

Industry Backgrounder: Motion Pictures and Film Classification in BC

Overview

Consumer Protection BC enforces BC's consumer protection laws including the *Motion Picture Act* (MPA). We are responsible for motion picture classification, licensing, education, compliance, and enforcement.

Any person or business that distributes or publicly exhibits motion pictures in BC requires a licence from us. This includes distributors, video and motion picture retailers and theatres. Learn more about [who needs a licence](#) on our website.

Distributors must submit their movies and trailers to us to be classified (rated) before distributing them to theatres for exhibition. BC theatres must only show movies and trailers on their screens that have been rated by our office.

Motion picture classification in BC

In BC, all motion pictures must be classified, or rated, before being shown in theatres.

We use six categories to rate motion pictures in BC: General (G), Parental Guidance (PG), 14 Accompaniment (14A), 18 Accompaniment (18A), Restricted (R), and Adult (A). We also use advisories to highlight the key reasons why a movie got a certain rating. Find out [what the ratings mean](#) on our website.

Motion picture classification by the numbers

	2022	2023	2024
Consumer inquiries ¹	20	42	52
Licenses issued and renewed	799	797	724
Compliance inspections	6	0	0
Investigations closed	9	3	5
Films and trailers classified	1,230	1,360	1,517

¹Volumes are based on each unique contact point logged by our tracking system, not on combined interactions with consumers on certain issues. Not all inquiries handled were within our mandate.

Enforcement actions

To maintain the integrity of our investigative processes, we do not share detailed information about open files. Visit the [Enforcement Actions section of our website](#) to explore our recent licensing and enforcement actions.

For more information

Explore www.consumerprotectionbc.ca for more information for both consumers and regulated businesses. Additional statistical information is also available in our [Annual Reports](#). We also share information and consumer tips on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and in [our blog](#).