

WHO DOES THE ACT APPLY TO?

If you sell, hire or otherwise supply pre-recorded videotapes, videodiscs or other device capable of storing data electronically, then this Act applies to you.

WHAT DOES THE ACT REQUIRE?

- All video recordings to which the Act applies, must be classified and labelled in accordance with regulations
- Video recordings must not be supplied to persons younger than the age category allocated to them
- Restricted 18 (R18) video recordings must only be supplied in licensed sex shops

ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

The act does not apply to video recordings when the material they contain, taken as a whole is;

- Designed to be informative, educational or instructive ; or
- Concerned with sport, music or religion ; or
- Is a video game.

Such material is **not exempt** however if it depicts or is designed to stimulate human sexual activity or violence towards humans or animals.

WHAT ARE THE LABELLING REQUIREMENTS?

The insert gives examples of certification symbols and explanatory statements.

A videocassette must be labelled with the appropriate certification symbol and the unique title on one face. The case or cover in which it is contained, should have the symbol on both faces and the spine, and the explanatory statement should accompany the symbol on one face.

A single sided disc and its cover must be labelled as above except that a symbol is not required on the spine of the cover if it is less than 2 centimetres wide and the symbols need not be in colour.

A double- sided disc (including laser discs) need only show the letters "UK" followed by the appropriate characters from the symbol e.g. UK15 or UK PG, along with the unique title, on the disc itself.

The cover requires the symbol on both faces and the explanatory statement on one face as before.

WHAT ABOUT CARRY OUT CASES?

The labelling regulations apply to carry out cases as they do to other cases and they should bear the same information.

The only exemption to this is where the cases are transparent and the required labels are on the cassette itself.

WHAT MUST I DO TO KEEP WITHIN THE LAW?

- Ensure that only classified and exempt video works are kept on your premises
- Make sure all video recordings to which the Act applies are correctly labelled
- Ensure that non transparent carry out cases are correctly labelled
- Only sell or hire age restricted video works to persons within the appropriate age group
- Ensure you do not have R18 video works on your premises unless those premises are licensed as a sex shop
- Ensure your staff are aware of the above and are fully trained in their legal obligations.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES IF I BREAK THIS LAW?

For supplying an unclassified video;
Up to 2 years on indictment or 6 months and £20,000 on summary conviction.

For supplying an age restricted video to an underage person;
Up to 6 months imprisonment or a fine not exceeding £5,000 .

Video Recordings Act 1984

Guidance Notes for Traders

FURTHER ADVICE IS AVAILABLE FROM;

Aberdeenshire Council,
Consumer Protection and Support Services,
Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA
Tel: 01467 628323 Fax: 01467 628117

Aberdeenshire Council,
Consumer Protection and Support Services,
10 Commerce Street, Fraserburgh AB43 9AQ
Tel: 01346 510505 Fax 01346 510 484

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Planning and Environmental Services