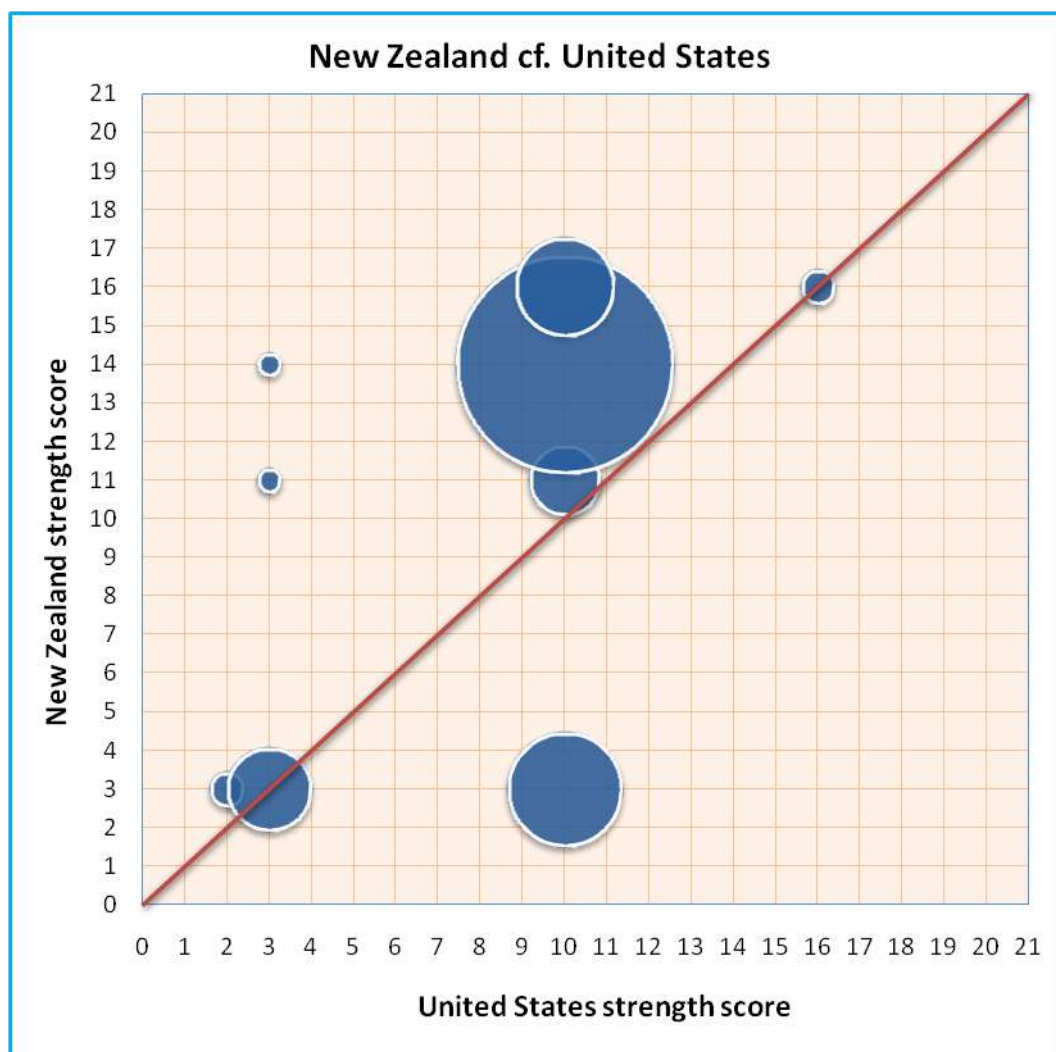
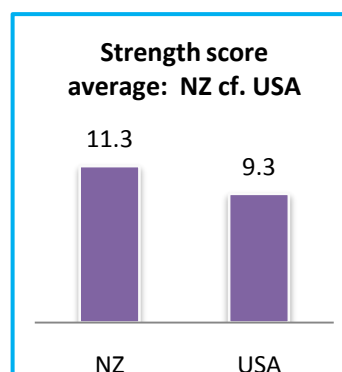


Chart 3 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	MPAA	NZ Score	MPAA Score	Count
M	PG	3	2	2
M	PG-13	3	3	11
M	R	3	10	20
R13	PG-13	11	3	1
R13	R	11	10	8
R16	PG-13	14	3	1
R16	R	14	10	71
R18	R	16	10	15
R18	NC-17	16	16	2

\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

Overall, 18% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 67% of titles were given a classification in New Zealand with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the United States classification, compared with just 15% of US films getting a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification.



Considering that restrictions under the United States system are almost entirely based around parental consent, rather than full age restrictions, it is surprising that New Zealand's overall strength measure average is only 2 points higher than the United States result. The results are brought closer by the 20 films in the sample that were rated R in the United States (strength score=10) and unrestricted M in New Zealand (score=3). This result is probably due to cultural differences in assessing the relative harm of offensive language, nudity, and sexual content. The brief descriptions on the United States film ratings website show that 17 of these 20 films were rated R for language, 16 for sexual content, and 8 for nudity – only 2 films were restricted for violent content.

Table 5 shows that 87% of the films in the sample were rated R in the United States. This contrasts with the range of classifications used in New Zealand. Note that *Killer Joe* was edited in order to receive an R rating for cinematic release in the United States. It was classified R18, uncut, in New Zealand.

The number of titles (131) able to be compared with the United States is relatively small. We assume that most of the films in the full sample of 260 are available in the United States, however, a relatively small number of films are submitted for an MPAA rating compared with the situation in New Zealand and Australia where submission of films for classification and labelling is mandatory.

**Table 5: New Zealand classifications compared to United States classifications**

Number of titles = 131		USA			
No. of titles		2	13	114	2
		PG	PG-13	R	NC-17
New Zealand	33	M	2	11	20
			6%	33%	61%
	9	R13		1	8
				11%	89%
	72	R16		1	71
				1%	99%
	17	R18			15
					2
					88%
					12%

Key
Unrestricted
Partial Restriction*
Restricted

\*For theatrical release films: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian while viewing the film

### *New Zealand and Ontario*

Chart 4 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and Ontario film classifications.

- Ontario uses a broad range of classifications, but the larger cluster of bubbles on the left of the equality line shows that most films in the comparison were more restricted in New Zealand.
- The largest bubble (n=72) are films classified R16 in New Zealand and 14A in Ontario. 14A means that people under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Looking along the bottom of the chart, bubbles to the right of the equality line represent 51 films classified M in New Zealand, 32 of which were classified 14A and five classified 18A in Ontario. It is notable that of the four 18A titles given content advisories, all mentioned sexual content and none mentioned violence. This may indicate differing cultural responses to sexual content, also seen in the United States' comparisons.
- The film *The House I Live In* is represented to the far left in the middle of the chart. The film was classified R16 in New Zealand and PG in Ontario. The slightly larger bubble below represents *Boss, Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara!*, and *Amour*, all classified R13 in New Zealand and PG in Ontario.
- Only two films, *Blue is the Warmest Color* and *The ABC's of Death*, shown on the equality line, were fully restricted 'R' in Ontario, making this classification as little used as 'NC-17' in the United States. Both films were classified R18 in New Zealand.

**Chart 4: Comparison of New Zealand and Ontario film classifications**

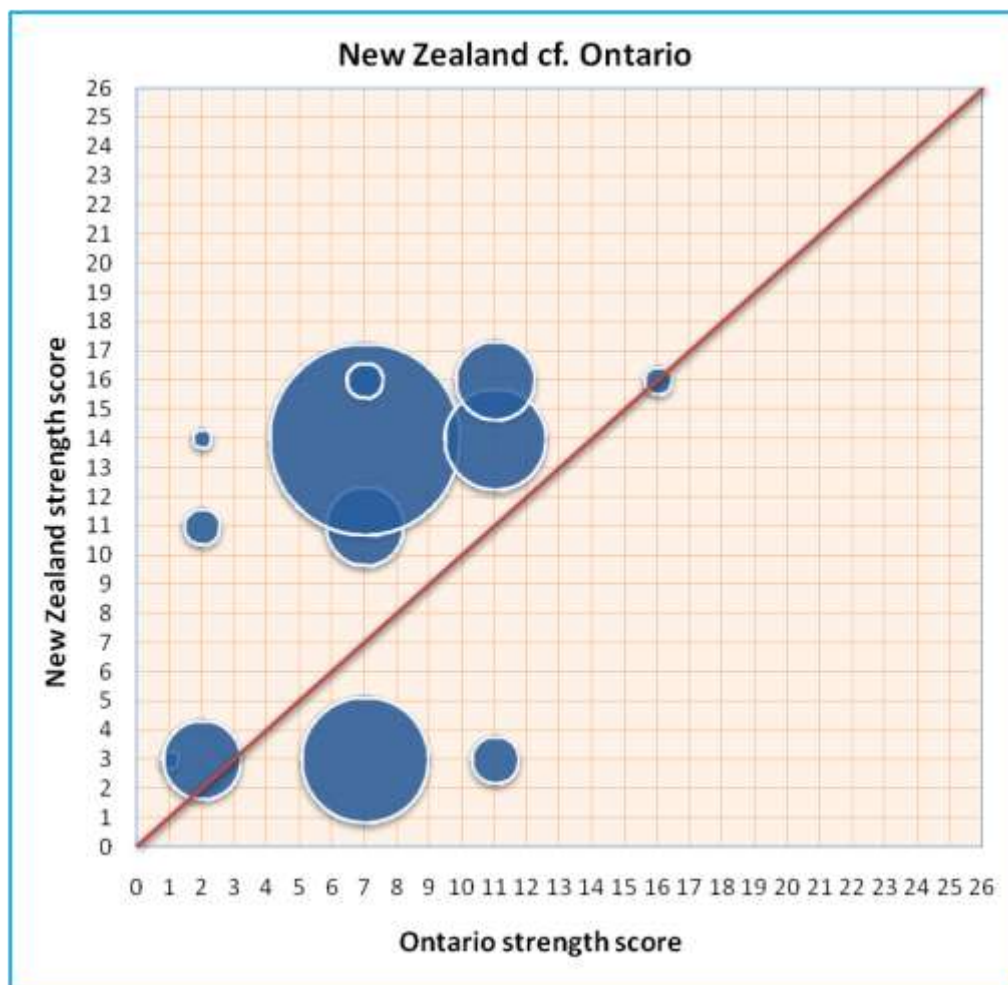


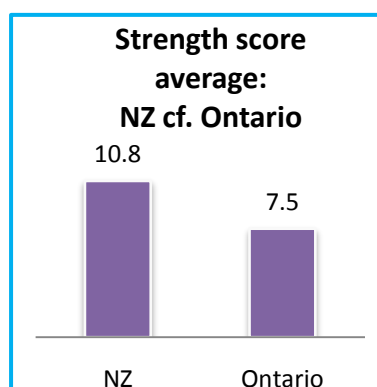


Chart 4 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	OFRB	NZ Score	OFRB Score	Count
M	G	3	1	1
M	PG	3	2	13
M	14A	3	7	32
M	18A	3	11	5
R13	PG	11	2	3
R13	14A	11	7	13
R16	PG	14	2	1
R16	14A	14	7	72
R16	18A	14	11	21
R18	14A	16	7	3
R18	18A	16	11	13
R18	R	16	16	2

\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

Overall, 21% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 59% of titles were given a classification in the New Zealand with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the Ontario classification, compared with 21% of Ontario films getting a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification.



Strength scores show that New Zealand’s classification system is much more restrictive than Ontario’s. Ontario's is the least restrictive system after Australia.

As in Australia and United States, the classification system is geared towards parental choice. As shown in Table 6, most of the films in the sample (89%) were given a partial restriction, either 14A or 18A.

**Table 6: New Zealand classifications compared to Ontario classifications**

Number of titles = 179		Ontario					
		1	17	120	39	2	
No. of titles		G	PG	14A	18A	R	
New Zealand	51	M	1	13	32	5	
			2%	25%	63%	10%	
	16	R13		3	13		
				19%	81%		
	94	R16		1	72	21	
			1%	77%	22%		
	18	R18			3	13	2
				17%	72%	11%	

**Key**

- Unrestricted
- Partial Restriction\*
- Restricted

\*For theatrical release films: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian while viewing the film; and for films on video (DVD/Blu-ray): restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian at point of sale.



### *New Zealand and Singapore*

Chart 5 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and Singaporean film classifications.

- The chart shows a large cluster of bubbles meaning there are broadly consistent classifications at the more restrictive end.
- The two biggest groups are those classified R16 in New Zealand and NC16 (n=34) and M18 (n=37) in Singapore.
- The cluster of three bubbles on the lower right-hand side of the chart shows films given an unrestricted M classification in New Zealand but restricted in Singapore: NC16 (strength score=14), M18 (score=16) and R21 (score=19).
- A smaller number of films were given unrestricted classifications in Singapore and restricted in New Zealand. For example, *Policeman* was classified PG in Singapore but given a full restriction in New Zealand (R16) due to violent content.
- *Maniac* is represented by the small bubble at the top and to the left of the equality line. The restrictiveness of its classification in New Zealand is a little stronger than Singapore's R21.

