



Does the BBFC only rate films?



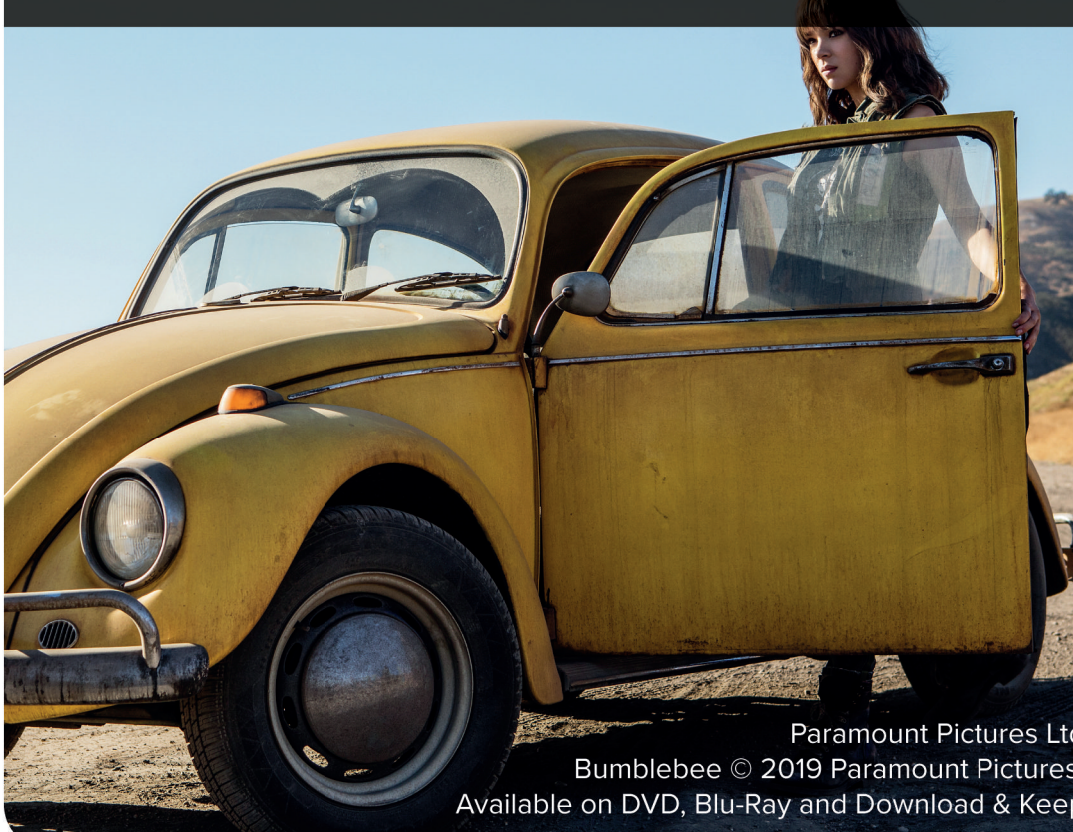
No - we rate films and TV series on DVD or Blu-ray, and for some online platforms, including additional production material such as bloopers, extended scenes, and commentaries. In cinemas we rate feature films, As Live filmed theatre productions, encore performances, documentaries, short films, foreign language films, public information films, and movie trailers. Because movie trailers are classified individually it is possible for a trailer to have a different rating to the film it is advertising.

In an average year we receive around 300-400 complaints – some about specific films which people may think were rated too low (or too high!), sometimes more generally about an issue like sex or bad language in films, or even some from people concerned about a film they haven't actually seen themselves. Everyone who contacts us about a decision gets a personal reply.

Does the BBFC receive many complaints?



How do I find out more about film ratings?



We publish ratings info, which is clear, objective information about the issues in a film such as sex, bad language, drugs and violence. Extensive resources for students are also available on our website and include case studies on famous, controversial and interesting decisions, timelines and podcasts. We hold seminars for students at our offices in London as well as visiting schools, colleges and Universities across the UK. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter, and we also produce a monthly podcast.

Who classifies foreign language films?



Unsubtitled films in languages other than English are viewed with an interpreter or a member of the Compliance team who speaks the language. Many Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Urdu, and Telugu language films are viewed this way.

Who decides what you can watch?