**Chart 5: Comparison of New Zealand and Singapore film classifications**

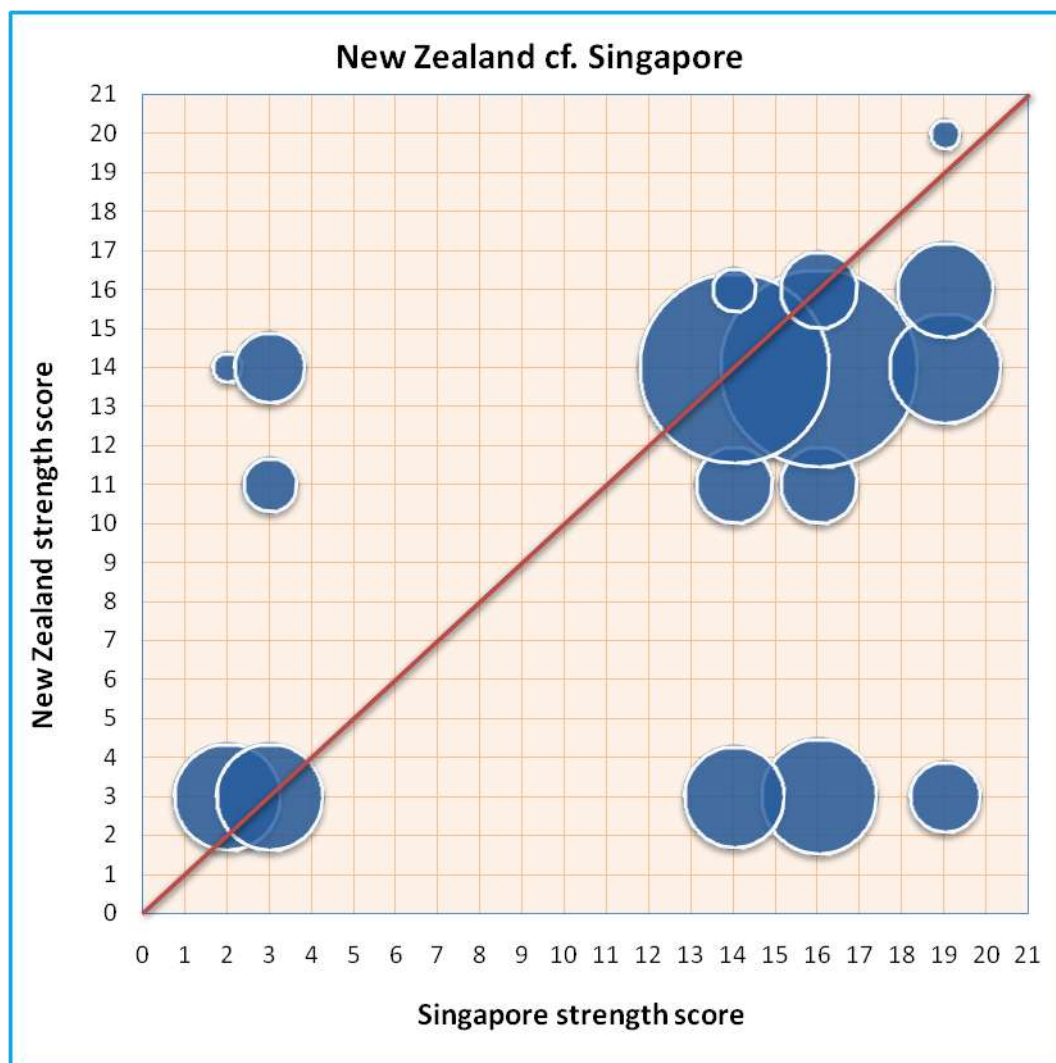
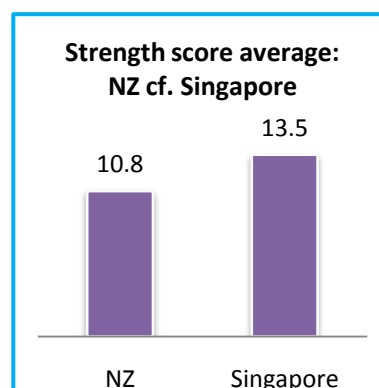


Chart 5 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	MDA	NZ Score	MDA Score	Count
M	M18	3	16	13
M	NC16	3	14	10
M	PG	3	2	11
M	PG13	3	3	11
M	R21	3	19	5
R13	M18	11	16	6
R13	NC16	11	14	6
R13	PG13	11	3	3
R16	M18	14	16	37
R16	NC16	14	14	34
R16	PG	14	2	1
R16	PG13	14	3	5
R16	R21	14	19	12
R18	M18	16	16	6
R18	NC16	16	14	2
R18	R21	16	19	9
R18 T/FF	R21	20	19	1

\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

Overall, 68% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 27% of titles were given a classification in Singapore with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification, compared with just 5% of NZ films getting a strength score 4 or more points higher than the Singapore classification.



Overall, Singapore is the most restrictive of the jurisdictions in the comparison with an average strength score almost three points higher than New Zealand's.

The five films in the sample that were classified M in New Zealand and R21 in Singapore all received the R21 classification for sexual content. Conversely, all nine films which were unrestricted in Singapore (either PG or PG13), were restricted here due to violent content. Again, we can see cultural differences at play, with Singapore much more restrictive when it comes to sex and nudity, and New Zealand somewhat more restrictive for violence.

Twenty films included in the sample required cuts in Singapore to receive a classification. Half of the cuts were for "language that denigrates religion or is religiously profane". According to MDA guidelines, films with such language may not be passed in Singapore regardless of age restriction.

Another difference in the systems is the treatment of homosexuality. For example, the film *Kill Your Darlings* (classified R16 in New Zealand and R21 in Singapore with an advisory of 'Homosexual Content') received its Singaporean classification mainly for depictions of implied sex between two men. MDA guidelines state that 'explicit portrayals of sex between persons of the same gender are not allowed'.

**Table 7: New Zealand classifications compared to Singapore classifications**

Number of titles = 172		Singapore					
No. of titles		12	19	52	62	27	
		PG	PG13	NC16	M18	R21	
New Zealand	50	M	11	11	10	13	5
			22%	22%	20%	26%	10%
	15	R13		3	6	6	
				20.0%	40%	40.0%	
	89	R16	1	5	34	37	12
			1%	6%	38%	42%	13.5%
17	R18			2	6	9	
				12%	35%	53%	
1	R18 T/FF					1	
						100%	

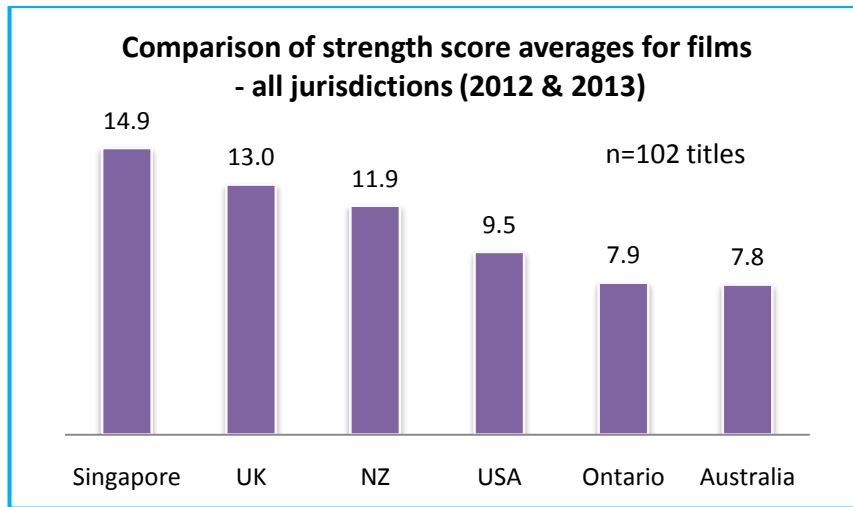
Key
Unrestricted
Partial Restriction*
Restricted

\*For theatrical release films: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian while viewing the film

**Summary – comparing films**

Of the 260 films included in the analysis, 102 were classified in all jurisdictions. These titles are used to illustrate the comparative strengths of the classification systems in terms of restrictiveness (see Chart 6).

**Chart 6: Comparison of strength score averages for films – all jurisdictions**

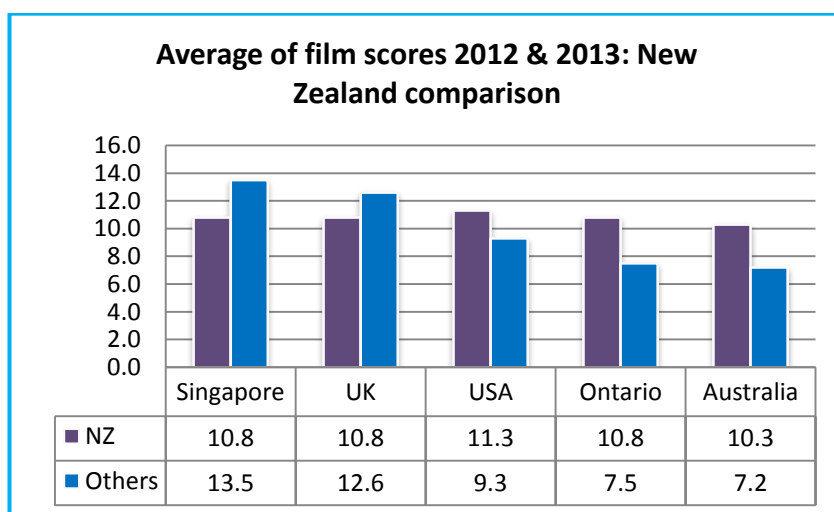


**Strength scores for individual titles**

Of the 102 film titles classified by all jurisdictions, the most highly restricted was *Blue is the Warmest Colour* (average strength score=16.5), followed by *Shame* (score=15.7), and then *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Evil Dead*, and *Killer Joe* (score=14.7).

Film titles which received the highest strength scores in New Zealand relative to the average for all other jurisdictions were *Amour* (New Zealand strength score 5.6 points higher than average), *Prometheus* (New Zealand score 4.6 points higher), and *Pain & Gain* (NZ score 4.4 points higher). Titles which received the lowest strength scores in New Zealand relative to the average for all other jurisdictions were *A Happy Event* (New Zealand strength score 9.2 points lower than average), *In the House* (NZ strength score 8.6 points lower), and *The Sessions* (New Zealand strength score 8.4 points lower). **Chart 7: New Zealand cf. other countries – average strength scores**

Chart 7 (below) compares the relative strength of the New Zealand film classification system with each of the other countries included in the study.



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## Game Results

The following charts and tables show New Zealand game classifications compared to Australia, the United States and Ontario (both use the American ESRB game ratings system), the United Kingdom (which uses the pan-European system PEGI) and Singapore. See Appendix A for details about the classification systems used.

112 titles with New Zealand classifications ranging from 'M' to 'R18' made up the data set for comparison. 72 of the games in the data set were classified in all jurisdictions. G and PG classifications were excluded as largely irrelevant to the work of the New Zealand Classification Office whose job it is to deal with material that may need restriction in order to prevent injury to the public good. There is also no requirement in New Zealand for unrestricted games to display New Zealand classification labels.

The six New Zealand M classifications in the sample were assigned by the Office of Film and Literature Classification applying New Zealand classification criteria and principles. Note that under section 8 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, games do not need to be classified and labelled unless they are likely to have content that would be restricted under the Act. In practice, this means that most distributors do not submit games for classification unless they have received a restricted or Teen/Adult classification in another jurisdiction, in particular the MA15+ or R18+ classifications in Australia.

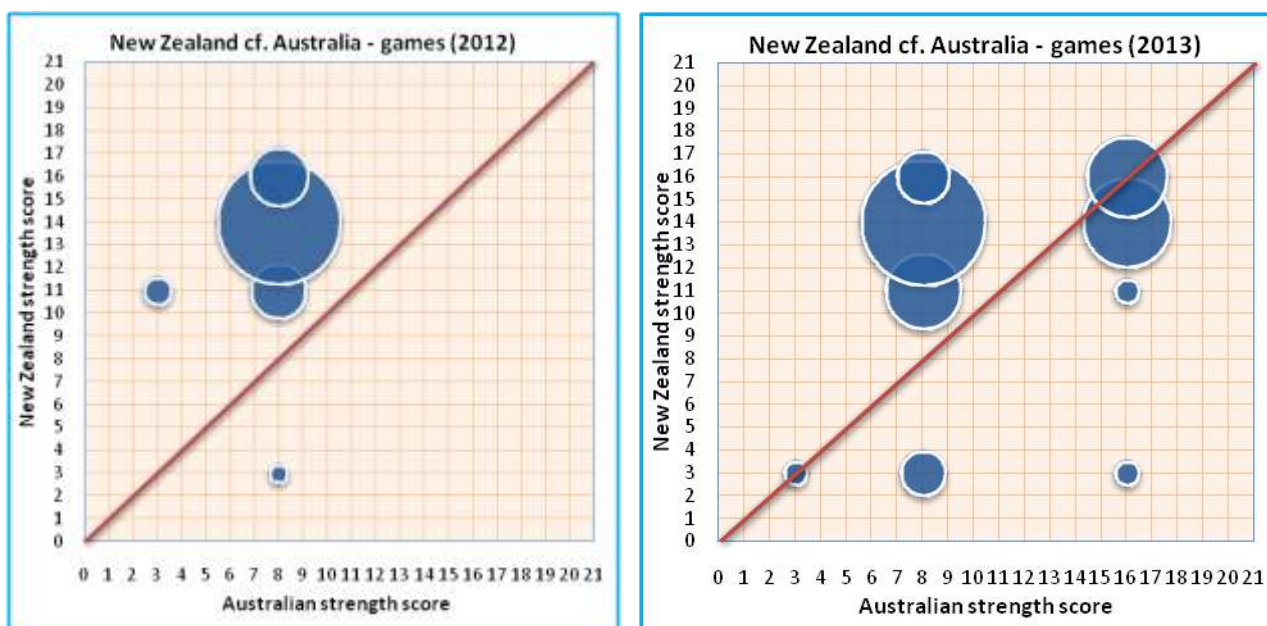
See Appendix B for the games data set.