Our Classification Guidelines are based on public research, so we reflect public opinion when we classify anything. We employ trained Compliance Officers to watch content and recommend an age rating based on our Classification Guidelines and UK law. They watch cinema films in pairs so they can discuss the issues in the film and their recommendation. They also write the ratings info – information explaining to parents especially, the key classification issues in a film. The senior compliance team, and sometimes the BBFC's Chief Executive and Presidents then confirm the rating. The BBFC Chief Executive's signature appears on every black card.

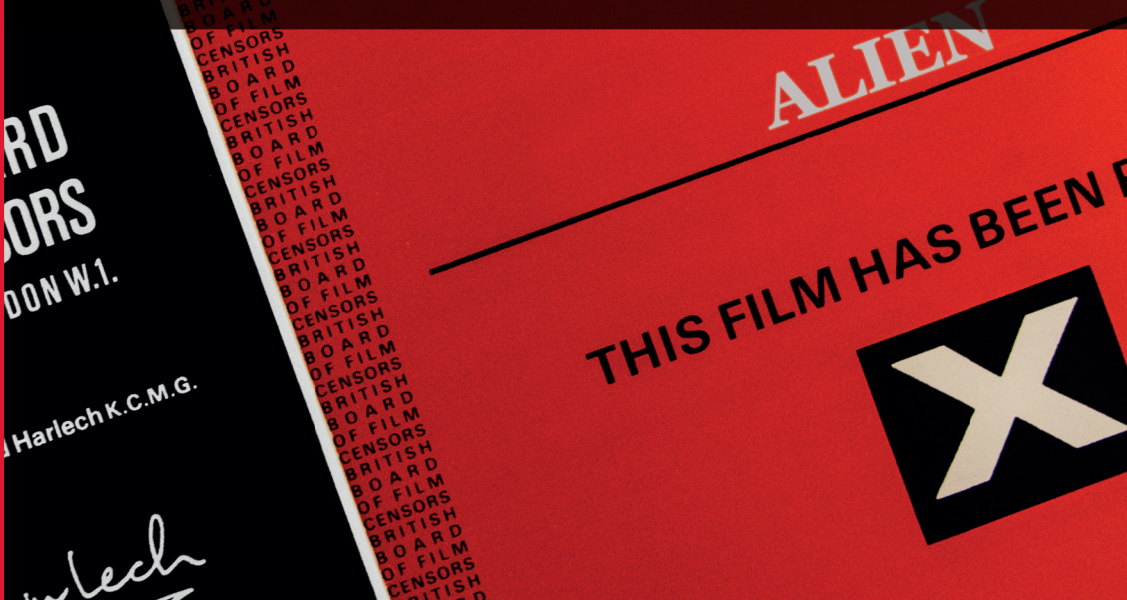
How much do BBFC Compliance Officers watch each day?



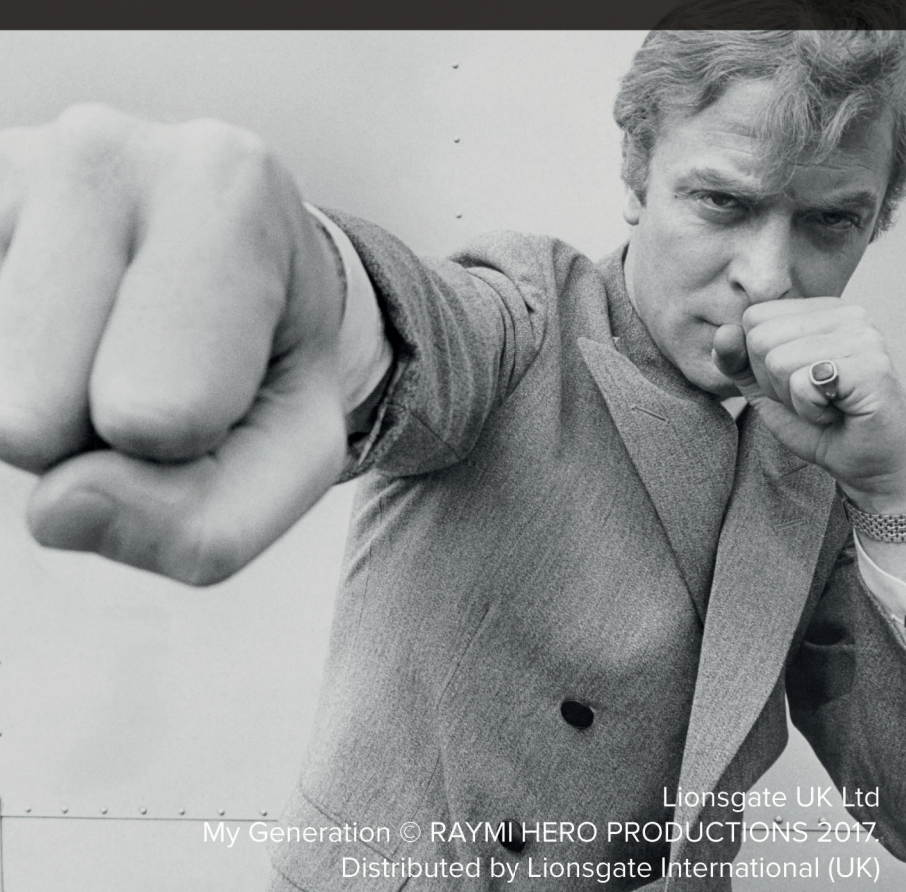
BBFC Compliance Officers watch around five and a half hours of films, DVDs and online and other material a day. In an average year, that adds up to thousands of pieces of content. In 2018 we rated 1036 films, 4266 DVDs and 4630 online submissions.