### *New Zealand and Australia – games*

Australia adopted an R18+ classification in January 2013. Games had previously been treated differently to films in that MA15+ was the highest classification available. The ability to classify games R18+ represents a significant change in the Australian classification system, and so for this comparison we have divided our sample of titles according to *year of classification in Australia*. Chart 8a compares the relative strength of New Zealand and Australian game classifications using titles classified in Australia during 2012. Chart 8b compares New Zealand and Australian game classifications using titles classified in Australia during 2013. The charts show that:

- In 2012, only one game was given a more restrictive classification in Australia, *The Testament of Sherlock Holmes*.
- In 2013, 16 games were restricted more highly in Australia. Thirteen of these were given the new R18+ classification.
- The largest group in both charts show games classified R16 in New Zealand and MA15+ in Australia. However this group shrank from 65% of all games in 2012 to just 36% of all games in 2013.
- The second largest group in 2013 shows games classified R16 in New Zealand and R18+ in Australia, representing 19% of all games in that year.
- In 2013, three of the five games classified M in New Zealand were given an MA15+ restriction in Australia, and one was classified R18+ *Fable Anniversary*.
- The 2013 sample includes three games which were initially banned in Australia before being resubmitted for classification with modified content: *South Park: The Stick Of Truth* (reclassified R18+), *Saints Row IV* (reclassified MA15+), and *State of Decay* (reclassified R18+).

**Charts 8a and 8b: Comparison of New Zealand and Australian game classifications**



Charts 8a (2012) and 8b (2013) were derived from the following data\*:

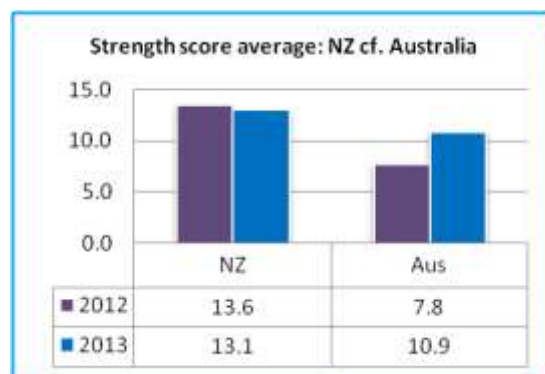
Classified in Australia in 2012				
NZ	ACB	NZ Score	ACB Score	Count
M	MA15+	3	8	1
R13	M	11	3	2
R13	MA15+	11	8	7
R16	MA15+	14	8	33
R18	MA15+	16	8	8

Classified in Australia in 2013				
NZ	ACB	NZ Score	ACB Score	Count
M	M	3	3	1
M	MA15+	3	8	3
M	R18+	3	16	1
R13	MA15+	11	8	8
R13	R18+	11	16	1
R16	MA15+	14	8	21
R16	R18+	14	16	11
R18	MA15+	16	8	4
R18	R18+	16	16	9

\*Classifications in the tables above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

In 2012, 14% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores, this rose to 49% in 2013. In 2012, 84% of titles were given a New Zealand classification with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the Australian classification, this dropped to 42% in 2013.

In 2012, only one game (2% of the sample) was given an Australian classification with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification, this rose to 8% in 2013.



As shown above, the strength of game classifications in New Zealand and Australia became significantly more consistent following the 2013 introduction of the R18+ restriction in Australia. Still, in 2013 the most common Australian classification in the sample was MA15+, a partial restriction, and so overall the New Zealand system was more restrictive in both 2012 and 2013.

Table 8 shows that all games classified R18 in New Zealand in the 2012 sample were classified MA15+ in Australia. Table 8 also shows that after the introduction of the R18+ classification in Australia in 2013, only 31% of games classified R18 in New Zealand were given the less restrictive MA15+ in Australia.

In 2013, games were more likely to be classified R18+ in Australia (22 titles) than R18 in New Zealand (13 titles). This means that Australia was more restrictive at the higher end despite being less restrictive overall. It will be interesting to see if this becomes a trend.

**Table 8: New Zealand classifications compared to Australian classifications**

New Zealand	2012 No. of titles = 51				2013 No. of titles = 59			
	No. of titles	NZ	Australia		No. of titles	NZ	Australia	
			M	MA15+			M	MA15+
1	M		1 (100%)	5	M	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	1 (20%)
9	R13	2 (22%)	7 (78%)	9	R13		8 (89%)	1 (11%)
33	R16		33 (100%)	32	R16		21 (66%)	11 (34%)
8	R18		8 (100%)	13	R18		4 (31%)	9 (69%)

**Key**

- Unrestricted
- Partial Restriction\*
- Restricted

\* For videogames: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian at point of sale

### *New Zealand and United States – games*

Chart 9 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and United States game classifications. The chart shows that:

- A similar picture emerges to the comparison with MPAA film ratings in the United States, where most games have stronger New Zealand scores illustrated by the cluster above the equality line.
- The closest group to the equality line is a group of 17 games classified R13 in New Zealand and M17+ in the United States.
- The only titles given an equivalent strength classification are a small group shown near the bottom of the equality line that are M in New Zealand, and ESRB's Teen classification in the United States.
- Of the 10 Teen games in the sample, 7 were restricted in New Zealand.
- Three games were classified unrestricted M in New Zealand and rated M17+ (a partial restriction) in the United States. These were *Fable Anniversary*, *Magrunner: Dark Pulse*, and *The Testament of Sherlock Holmes*.

**Chart 9: Comparison of New Zealand and United States game classifications**

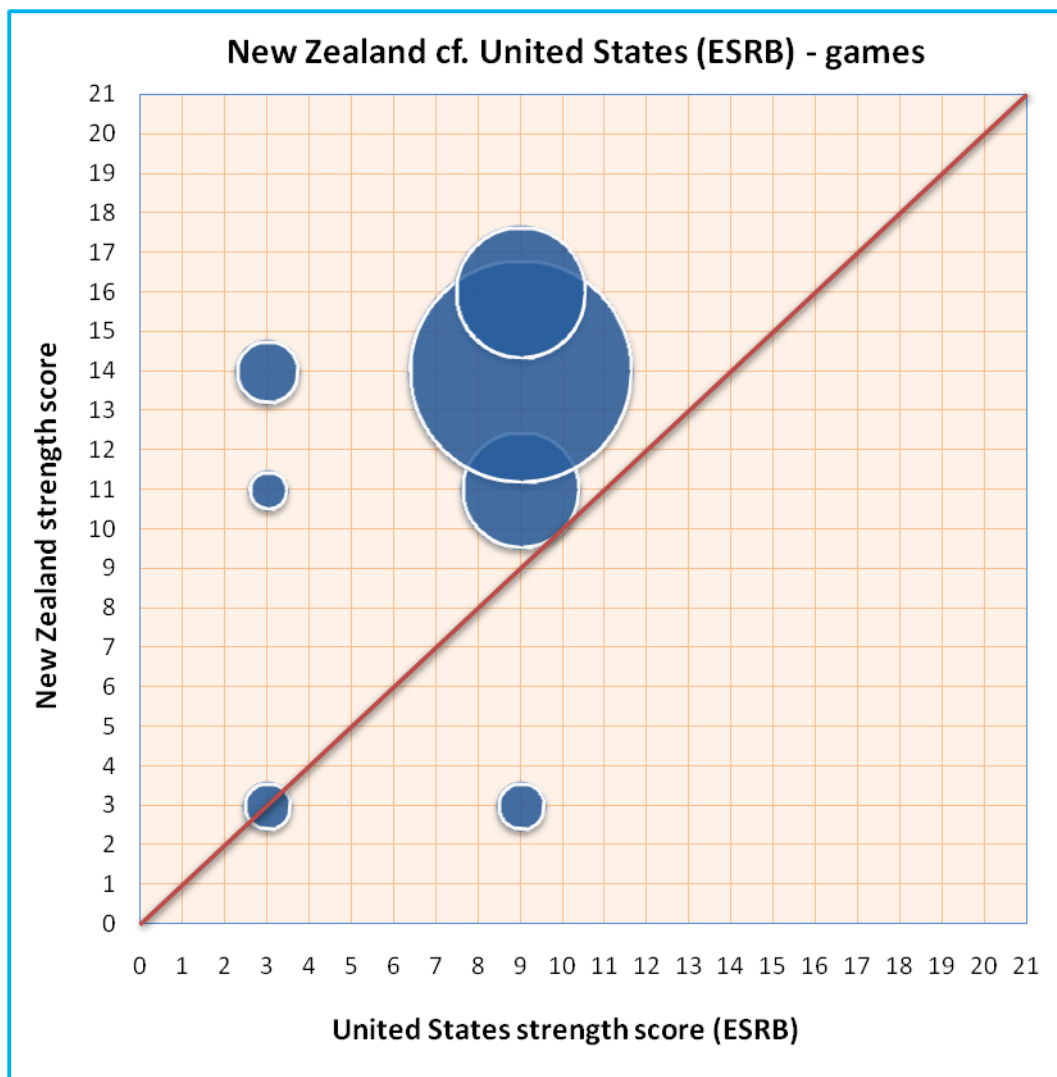


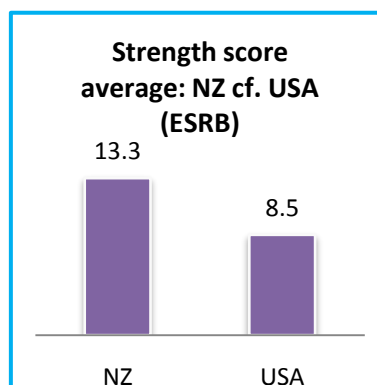


Chart 9 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	ESRB	NZ Score	ESRB Score	Count
M	Teen	3	3	<b>3</b>
M	Mature 17+	3	9	<b>3</b>
R13	Teen	11	3	<b>2</b>
R13	Mature 17+	11	9	<b>17</b>
R16	Teen	14	3	<b>5</b>
R16	Mature 17+	14	9	<b>60</b>
R18	Mature 17+	16	9	<b>21</b>

\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

Overall, 18% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 79% of titles were given a classification in New Zealand with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the United States classification, compared with just 3% of United States' films getting a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification.



The American system is much less restrictive than New Zealand's. Only 20 titles were classified relatively consistently. While the ESRB has an AO classification which is enforced at the point-of-sale, and therefore equivalent in strength to the New Zealand R18, it is rarely applied.

From a search of the ESRB database, it appears that the AO rating has only been applied 40 times in the past, and is often accompanied by the content descriptor 'strong sexual content'.

Table 9 below illustrates that around one in five of the titles compared between the two jurisdictions was classified R18 in New Zealand but only partially restricted in the United States.

Classifications are more finely graded in New Zealand where four different possible classifications were used for 101 titles in the dataset, all of which were classified M17+ in the United States.

It is interesting that of the 19 R13 games restricted in New Zealand, 89% were rated M17+ for United States players (See Appendix B for lists of titles in this category.)

**Table 9: New Zealand classifications compared to United States classifications**

Number of titles = 111		USA (ESRB)	
		10 Teen	101 M17+
New Zealand	6 M	3 50%	3 50%
	19 R13	2 11%	17 89%
	65 R16	5 8%	60 92%
	21 R18		21 100%

**Key**

Unrestricted
Partial Restriction*
Restricted

\* For videogames: restricted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian at point of sale



### *New Zealand and Ontario – games*

Chart 10 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and Ontario game classifications. The chart shows that:

- Despite using the same ESRB ratings, the results for Ontario differ markedly to those of the USA. This is because the M17+ rating is enforced as a full age restriction in Ontario and so has a higher strength score in this analysis.
- New Zealand and Ontario have systems of mostly equivalent strength as illustrated by the large cluster of titles on or near the equality line.
- As in the comparison with the United States, seven Teen games have much higher strength scores in New Zealand where most are classified R13 or R16.

**Chart 10: Comparison of New Zealand and Ontario game classifications**

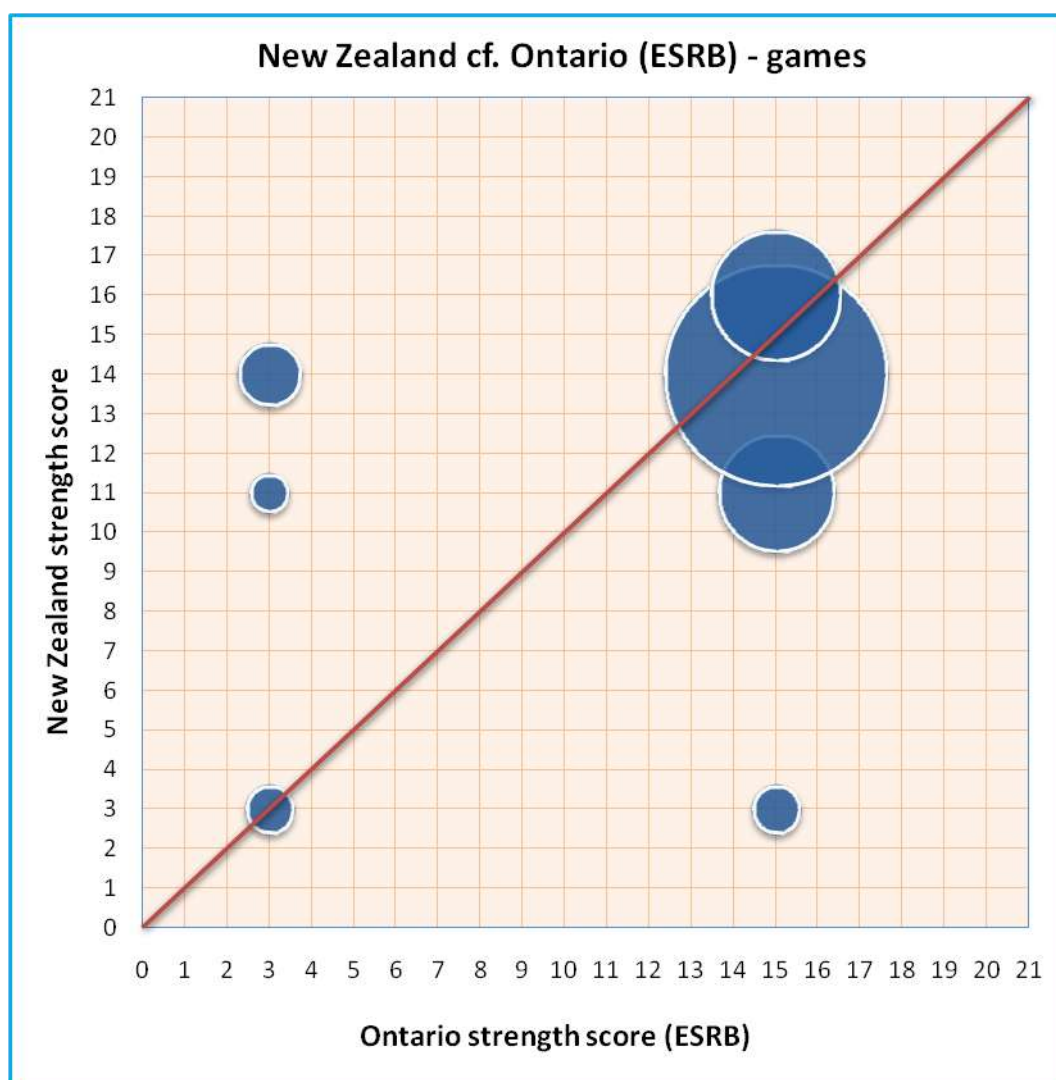
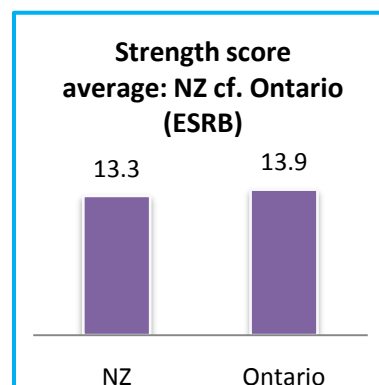