There is no particular qualification or course of study: our Compliance Officers come from a variety of backgrounds - from people early on in their career to those with wider experience. Our compliance team all have demonstrable interest, expertise or experience in key areas such as law, media regulation, education and child protection, and the film, TV, and video on demand industries.

What should I study if I want to become a BBFC Compliance Officer?



When was the BBFC founded?



The BBFC was set up by the film industry in 1912 when local authorities started to impose their own, widely varying, censorship standards on films. The idea was to bring some consistency to setting and maintaining standards. We are independent and not-for-profit and are funded by the fees we charge to classify films, DVDs and other content. In 1912, there were two categories – U and A – and two rules: 'no nudity' and 'no images of Christ'. Over time, we introduced new categories, such as H, which warned that a film was 'Horrific'. The first certificate to represent a mandatory age restriction was the X, which was introduced in 1951 and only allowed entry to those aged 16 or older.

What is a 12A?



The 12A category was introduced in 2002. No one younger than 12 may see a 12A film in a cinema unless accompanied by an adult. Adults planning to take a child under 12 to view a 12A film should consider whether the film is suitable for that child. To help them decide, we recommend that they check the ratings info for that film in advance, which can be found in full on our website or our free app. The first 12A was **The Bourne Identity**, and many other famous blockbusters, including **Avatar**, **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**, **Mission Impossible: Fallout** and many films within the Marvel Cinematic Universe such as **Black Panther** and **Captain Marvel** have since been passed at 12A.



Can anyone overrule BBFC age ratings in cinemas?



Local Authorities grant licenses to the cinemas in their area. They can grant films a local certificate, or place their own restrictions on a film with a BBFC rating – so cut, change the rating or even ban it. In practice this is unusual. Well-known films given local authority ratings over the years include **Mrs Doubtfire**, **This Is England** and **Spider-Man**.

Can the BBFC ban films or cut them at 18?



We have a statutory obligation to require cuts to illegal or potentially harmful material in films and DVDs at any category, including 18. On very rare occasions, works are even refused a classification. Examples of compulsory cuts include images of children doing dangerous things which could be easily copied; potentially harmful material; and real animal cruelty directed by the filmmaker (such as illegal horse falls in **Adventure in Sahara** and a cobra and mongoose fight in **The Planter's Wife**).

Filmmakers pay to have their films rated. Our Compliance Officers watch all works, all the way through - our website publishes current prices per minute. We are an independent, not for profit company and offer reduced rates for charity funded and student short films. Video works (e.g. DVD and Blu-ray), online works (e.g. video on demand, such as Netflix and Amazon Prime), student films and 'As Live' theatre works all have their own tariffs.

How much does it cost to get an age rating?