Chart 10 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	ESRB	NZ Score	ESRB Score	Count
M	Teen	3	3	3
M	Mature 17+	3	15	3
R13	Teen	11	3	2
R13	Mature 17+	11	15	17
R16	Teen	14	3	5
R16	Mature 17+	14	15	60
R18	Mature 17+	16	15	21

\*Classifications in the table above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

Overall, 84% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 18% of games were given a classification in Ontario with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification, compared with just 6% of games in New Zealand getting a strength score 4 or more points higher than the Ontario classification.



The restrictive nature of the system for games contrasts with Ontario's film classification system, which allows a greater variety of classifications and is also considerably more liberal in its overall strength average of 7.9.

The strength of Ontario's classification system for games is the closest to New Zealand's, however, the range of classifications assigned by the ESRB is more limited than New Zealand's. Table 10 below illustrates that while many of the same games are restricted in both jurisdictions, the New Zealand system is more finely graded with a range of age restrictions from R13 to R18. In Ontario, 13 year-olds cannot buy 17 of the games in the sample that their New Zealand counterparts can, and 16 year-olds cannot buy 60 games that their New Zealand counterparts can.

**Table 10: New Zealand classifications compared to Ontario classifications**

Number of titles = 111			ESRB (Ontario)	
	No. of titles		10	101
			Teen	M17+
New Zealand	6	M	3	3
			50%	50%
	19	R13	2	17
			11%	89%
	65	R16	5	60
			8%	92%
	21	R18		21
				100%

Key	
Unrestricted	
Restricted	

### *New Zealand and United Kingdom – games*

Chart 11 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and United Kingdom game classifications using the European PEGI ratings system. In July 2012 the PEGI 12, 16 and 18 ratings became legal restrictions in the United Kingdom, under the provisions of the *Digital Economy Act 2010*. Note that the PEGI ratings are only enforced as age restrictions in the United Kingdom and a few other countries. Other countries treat them as suitability advisories.

- The large cluster of titles near the equality line show that the classifications assigned are broadly consistent.
- The largest group represents games classified R16 in New Zealand and '18' in the United Kingdom, which is indicative of PEGI's tendency to apply higher age ratings.
- Only one game, *Ride to Hell*, was classified 16 by PEGI and R18 in New Zealand.
- Outliers include three titles which have a restricted 16 rating in the United Kingdom and an unrestricted M in New Zealand. These are *Fable Anniversary*, *Magrunner: Dark Pulse*, and *The Testament of Sherlock Holmes* (all three were also outliers in the United States/Ontario, and both *Fable* and *Testament* were outliers in Australia).
- Four titles were classified R13 in New Zealand and 18 by PEGI, these are: *Castlevania – Lords of Shadow 2*, *Company of Heroes 2*, *XCOM: Enemy Within*, and *XCOM: Enemy Unknown*.

**Chart 11: Comparison of New Zealand and United Kingdom (PEGI) game classifications**

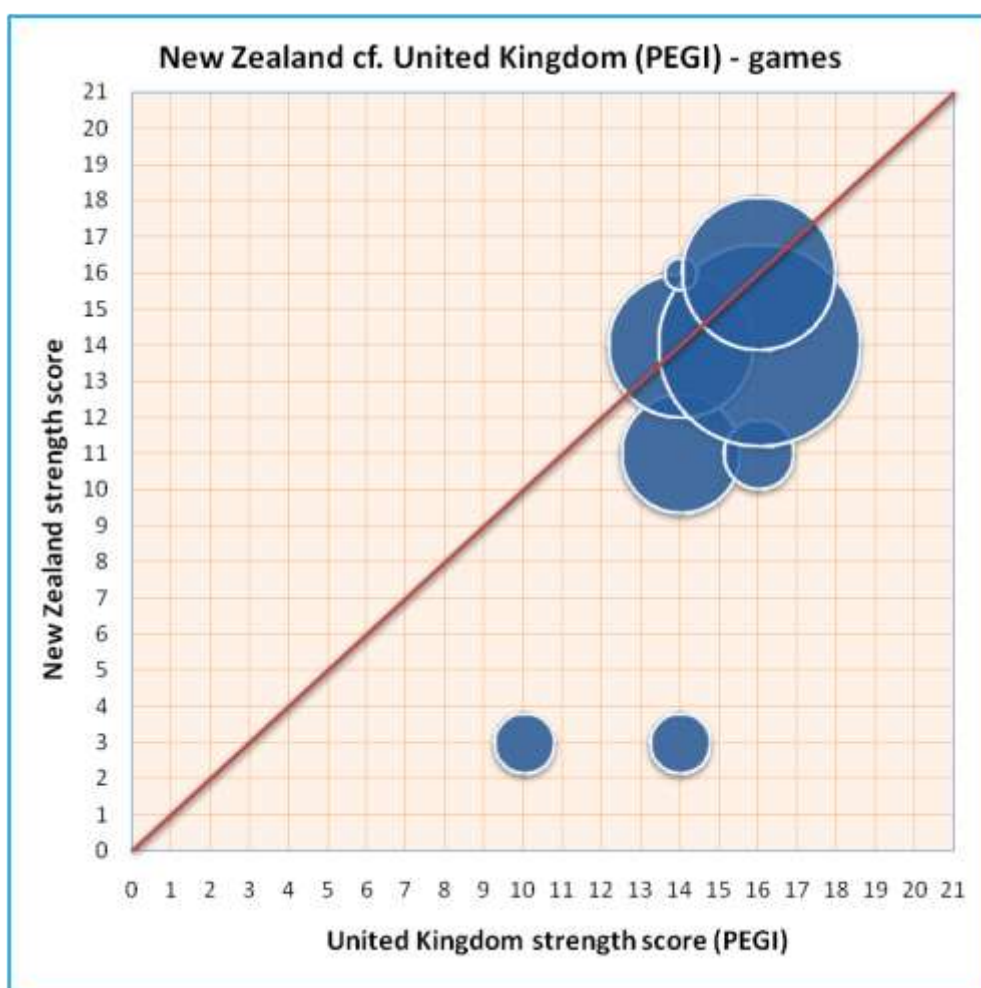
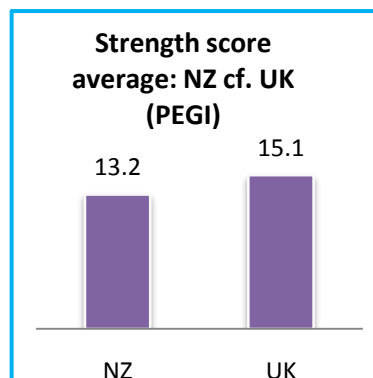


Chart 11 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	UK	NZ Score	UK Score	Count
M	12	3	10	3
M	16	3	14	3
R13	16	11	14	11
R13	18	11	16	4
R16	16	14	14	16
R16	18	14	16	31
R18	16	16	14	1
R18	18	16	16	18

Overall, 89% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. 11% have a classification in the United Kingdom with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification.



\*Classifications in the tables above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.

While nine out of 10 games received relatively consistent classifications according to strength scores (see box above), the average strength score for the United Kingdom is two points higher than New Zealand's. This makes it the most restrictive classification system for games of any jurisdiction in the comparison, followed by Ontario's, which also legally enforces a ratings system from another country.

The PEGI system includes a similar range of restricted classifications to New Zealand's (see Table 11), but does not include an equivalent to the M classification (unrestricted but suitable for mature audiences 16 years and over).

PEGI is much more likely to use the '18' rating. 66% of New Zealand R16s and 27% of R13s were rated 18 by PEGI, along with 95% of New Zealand R18s.

**Table 11: New Zealand classifications compared to United Kingdom (PEGI) classifications**

Number of titles = 87			United Kingdom (PEGI)		
	No. of titles		3	31	53
				12	16
New Zealand	6	M	3	3	
			50%	50%	
	15	R13		11	4
				73%	27%
	47	R16		16	31
			34%	66%	
19	R18		1	18	
			5%	95%	

Key
Unrestricted
Restricted

### *New Zealand and Singapore – games*

Chart 12 compares the relative strength of New Zealand and Singapore game classifications. The chart shows that:

- The largest group represents games classified M18 in Singapore and R16 in New Zealand, making Singapore somewhat more restrictive at the higher end. The relatively high number of Singapore M18s is due in part to their game classification system having only one age restriction, 18.
- The larger bubbles to the left of the equality line represent 11 games classified R16 in New Zealand and 'Advisory 16' in Singapore, and 10 games classified R13 in New Zealand and 'Advisory 16' in Singapore.
- Four games classified R16 in New Zealand were classified 'General' in Singapore. These are *Counter Strike: Global Offensive*, *Injustice: Gods Among Us*, *Starhawk*, and *Unit 13*. They were restricted in New Zealand due to violent content.
- *Fable Anniversary* was unrestricted M in New Zealand and classified M18 in Singapore. This was the only game to be restricted in every jurisdiction other than New Zealand.

**Chart 12: Comparison of New Zealand and Singapore game classifications**

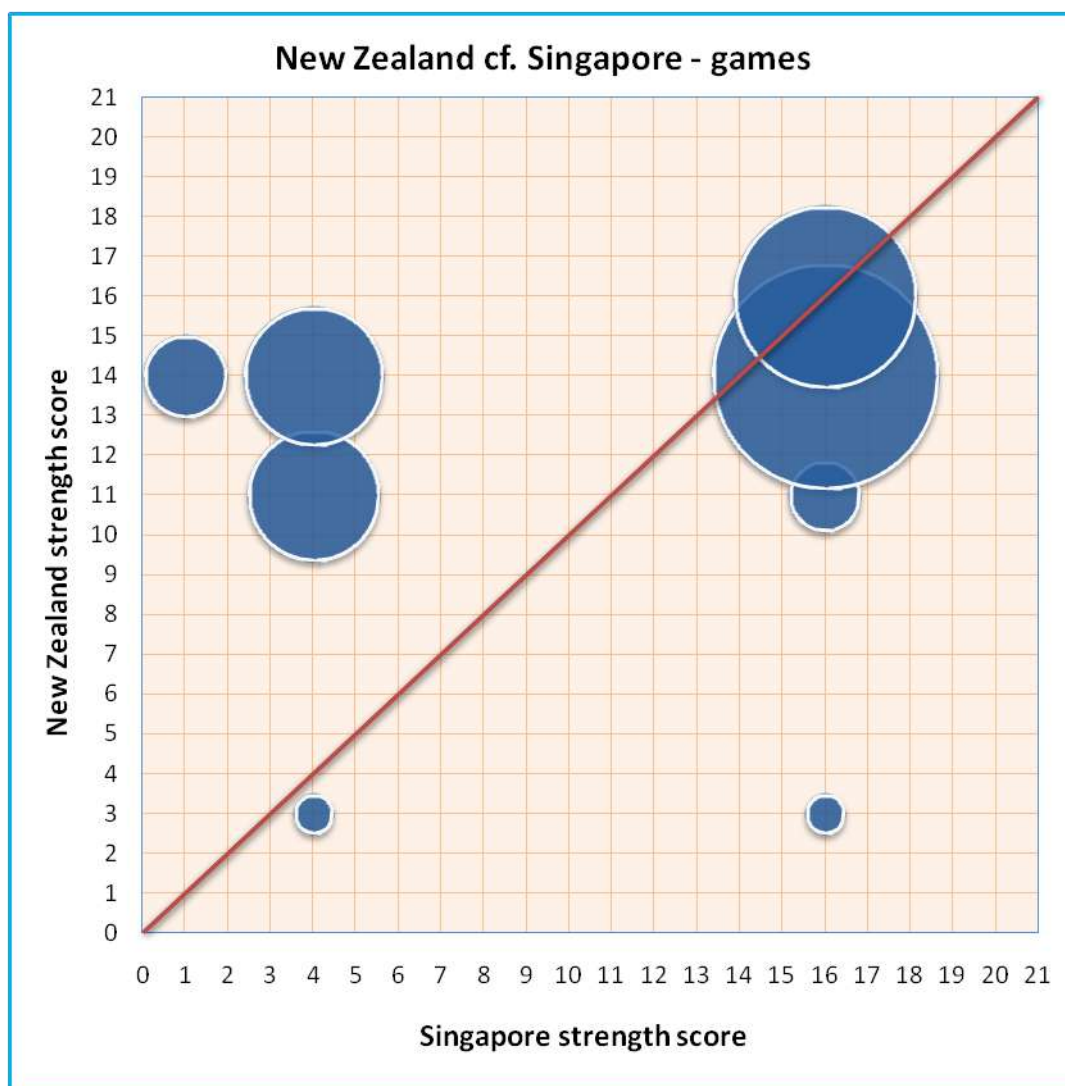
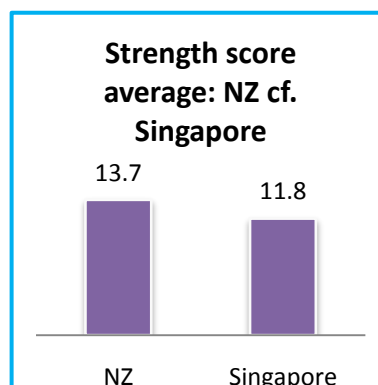


Chart 12 was derived from the following data\*:

NZ	MDA	NZ Score	MDA Score	Count
M	Advisory 16	3	4	1
M	M18	3	16	1
R13	Advisory 16	11	4	10
R13	M18	11	16	3
R16	General	14	1	4
R16	Advisory 16	14	4	11
R16	M18	14	16	29
R18	M18	16	16	19

Overall, 63% of titles received relatively consistent classifications in both jurisdictions according to strength scores. Only 5% of games were given a classification in Singapore with a strength score 4 or more points higher than the New Zealand classification, compared with 32% of New Zealand games getting a strength score 4 or more points higher than the Singapore classification.