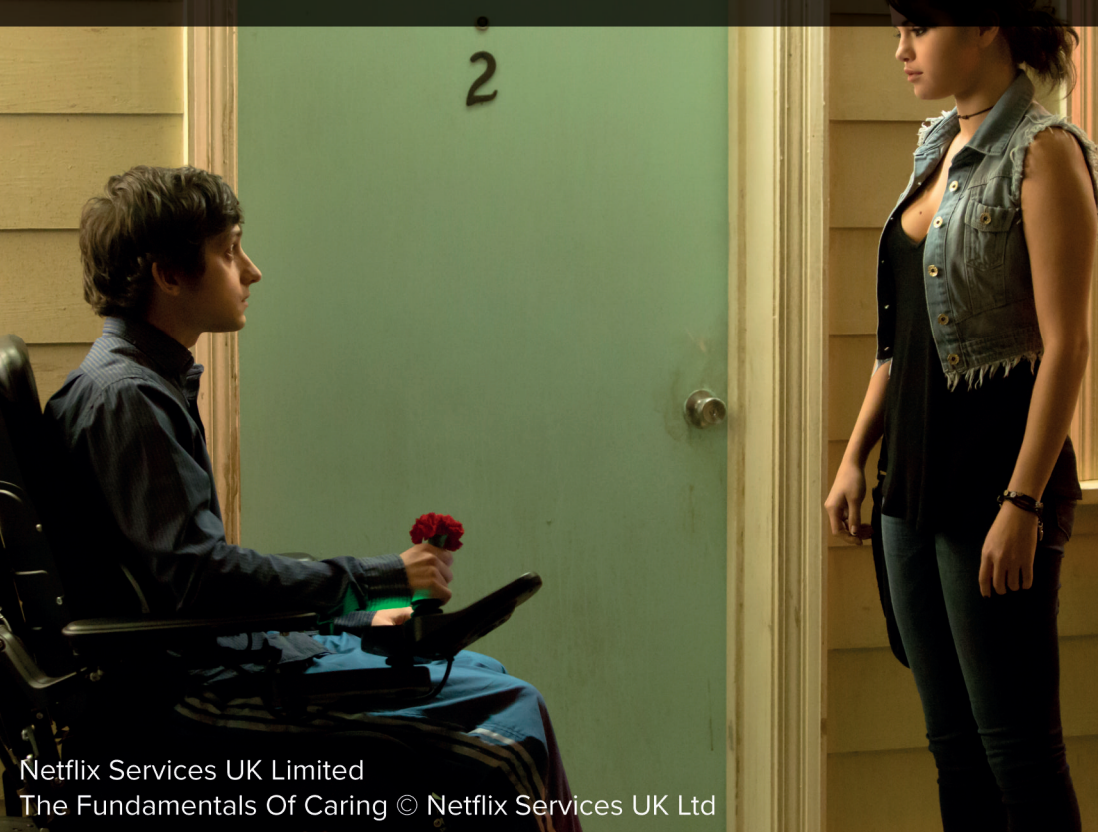


We only rate films, DVDs and other works for the UK. Other countries have different age ratings and standards. For example, **Bohemian Rhapsody** was a PG-13 in the US and a 12A in the UK - but passed at 6 in Germany (suitable for those over 6) and 18+ in Russia. Thailand has a 20 certificate and Singapore a 21 certificate. In France, many films are rated 'Tous Publics' ('Suitable for all'). Recent examples include **Avengers: Endgame**, **Rocketman** and **A Star is Born**.

How are films rated in other countries?



What are the BBFC Guidelines?



All age rating decisions are based on our Classification Guidelines. These follow an extensive public consultation to which more than 10,000 people (including teachers and teenagers) contribute across the UK. Our guidelines reflect what a wide range of the UK public think about issues such as representations of sex, violence, drugs, discrimination and bad language. The Classification Guidelines are updated every four to five years and are available to filmmakers and the public on our website.

Can filmmakers ask for a specific age rating?



Filmmakers can request a particular rating, or ask us to view a film before it is finished and give advice on what rating it is likely to receive. They can also ask how they can make changes if they would prefer a lower rating for their film. These types of cuts are called 'cuts for category'. **Maze Runner: The Death Cure**, **Red Sparrow** and **Death Wish (2018)** all required cuts to receive a lower classification.

What about online age ratings?



In 2008, we set up a voluntary, best practice self-regulatory scheme with the Home Entertainment industry to age rate audio-visual content online. Many services – including Netflix, Amazon, iTunes, Microsoft, Sony and airline content – are now licensed to display BBFC age ratings and BBFC ratings info. Streaming and downloading is now the main mode of film viewing with 71% of adults and 77% of teenagers watching films in this way at least once a month. 95% of teenagers say it is important to have consistent age ratings for online platforms.

Since 2015, major UK record labels Sony Music UK, Universal Music UK and Warner Music UK, and a number of independent record labels, have submitted online music videos by their UK artists for classification. The age ratings are displayed next to these videos on Vevo and YouTube.