\*Classifications in the tables above are considered relatively consistent when they are less than or equal to 3 strength points of each other. Those highlighted blue are New Zealand classifications less restrictive by 4 or more points. Those highlighted pink are New Zealand classifications that are more restrictive by 4 or more points.



The Singaporean system is less restrictive than New Zealand’s despite 52 titles given a restricted M18 classification, compared to just 19 titles given the equivalent R18 classification in New Zealand. This is balanced by the 25 games which were unrestricted in Singapore and restricted in New Zealand.

Overall, Singapore’s classification system for games is much less restrictive than for films, and is one of the least consistent in this regard when compared with most other jurisdictions (see Chart 15). This may reflect cultural differences in that the type of content in games may be considered less problematic in general by the Singaporean public. This seems likely as the game classification system only started operating in 2008.

Table 12 shows that classifications at the higher end are relatively consistent between New Zealand and Singapore: 66% of New Zealand R16’s are given a similar M18 classification in Singapore, and every game classified R18 in New Zealand was given the equivalent M18 classification in Singapore.

**Table 12: New Zealand classifications compared to Singapore classifications**

Number of titles = 78			MDA		
No. of titles		4	22	52	
		General	ADV16	M18	
New Zealand	2	M	1	1	
			50%	50%	
	13	R13	10	3	
			77%	23%	
	44	R16	4	11	29
			9%	25%	66%
	19	R18			19
					100%

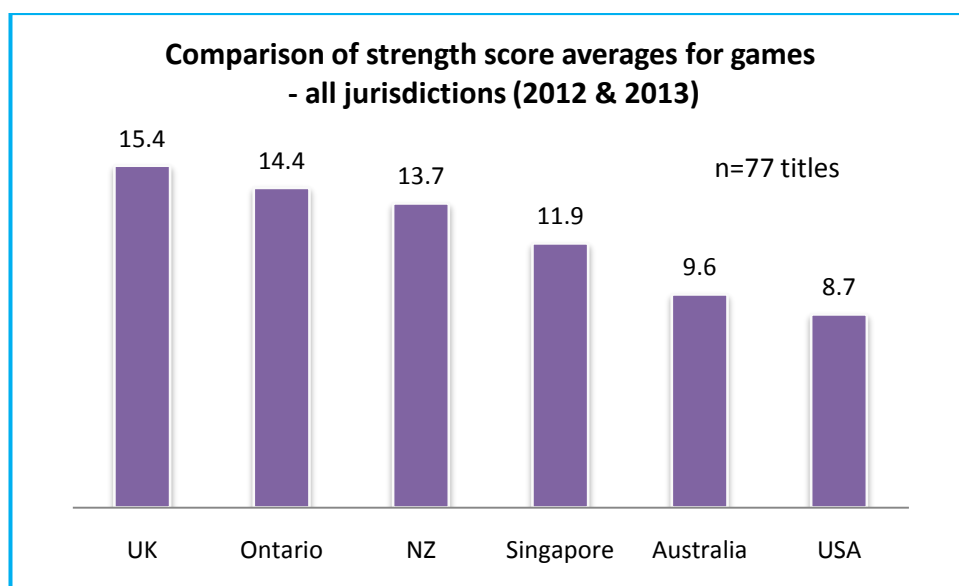
Key

Unrestricted
Restricted

## Summary – comparing games

Of the 112 games included in the analysis, 77 were classified in all jurisdictions. These titles are used to illustrate the comparative strengths of the classification systems in terms of restrictiveness (see Chart 13).

**Chart 13: Comparison of strength score averages for games**



### Strength scores for individual titles

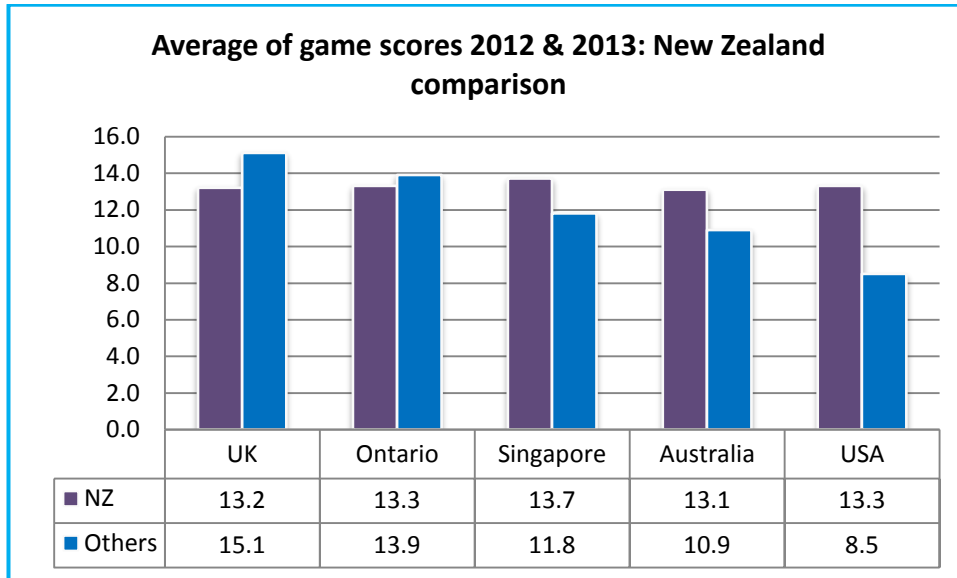
Of the 77 titles classified by all jurisdictions, the most highly restricted had an average strength score of 14.7. These were:

- *Army Of Two The Devil's Cartel*
- *Dead Island Riptide*
- *Dead Rising 3*
- *Grand Theft Auto V*
- *The Last of Us*
- *Payday 2*
- *Ryse Son of Rome*

Titles which received the highest strength scores in New Zealand relative to the average for all other jurisdictions were *Starhawk*, *Unit 13*, and *Unjust: Gods Among Us* (NZ strength scores 8.2 points higher than average). Titles which received the lowest strength scores in New Zealand relative to the average for all other jurisdictions were *Fable Anniversary* (NZ strength score 11 points lower than average), *The Testament of Sherlock Holmes* (NZ strength score 7 points lower), and *Castlevania – Lords of Shadow 2* (NZ strength score 3.4 points lower).



**Chart 14: Average of game scores 2012 and 2013**



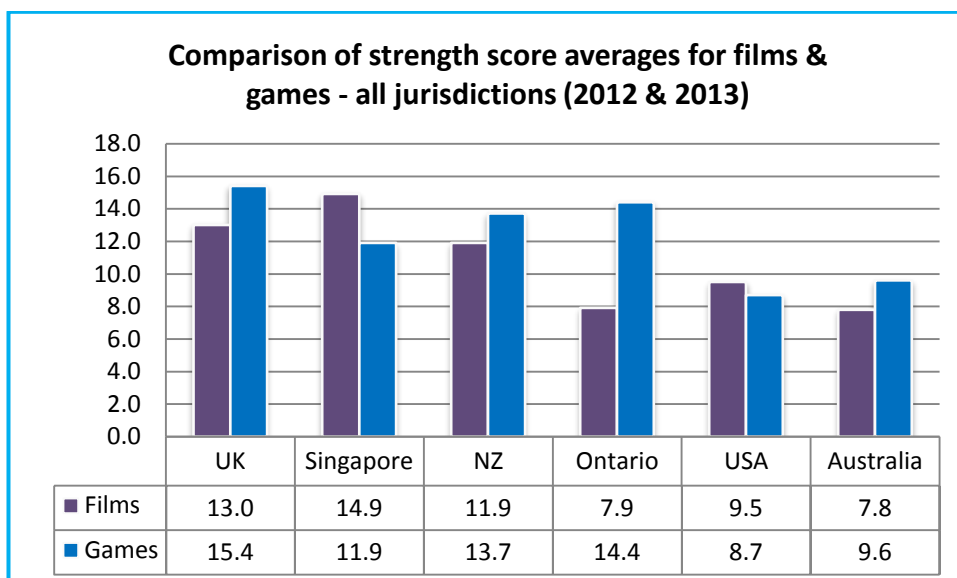
### Comparison of Strength Averages for Films and Games

Chart 16 is ordered from most to least restrictive using a combined average of film and game scores – it shows that the most restrictive classification system overall is the United Kingdom's and the most liberal is Australia's.

It also illustrates the strength differences within jurisdictions' film and game classifications. By far the most inconsistent jurisdiction is Ontario, with average game scores 6.5 points higher than average film scores. Note that films are classified in Ontario, while game ratings are adopted from the United States' ESRB rating system. Interestingly, if ESRB ratings were enforced in the same way they are in the United States then Ontario's overall classification system would be more consistent.

Singapore is also relatively inconsistent, but with game scores an average of 3 points lower than films. The MDA is responsible for film and game classifications, however the classifications used are different.

**Chart 15: Average of film and game scores 2012 and 2013**





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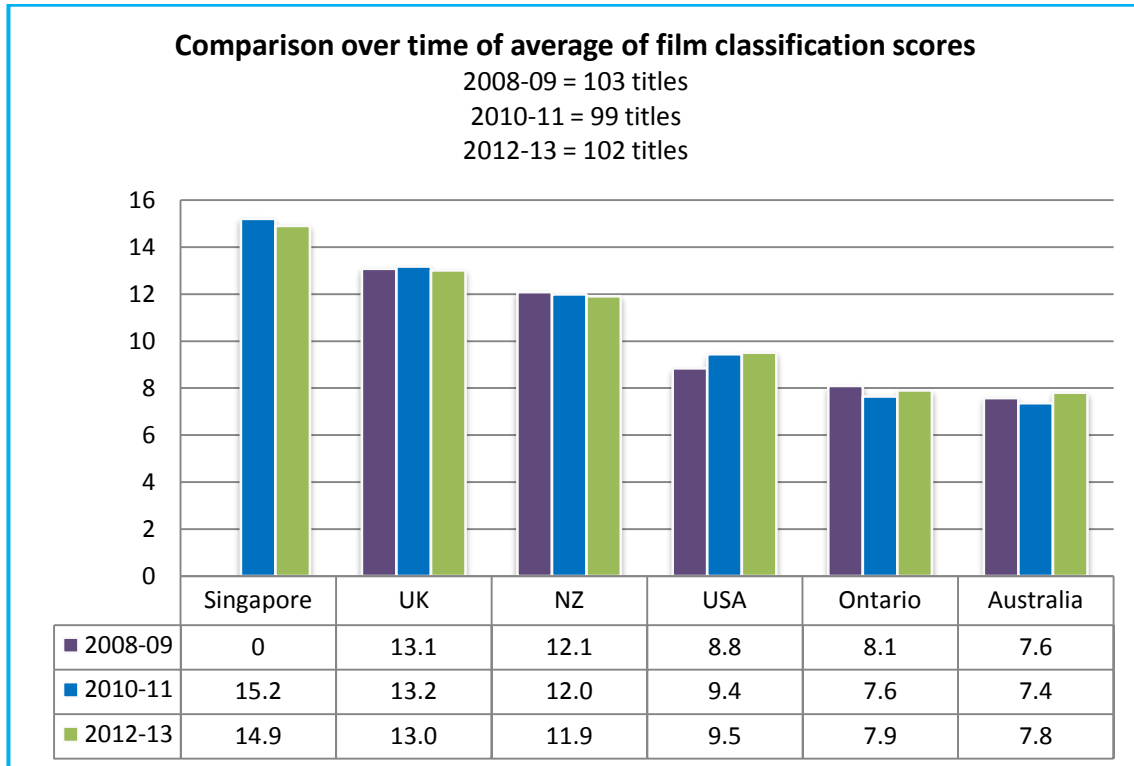
*Comparisons of strength averages between 2008/09 data sets, 2010/11 data sets, and 2012/13 data sets*

This is the third classification comparison we have undertaken covering a period of six years in total. Changes in average strength scores are illustrated in Chart 17 (for films) and Chart 18 (games).

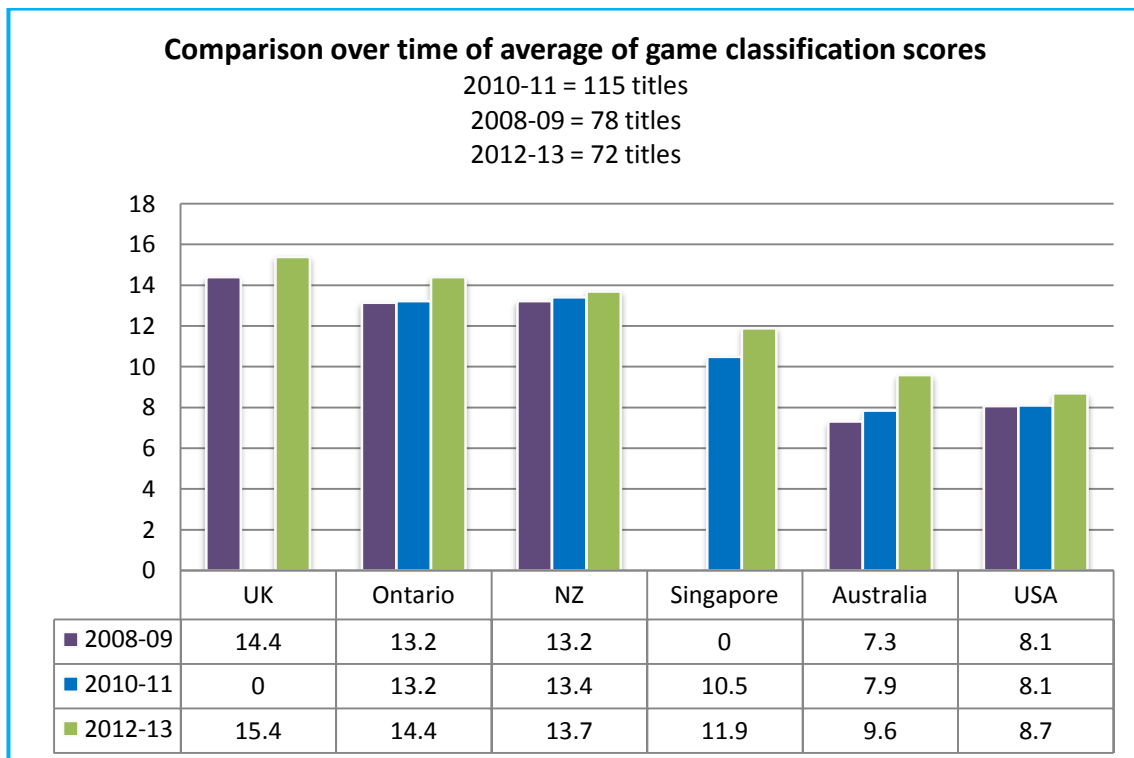
The methodology has changed somewhat (particularly compared with the pilot comparison 2008/09) but it is apparent that film classifications have seen relatively little movement over this period. Note that Singapore was not included in the pilot comparison.

In jurisdictions using the same game classification system over the six year period, it appears that the strength of classifications have edged upward over time. This does not necessarily mean that classification authorities are treating games more harshly, it may actually reflect the stronger nature and increasing realism of games over this period. Australia and the United Kingdom have also seen a rise in relative restrictiveness over this period. However, it should be noted that Australia has only recently started using a more restrictive R18+ classification, and the United Kingdom is now using a completely different classification system for games (restricted games in our pilot comparison 2008/09 were classified by the BBFC).

**Chart 16: Comparison over time of average of film classification strength scores**



**Chart 17: Comparison over time of average of game classification strength scores**



See Appendix C for 2010/2011 and 2008/2009 strength score tables.

In 2008/2009 we used BBFC classifications for UK games. In 2010/2011 we opted not to include UK game classification as the system was transitioning to PEGI, which we used for the UK 2012/2013 comparison.

## Appendix A: Guide to Classification and Ratings Systems for Films and Games

### Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB)

The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) is a non-profit, self-regulatory body that assigns age and content ratings for video games and mobile apps so parents can make informed choices. As part of its self-regulatory role for the video game industry the ESRB also enforces industry-adopted advertising guidelines and helps ensure responsible online privacy practices under its Privacy Online program. ESRB was established in 1994 by the Entertainment Software Association (ESA).<sup>4</sup>



#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

Titles rated **EC (Early Childhood)** have content that may be suitable for ages 3 and older. Contains no material that parents would find inappropriate.



#### EVERYONE

Titles rated **E (Everyone)** have content that may be suitable for ages 6 and older. Titles in this category may contain minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language.



#### EVERYONE 10+

Titles rated **E10+ (Everyone 10 and older)** have content that may be suitable for ages 10 and older. Titles in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy or mild violence, mild language and/or minimal suggestive themes.



#### TEEN

Titles rated **T (Teen)** have content that may be suitable for ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, and/or infrequent use of strong language.



#### MATURE [enforced in Ontario]

Titles rated **M (Mature)** have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Titles in this category may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content and/or strong language.



#### ADULTS ONLY [enforced in Ontario and the United States]

Titles rated **AO (Adults Only)** have content that should only be played by persons 18 years and older. Titles in this category may include prolonged scenes of intense violence and/or graphic sexual content and nudity.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.esrb.org/about/index.jsp>

## Pan-European Game Information (PEGI)

The Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) age rating system was established to help European parents make informed decisions on buying computer games. It was launched in spring 2003 and replaced a number of national age rating systems with a single system now used throughout most of Europe, in 30 countries (Austria Denmark, Hungary, Latvia, Norway, Slovenia, Belgium, Estonia, Iceland, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Sweden, Cyprus, France, Israel, Malta, Romania, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom).

The system is supported by the major console manufacturers, including Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo, as well as by publishers and developers of interactive games throughout Europe. The age rating system was developed by the Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE).<sup>5</sup>



**PEGI 3** The content of games given this rating is considered suitable for all age groups. Some violence in a comical context (typically Bugs Bunny or Tom & Jerry cartoon-like forms of violence) is acceptable. The child should not be able to associate the character on the screen with real life characters, they should be totally fantasy. The game should not contain any sounds or pictures that are likely to scare or frighten young children. No bad language should be heard.



**PEGI 7** Any game that would normally be rated at 3 but contains some possibly frightening scenes or sounds may be considered suitable in this category.



**PEGI 12** Videogames that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy character and/or non graphic violence towards human-looking characters or recognisable animals, as well as videogames that show nudity of a slightly more graphic nature would fall in this age category. Any bad language in this category must be mild and fall short of sexual expletives.











**PEGI 16** This rating is applied once the depiction of violence (or sexual activity) reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. More extreme bad language, the concept of the use of tobacco and drugs and the depiction of criminal activities can be content of games that are rated 16.



**PEGI 18** The adult classification is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes a depiction of gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence. Gross violence is the most difficult to define since it can be very subjective in many cases, but in general terms it can be classed as the depictions of violence that would make the viewer feel a sense of revulsion.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/28/>

<b>PEGI content symbols<sup>6</sup></b>	
<p>Descriptors shown on the back of the packaging indicate the main reasons why a game has received a particular age rating. There are eight such descriptors: violence, bad language, fear, drugs, sexual, discrimination, gambling and online gameplay with other people.</p>	
	<p><b>Bad Language</b> Game contains bad language</p>
	<p><b>Discrimination</b> Game contains depictions of, or material which may encourage, discrimination</p>
	<p><b>Drugs</b> Game refers to or depicts the use of drugs</p>
	<p><b>Fear</b> Game may be frightening or scary for young children</p>
	<p><b>Gambling</b> Games that encourage or teach gambling</p>
	<p><b>Sex</b> Game depicts nudity and/or sexual behaviour or sexual references</p>
	<p><b>Violence</b> Game contains depictions of violence</p>
	<p><b>Online gameplay</b> Game can be played online</p>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/33/>

## British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

The British Board of Film Censors was set up in 1912 by the film industry as an independent body to bring a degree of uniformity to the classification of film nationally.

Statutory powers on film remain with the local councils, which may overrule any of the BBFC's decisions, passing films we reject, banning films we have passed, and even waiving cuts, instituting new ones, or altering categories for films exhibited under their own licensing jurisdiction.

Video – In 1984 Parliament passed the Video Recordings Act. This act stated that, subject to certain exemptions, video recordings offered for sale or hire commercially in the UK must be classified by an authority designated by the Secretary of State. The President and Vice Presidents of the BBFC were so designated, and charged with applying the new test of 'suitability for viewing in the home'. At this point the Board's title was changed to the British Board of Film Classification to reflect the fact that classification plays a far larger part in the BBFC's work than censorship.<sup>7</sup>



**Suitable for all** It is impossible to predict what might upset any particular child. But a 'U' film should be suitable for audiences aged four years and over. 'U' films should be set within a positive moral framework and should offer reassuring counterbalances to any violence, threat or horror. If a work is particularly suitable for a pre-school child to view alone, this will be indicated in the Consumer Advice.



**Parental Guidance** General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children. Unaccompanied children of any age may watch. A 'PG' film should not disturb a child aged around eight or older. However, parents are advised to consider whether the content may upset younger or more sensitive children.



**Suitable for 12 years and over** Exactly the same criteria are used to classify works at '12A' and '12'. These categories are awarded where the material is suitable, in general, only for those aged 12 and over. Works classified at these categories may upset children under 12 or contain material which many parents will find unsuitable for them.



The '12A' category exists only for cinema films. No one younger than 12 may see a '12A' film in a cinema unless accompanied by an adult, and films classified '12A' are not recommended for a child below 12.

The '12' category exists only for video works. No one younger than 12 may rent or buy a '12' rated video work.



**Suitable only for 15 years or over** No-one younger than 15 may see a '15' film in a cinema. No-one younger than 15 may rent or buy a '15' rated video work.



**Suitable only for adults** No-one younger than 18 may see an '18' film in a cinema. No-one younger than 18 may rent or buy an '18' rated video work.



**To be shown only in specially licensed cinemas, or supplied only in licensed sex shops, and to adults of not less than 18 years.** The 'R18' category is a special and legally restricted classification primarily for explicit works of consenting sex or strong fetish material involving adults. Films may only be shown to adults in specially licensed cinemas, and video works may be supplied to adults only in licensed sex shops.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bbfc.org.uk/about/>

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**Motion Picture Association of America (rating system known as CARA)**

The MPAA partnered with the National Association of Theater Owners (NATO) which supports and enforces the system by requiring identification when needed and refusing admission to R-rated movies by unaccompanied children or to NC-17 rated movies by children under 18. Today NATO's members include the largest cinema chains in the country and hundreds of independent theatre owners, representing more than 29,000 movie screens across the country. It is this participation that completes the service the rating system provides to parents.<sup>8</sup>

<b>G</b>	THE MOTION PICTURE CONTAINS NOTHING THAT WOULD OFFEND PARENTS FOR VIEWING BY THEIR CHILDREN.
<b>PG</b>	PARENTS ARE URGED TO USE "PARENTAL GUIDANCE", AS THE MOTION PICTURE MAY CONTAIN SOME MATERIAL PARENTS MIGHT NOT LIKE FOR THEIR YOUNGER CHILDREN TO VIEW.
<b>PG-13</b>	PARENTS ARE URGED TO BE CAUTIOUS. SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR PRE-TEENAGERS.
<b>R</b>	CONTAINS SOME ADULT MATERIAL. PARENTS ARE URGED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOTION PICTURE BEFORE TAKING THEIR YOUNGER CHILDREN WITH THEM.  GENERALLY, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR PARENTS TO BRING THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH THEM TO R-RATED MOTION PICTURES.
<b>NC-17</b>	PATENTLY ADULT. CHILDREN ARE NOT ADMITTED.

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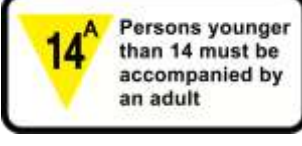


<sup>8</sup> [http://www.filmratings.com/filmRatings\\_Cara/#/about/ourPartners/](http://www.filmratings.com/filmRatings_Cara/#/about/ourPartners/)

## Ontario Film Review Board

The Ontario Film Review Board (OFRB) receives its mandate through the *Film Classification Act, 2005* and operates as an arms-length agency reporting to the Minister of Consumer Services.

Subject to certain exceptions, if a film (e.g. movie, video, DVD, VCD or video game) is to be distributed or screened in Ontario, it must first be classified by our Board.

Our objective is to classify film and thereby provide the public with sufficient information to make informed viewing choices for themselves and for their children.<sup>9</sup>

	Suitable for viewers of all ages.
	Parental guidance is advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all children.
	Suitable for viewing by persons 14 years of age and older. Persons under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. May contain: violence, coarse language and/or sexually suggestive scenes.
	Suitable for viewing by persons 18 years of age and older. Persons under 18 may attend but must be accompanied by an adult. May contain: explicit violence, frequent coarse language, sexual activity and/or horror.
	Admittance restricted to persons 18 years of age and over. Content not suitable for minors. May contain: frequent use of sexual activity, brutal/graphic violence, intense horror and/or other disturbing content.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ofrb.gov.on.ca/english/page2.htm>



## Singapore Media Development Authority

Film ratings are accompanied with consumer advice and classification information. Consumers, especially parents, can use the classification information when deciding an appropriate movie for their children or younger audiences. Videos distributed in Singapore are classified up to the M18 rating while films meant for theatrical release are classified up to the R21 rating.<sup>10</sup>

Films in Singapore are rated according to the following categories:



### General

Suitable for all ages.



### Parental Guidance

Suitable for all, but parents should guide their young.



### Parental Guidance 13

Suitable for persons aged 13 and above but parental guidance is advised for children below 13.



### No Children Under 16

Suitable for persons aged 16 and above.



### Mature 18

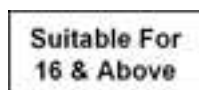
Suitable for persons aged 18 and above.



### Restricted 21

Restricted to persons aged 21 and above

The **Video Games** Classification system instituted in 2008 is made up of the Age Advisory (Suitable for 16 and Above) and M18 ratings. Titles that are rated General need not carry any rating stickers. [General means that the game has been approved for distribution.]



1. Mature 18 (M18) – For persons 18 years old and above. M18 is a restricted category and retailers will need to conduct age checks at the point of sale.

2. Age Advisory – Suitable for persons 16 years old and above. This is an advisory category to assist consumers in making informed choices. While retailers need not conduct age checks at the point of sale, they are encouraged to exercise responsibility by not selling these games to those below 16 years of age. Both categories will carry rating stickers. Games that do not fall into the above two categories but are approved for **general** consumption are not required to carry any rating stickers.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://app.mda.gov.sg/Classification/Search/Film/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mda.gov.sg/NEWSANDEVENTS/PRESSRELEASE/2008/Pages/14042008.aspx>

## Australian Classification Board

Every film and computer game has to be classified before it can be legally made available to the public. Some publications also need to be classified. There are limited exceptions to this rule.

In addition to commercial material, the Classification Board also classifies material submitted from the police, the [Australian Customs and Border Protection Service](#) and the [Australian Communications and Media Authority \(ACMA\)](#). The Board classifies internet sites referred by ACMA and video content developed by for distribution over mobile phone networks. The Board also provides classifications to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service in relation to the importation of publications, videos and computer games.

The Board does not classify TV programs or films for broadcast on TV.<sup>12</sup>



General

**G – General** There are no legal restrictions on the sale, hire or screening of films classified G.



Parental  
guidance  
recommended

**PG – Parental guidance recommended** There are no legal restrictions on the sale, hire or screening of films classified PG. It should be remembered however, that films classified PG are not recommended for people under 15 without guidance from a parent or guardian.



Recommended  
for mature  
audiences

**M – Recommended for mature audiences** There are no legal restrictions on the sale, hire or screening of films classified M. It should be remembered however, that films classified M are not recommended for people under 15 years as these contain content that is recommended for a mature audience.



Not suitable for people  
under 15. Under 15 must  
be accompanied by a  
parent or adult guardian

**MA15+** In all States and Territories (except Queensland) it is an offence to exhibit an MA15+ film if a person aged under 15 years is present and they are not accompanied by their parent or adult guardian. In Queensland, a person aged between 2 and 15 cannot be admitted to a MA15+ film unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Films classified MA15+ can only be sold or hired to people aged 15 years or older, unless they are accompanied by their parent or guardian, or in Queensland by an adult.



Restricted to 18  
and over

**R18+** In all States and Territories (except Queensland) a R18+ film cannot be exhibited in a public place in the presence of a person who is under 18 years.

In Queensland, people aged between 2 and under 18 cannot be admitted to a R18+ film. In addition, in Tasmania a R18+ film cannot be screened if it can be seen from a public place. Films classified R18+ can only be sold or hired to adults aged 18 years and over.<sup>13</sup>



Restricted to 18  
and over

**X18+** This classification applies to films that contain only sexually explicit content.

Films classified X 18+ can be legally exhibited in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory provided certain conditions are met. For example, they can only be exhibited in a restricted publications area to which only people aged 18 and over are permitted to enter.

Films classified X 18+ can only be sold or hired in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory provided certain conditions are met. For example, the film must be sold or hired in a restricted publications area to which only people aged 18 and over are permitted to enter.

**'RC' = Refused Classification (banned)**

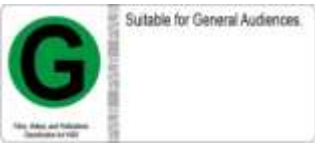








<sup>12</sup> <http://www.classification.gov.au/Pages/About-Us/Who-We-Are.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> Games are only classified to MA15+ during the period in this study. An R18 classification for games has been introduced from 2013.

## Office of Film and Literature Classification and the Film and Video Labelling Body

All films and restricted games (regardless of format) must carry New Zealand classification labels before be supplied or exhibited to the public. The Film and Video Labelling Body can rate unrestricted films (G, PG or M) – this is usually done by assigning a New Zealand equivalent to the Australian or British (BBFC) classification.

The Classification Office applies the classification criteria in the *Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993*. It is an Independent Crown Entity and has the power to classify material in a wide variety of media, including books, magazines, games, films and computer files. All restricted-level films and games must be classified by the Classification Office before being supplied or exhibited.

	<p><b>G – suitable for general audiences</b></p> <p>Films and games with a G label can be sold, hired, or shown to anyone.</p>
	<p><b>PG – parental guidance recommended for younger viewers</b></p> <p>Films and games with a PG label can be sold, hired, or shown to anyone.</p>
	<p><b>M – suitable for mature audiences 16 years and over</b></p> <p>Films and games with an M label can be sold, hired, or shown to anyone.</p>
	<p><b>RP13 – restricted to persons 13 years and over unless accompanied by a parent or guardian</b></p> <p>A parent, shop or cinema is breaking the law if they allow unaccompanied children to access these films.</p>
	<p><b>RP16 – restricted to persons 16 years and over unless accompanied by a parent or guardian</b></p>
	<p><b>R13 – restricted to persons 13 years and over</b></p> <p>It is illegal to sell, hire, show or give a film or game with an age restricted label to anyone under the age specified.</p>
	<p><b>R15 – restricted to persons 15 years and over</b></p>
	<p><b>R16 – restricted to persons 16 years and over</b></p>
	<p><b>R18 – restricted to persons 18 years and over</b></p>

'Objectionable' = banned

## Appendix B: Films and Games Used in this Study

If the classification for a film or game in this list is **highlighted yellow**, it means that it has been modified in some way in order to receive that classification. Sometimes, modifications were required by the regulator, and sometimes modifications were made by distributors to achieve a specific classification.

### Films

Title	Source	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>Fill the Void</i>	FVLB	M	PG	U	PG	G	PG
<i>Midas Touch, The</i>	FVLB	M	PG		PG		PG
<i>Jappeloup</i>	FVLB	M	PG			PG	
<i>Weight of Elephants, The</i>	FVLB	M	PG				
<i>Prince Avalanche</i>	FVLB	M	M	15	R	14A	
<i>Computer Chess</i>	FVLB	M	M	15		14A	
<i>Tasting Menu</i>	FVLB	M	M		PG-13		
<i>Miracle in Cell No.7</i>	FVLB	M	M			14A	NC16
<i>Bekas</i>	FVLB	M	M				PG13
<i>Camille Claudel 1915</i>	FVLB	M	M				NC16
<i>It Boy</i>	FVLB	M	M				M18
<i>Mr Pip</i>	FVLB	M	M				
<i>Sharknado</i>	FVLB	M	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>GI Joe 2: Retaliation</i>	FVLB	M	M	12A	PG-13	PG	
<i>Back To 1942</i>	FVLB	M	MA15+			14A	NC16
<i>Last Sentence, The</i>	FVLB	M	PG				
<i>Barbara</i>	FVLB	M	M	12A	PG-13	PG	PG13
<i>Battleship</i>	FVLB	M	M	12A	PG-13	PG	PG13
<i>Fast &amp; Furious 6</i>	FVLB	M	M	12A	PG-13	PG	PG13
<i>Oblivion</i>	FVLB	M	M	12A	PG-13	PG	
<i>Looking For Hortense</i>	FVLB	M	M	12A			
<i>Safety Not Guaranteed</i>	FVLB	M	M	15	R	14A	PG13
<i>Starbuck</i>	FVLB	M	M	15	R	14A	
<i>Painted Skin : The Resurrection</i>	FVLB	M	M	15		14A	
<i>Sister</i>	FVLB	M	M	15			
<i>Masquerade</i>	FVLB	M	M			14A	PG13
<i>Empire Of Silver</i>	FVLB	M	M			14A	
<i>Loneliest Planet, The</i>	FVLB	M	M				
<i>Door, The</i>	FVLB	M	M				
<i>White Lies</i>	FVLB	M	M				
<i>Sessions, The</i>	FVLB	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	R21
<i>Tabu</i>	FVLB	M	MA15+	15		18A	R21
<i>Last Tycoon, The</i>	FVLB	M	MA15+				PG
<i>Liberal Arts</i>	OFCL	M	PG	12A	PG-13		PG13
<i>Hannah Arendt</i>	OFCL	M	PG	12A		PG	PG
<i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i>	OFCL	M	M	12A	PG-13	PG	PG13
<i>Crash Reel, The</i>	OFCL	M	M	12A		PG	
<i>Chennai Express</i>	OFCL	M	M	12A		14A	PG
<i>Jatt Boys Putt Jataan De</i>	OFCL	M	M	12A			PG
<i>Upstream Colour</i>	OFCL	M	M	12A			PG
<i>In the Fog</i>	OFCL	M	M	12A			
<i>Damsels in Distress</i>	OFCL	M	M	15	PG-13	PG	PG13
<i>East, The</i>	OFCL	M	M	15	PG-13	PG	NC16
<i>Only Lovers Left Alive</i>	OFCL	M	M	15	R	14A	
<i>Shadow Dancer</i>	OFCL	M	M	15	R		NC16
<i>What Maisie Knew</i>	OFCL	M	M	15	R		
<i>Ram Leela</i>	OFCL	M	M	15		PG	PG
<i>Dirty Wars</i>	OFCL	M	M	15		14A	
<i>Which Way is The Front Line From Here?</i>	OFCL	M	M	15		14A	

## Films cont/

Title	Source	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>Dabangg 2</i>	OFLC	M	M	15			PG
<i>Out In The Dark</i>	OFLC	M	M	15			PG13
<i>Goodbye, First Love</i>	OFLC	M	M	15			M18
<i>Child's Pose</i>	OFLC	M	M	15			
<i>Private Romeo</i>	OFLC	M	M	15			
<i>IP Man-The Final Fight</i>	OFLC	M	M		PG-13		PG
<i>Best Offer, The</i>	OFLC	M	M		R		M18
<i>Werewolf Boy, A</i>	OFLC	M	M			PG	PG13
<i>Badges of Fury</i>	OFLC	M	M				PG
<i>Declaration of War</i>	OFLC	M	M				
<i>2 Autumns 3 Winters</i>	OFLC	M	M				
<i>My Sweet Pepper Land</i>	OFLC	M	M				
<i>Art of Love, The</i>	OFLC	M	M				
<i>Mood Indigo</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	12A		14A	NC16
<i>Sound of My Voice</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Young Adult</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Runner Runner</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Margin Call</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Identity Thief</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Before Midnight</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Bel Ami</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Frances Ha</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	14A	
<i>In the House</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Happy Event, A</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	18A	R21
<i>Gloria</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15	R	18A	
<i>Great Beauty, The</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		14A	M18
<i>Five Year Engagement. The</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		14A	M18
<i>After May</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		14A	R21
<i>Cafe de Flore</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Field in England, A</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Mental</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Broken Circle Breakdown, The</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15		18A	
<i>Lore</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15			M18
<i>Beloved</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+	15			R21
<i>Oh Boy</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+				NC16
<i>Being Venice</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+				
<i>Cloudburst</i>	OFLC	M	MA15+				
<i>Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer</i>	OFLC	M	R18+	18		14A	
<i>Amour</i>	OFLC	R13	M	12A	PG-13	PG	NC16
<i>Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara!</i>	OFLC	R13	M	12A		PG	PG13
<i>Boss</i>	OFLC	R13	M	12A		PG	
<i>Missing Picture, The</i>	OFLC	R13	M	12A			PG13
<i>Hijacking, A</i>	OFLC	R13	M	15	R	14A	PG13
<i>Metallica: Through the Never</i>	OFLC	R13	M	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Skylab</i>	OFLC	R13	M	15			
<i>Hunky Dory</i>	OFLC	R13	M	15			
<i>West of Memphis</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>World's End, The</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16

## Films cont/

Title	Source	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>Heat, The</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Ted</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Rush</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Master, The</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Act Of Killing, The</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Thale</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Manborg</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Selfish Giant, The</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>What Richard Did</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+	15			M18
<i>War Witch</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+			14A	M18
<i>How to Meet Girls From a Distance</i>	OFLC	R13	MA15+				
<i>Two Little Boys</i>	FLBR	R15	MA15+				
<i>Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, The</i>	FLBR	R16	MA15+	18	R	18A	R21
<i>R... Rajkumar</i>	OFLC	R16	M	12A		14A	NC16
<i>Prometheus</i>	OFLC	R16	M	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>House I Live In, The</i>	OFLC	R16	M	15		PG	
<i>Department</i>	OFLC	R16	M	15		14A	
<i>Omar</i>	OFLC	R16	M			14A	
<i>Unbeatable</i>	OFLC	R16	M				PG13
<i>Scarlet Road</i>	OFLC	R16	M				
<i>Agent Vinod</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	12A		14A	PG13
<i>Thalaivaa</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	12A		14A	PG13
<i>Vishwaroopam</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	12A		18A	NC16
<i>Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Welcome to the Punch</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Broken City</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Safe</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Bait</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Devil Inside, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Hansel &amp; Gretel: Witch Hunters</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Conjuring, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Expendables 2, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Gangster Squad</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Looper</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Olympus Has Fallen</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Prisoners</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>2 Guns</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Celeste And Jesse Forever</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Resident Evil: Retribution</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Bullet to the Head</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	NC16
<i>Grey, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Cloud Atlas</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>In Darkness</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>American Reunion</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Contraband</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Dangerous Method, A</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Dictator, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Kick-Ass 2</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18

## Films cont/

Title	Source	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>This Is 40</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Babymakers, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Byzantium</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Hangover Part III, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>21 &amp; Over</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Bling Ring, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Campaign, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Magic Mike</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Place Beyond The Pines, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Riddick</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>We're The Millers</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>21 Jump Street</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Carrie</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>Machete Kills</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	M18
<i>I'm So Excited!</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	R21
<i>Kill Your Darlings</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	R21
<i>Small Apartments</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	
<i>Sweeney, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	
<i>Magic Magic</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	14A	
<i>Elysium</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	NC16
<i>Watch, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Rust And Bone</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Seven Psychopaths</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Thanks For Sharing</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Cabin in the Woods</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Flight</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Skin I Live In, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	R21
<i>Dallas Buyers Club</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	R21
<i>Movie 43</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	R21
<i>This is the End</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R	18A	R21
<i>Drug War</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R		NC16
<i>Guillotines, The</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R		
<i>Everybody Has A Plan</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15	R		
<i>Aurangzeb</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Raaz 3</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Rowdy Rathore</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Touch of Sin, A</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Agneepath</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>D Day</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Go Goa Gone</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	NC16
<i>Margaret</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	M18
<i>Broken</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Polisse</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Berserk: Egg Of The Supreme Ruler</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Antiviral</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Sightseers</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		14A	
<i>Vulgaria</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15		18A	R21
<i>Aarambam</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15			PG13
<i>Saving General Yang</i>	OFCL	R16	MA15+	15			NC16



## Films cont/

Title	Source	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>25th Reich, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			M18
<i>Mumbai Mirror</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Bullett Raja</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>I, Anna</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Get Lucky</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Mirza (The Untold Story)</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Paradise: Hope</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Gayby</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Angels' Share, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	15			
<i>Look of Love, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	PG-13	18A	R21
<i>Counselor, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	14A	M18
<i>Stoker</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	14A	M18
<i>Trance</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Killing Them Softly</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Man With The Iron Fists</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Django Unchained</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Underworld Awakening</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Holy Motors</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18		14A	R21
<i>Himizu</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18			
<i>Submerge</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+	18			
<i>Special ID</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+		R	14A	NC16
<i>Man of Tai Chi</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+		R	14A	NC16
<i>Twice Born</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+		R	14A	
<i>Thieves, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+			14A	
<i>Bangkok Revenge</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+			14A	
<i>Viral Factor</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+			18A	PG13
<i>Policeman</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				PG
<i>Firestorm</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				NC16
<i>Hardcore Comedy</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				R21
<i>S.D.U: Sex Duties Unit</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				R21
<i>Shopping</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				
<i>Blind Detective, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				
<i>Turning, The</i>	OFLC	R16	MA15+				
<i>Starlet</i>	OFLC	R16	R18+	18			
<i>Fall Guys, The</i>	OFLC	R16	R18+				
<i>Blue Ruin</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	15	R	14A	
<i>On The Road</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	15	R	14A	
<i>Pain &amp; Gain</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	15	R	18A	M18
<i>Dredd</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Raid, The</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>V/H/S</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Project X</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Only God Forgives</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18	R	18A	M18
<i>Shootout at Wadala</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18		14A	NC16
<i>Dead Europe</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+	18			
<i>Warriors of the Rainbow</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+			18A	NC16
<i>Black And White And Sex</i>	OFLC	R18	MA15+				
<i>Cheap Thrills</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	15		18A	
<i>Wolf of Wall Street, The</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R	18A	R21



## Films cont/

<b>Title</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>NZ</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<i>Evil Dead</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R	18A	R21
<i>Killer Joe</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R	18A	R21
<i>Pusher</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R	18A	
<i>V/H/S/2</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R		R21
<i>Filth</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R		R21
<i>Spring Breakers</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	R		R21
<i>Shame</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	NC-17	18A	R21
<i>Blue is the Warmest Colour</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18	NC-17	R	R21
<i>ABC's Of Death, The</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18		R	
<i>Keep the Lights On</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18			
<i>Paradise: Faith</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18			
<i>Paradise: Love</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18			
<i>Stranger By The Lake</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+	18			
<i>Due West: Our Sex Journey</i>	OFLC	R18	R18+				R21
<i>Maniac</i>	OFLC	R18 T/FF	R18+	18			R21

**Games**

Title	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>Atelier Meruru Plus: The Apprentice of Arland</i>	M	MA15+	12	Teen	Teen	
<i>Fable Anniversary</i>	M	R18+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Magrunner: Dark Pulse</i>	M	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Orc Attack: Flatulent Rebellion</i>	M	M	12	Teen	Teen	
<i>Sanctum 2</i>	M	MA15+	12	Teen	Teen	
<i>Testament of Sherlock Holmes. The</i>	M	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Battlefield Heroes</i>	R13	M	16	Teen	Teen	
<i>Castlevania - Lords of Shadow 2</i>	R13	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Castlevania Lords Of Shadow - Mirror Of Fate HD</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Charlie Murder</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Company of Heroes 2</i>	R13	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Deadfall Adventures</i>	R13		16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>DmC: Devil May Cry</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Family Guy Back To The Multiverse</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Final Exam</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Teen	Teen	
<i>Halo 4</i>	R13	M	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Marlow Briggs and the Mask of the Death</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Of Orcs and Men</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Project Zero 2 (Wii Edition)</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Resistance: Burning Skies</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Shinobido 2 Revenge of Zen</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Soul Sacrifice</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Thief</i>	R13	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>XCOM: Enemy Unknown</i>	R13	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>XCOM: Enemy Within</i>	R13	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Alien Rage</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Aliens: Colonial Marines</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Amnesia: The Dark Descent</i>	R16	MA15+		Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Anarchy Reigns</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Arma III</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Ascend: Hand of Kul</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Assassin's Creed III</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Battlefield 4</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Beyond: Two Souls</i>	R16	R18+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Bioshock Infinite</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Borderlands 2</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Bureau: XCOM Declassified</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Call of Duty Black Ops : Declassified</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Call of Duty Black Ops II</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Call of Duty:Ghosts</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Call of Juarez Gunslinger</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Counter Strike: Global Offensive</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	General
<i>Crysis 3</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Darksiders II</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Defiance</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Expendables 2, The</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Far Cry 3</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	

## Games cont/

Title	NZ	Australia	UK	USA	Ontario	Singapore
<i>Fuse</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Game of Thrones</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>God Mode</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>God Of War Ascension</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Hotline Miami</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>How to Survive</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>I Am Alive</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Injustice: Gods Among Us</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Teen	Teen	General
<i>Killer is Dead</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Killzone Mercenary</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Killzone Shadow Fall</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Lollipop Chainsaw</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Max Payne 3</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Medal of Honor: Warfighter</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Metal Gear Rising Revengeance</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Metro: Last Light</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>NINJA GAIDEN SIGMA 2 PLUS</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Ninja Gaiden Sigma Plus</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>R.I.P.D.</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Teen	Teen	
<i>Rambo The Video Game</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Ravaged</i>	R16		16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Scourge: Outbreak</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Secret World, The</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Serious Sam 3: BFE</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Sniper Elite V2</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	Advisory 16
<i>Sniper Ghost Warrior 2</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Snipers</i>	R16	MA15+	16			
<i>South Park: The Stick Of Truth</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Spartacus Legends</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Starhawk</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Teen	Teen	General
<i>Steel Battalion Heavy Armor</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Supremacy MMA Unrestricted</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Future Soldier</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Teen	Teen	Advisory 16
<i>Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell Blacklist</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Tomb Raider</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Twisted Metal</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Unit 13</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Teen	Teen	General
<i>Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 1 All That Remains</i>	R16	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Walking Dead, The</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Warframe</i>	R16	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Wolf Among Us, The</i>	R16	MA15+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Army Of Two The Devil's Cartel</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Dead Island Riptide</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Dead Rising 3</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Dead Space 3</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Deadpool</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Dishonored</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Gears Of War Judgment</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18

## Games cont/

<b>Title</b>	<b>NZ</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<i>Grand Theft Auto V</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Hitman Absolution</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Last of Us, The</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Ninja Gaiden 3</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Payday 2</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Prototype 2</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Resident Evil 6</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Ride To Hell</i>	R18	R18+	16	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Ryse Son of Rome</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Saints Row IV</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>Sleeping Dogs</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18
<i>State of Decay</i>	R18	R18+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>Walking Dead: Survival Instinct</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	
<i>ZombiU</i>	R18	MA15+	18	Mature 17+	Mature 17+	M18

## Appendix C: 2010/11 and 2008/09 Strength Scores

### Classification strength scores for feature film classifications for 2010/11 sample

2010-11		
Jurisdiction	Classification	Strength Score
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Australia	G	1
New Zealand	G	1
Ontario	G	1
UK	U	1
USA	G	1
Singapore	G	1
Australia	PG	2
New Zealand	PG	2
Ontario	PG	2
UK	PG	2
USA	PG	2
Singapore	PG	2
USA	PG-13	3
Singapore	PG13	3
Australia	M	3
New Zealand	M	3
<b>Parental accompaniment (a restricted category)</b>		
UK	12A	5
New Zealand	RP13	6
Ontario	14A	7
Australia	MA15+	8
New Zealand	RP16	9
USA	R	10*
Ontario	18A	11*
<b>Restricted</b>		
UK	12	10*
New Zealand	R13	11*
New Zealand	R15	13
UK	15	13
New Zealand	R16	14
Singapore	NC16	14
USA	NC-17	16
Australia	R18+	16
New Zealand	R18	16
Ontario	R	16
UK	18	16
Singapore	M18	16
Singapore	R21	19
<b>Banned</b>		
NZ	Objectionable	25
UK	Rejected	25
Australia	RC	25
Singapore	NAR	25

\*The 'overlap' in weighting is due to likely restrictiveness of each rating in practice: eg the likelihood that many under 13 year-olds would actually see an 18A rated film is low

**Classification strength scores for video game classifications for 2010/11 sample**

<b>2010-11:</b>		
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Singapore	Approved/General	1*
ACB	G	1
ESRB	Early Childhood	1
OFLC	G	1
PEGI	3	1
ACB	PG	2
ESRB	Everyone	2
OFLC	PG	2
PEGI	7	2
ESRB	E10+	2.5
PEGI	12	3**
ACB	M	3
OFLC	M	3
ESRB	Teen	3
Singapore	Age Advisory	4***
PEGI	16	4**
PEGI	18	6**
<b>Parental accompaniment (a restricted category)</b>		
ACB	MA15+	8
ESRB (USA)	Mature 17+	9**
<b>Restricted</b>		
OFLC	R13	11
OFLC	R16	14
ESRB (Ontario)	Mature 17+	15
Singapore	M18	16
ESRB	AO	16****
OFLC	R18	16
<b>Banned</b>		
ACB	RC	25
OFLC	Objectionable	25
Singapore	NAR	25

\*MDA classified games do not require a label unless they're given an Age Advisory or M18 rating. If the rating on their database is 'General', it means the game has been approved for distribution and may carry a label from another jurisdiction. 'General' is not advice about the game's suitability

\*\*Non-statutory/voluntary systems. However encouragement/compliance to not sell to underage children is said to be high in the United States, and encouraged in Europe.

\*\*\*Similar to New Zealand's 'M'. In Singapore, retailers are encouraged to exercise responsibility and not to sell to young people.

\*\*\*\*While AO is a non-statutory classification in the USA, it is given the same strength as 18 age restrictions as there is strong (mostly) commercial/retail compliance. It is enforced in Ontario.

**Classification strength scores for feature film classifications for 2008/09 sample**

<b>2008-09:</b>		
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Strength Score</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Australia	G	1
New Zealand	G	1
Ontario	G	1
UK	U	1
USA	G	1
Australia	PG	2
New Zealand	PG	2
Ontario	PG	2
UK	PG	2
USA	PG	2
USA	PG-13	3
Australia	M	3
New Zealand	M	3
<b>Parental accompaniment (a restricted category)</b>		
UK	12A	5
New Zealand	RP13	6
Ontario	14A	7
Australia	MA15+	8
New Zealand	RP16	9
USA	R	10*
Ontario	18A	11*
<b>Restricted</b>		
UK	12	10*
New Zealand	R13	11*
New Zealand	R15	13
UK	15	13
New Zealand	R16	14
USA	NC-17	16
Australia	R18+	16
New Zealand	R18	16
Ontario	R	16
UK	18	16

\* The 'overlap' in weighting is due to likely restrictiveness of each rating in practice: eg the likelihood that many under 13 year olds for example would actually see an 18A rated film.

## Classification strength scores for video game classifications for 2008/09 sample

2008-09:		
Jurisdiction	Classification	Score
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
ACB	G	1
BBFC	U	1
ESRB	Early Childhood	1
OFLC	G	1
PEGI (UK)	3	1
ACB	PG	2
BBFC	PG	2
ESRB	Everyone	2
OFLC	PG	2
PEGI (UK)	7	2
ESRB	E10+	2.5
PEGI (UK)	12	3
ACB	M	3
OFLC	M	3
ESRB	Teen	3
PEGI	16	4*
PEGI	18	6*
<b>Parental accompaniment (a restricted category)</b>		
ACB	MA15+	8
ESRB (USA)	Mature 17+	9*
<b>Restricted</b>		
BBFC	12	10
OFLC	R13	11
BBFC	15	13
OFLC	R16	14
ESRB (Ontario)	Mature 17+	15
BBFC	18	16
ESRB	AO	16**
OFLC	R18	16
<b>Banned</b>		
ACB	RC	20
OFLC	Objectionable	20
BBFC	Rejected	20

\*Non-statutory/voluntary systems, however, encouragement/compliance to not sell to underage said to be high in the US, and encouraged in Europe. NB: Mature 17+ is legally enforced in Ontario.

\*\*While AO is a non-statutory classification in the USA, it is given the same strength as legal 18 restrictions here as there is strong (mostly) commercial/retail compliance. In Ontario it is a legal restriction. No AO games are included in the sample.