

Censorship Information for Libraries No. 24 July 2010



Welcome to the libraries newsletter from the Office of Film and Literature Classification. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others, and to contact us if you have any queries or suggestions for future content.

New restricted publications:

In June the Classification Office classified six magazines which were submitted by the Department of Internal Affairs. These magazines were all classified as R18:

High Times January 2010
High Times February 2010
High Times March 2010

Norml News Winter 2009
Norml News Spring 2009
Norml News Summer 2009

The following is an excerpt from the Office's Notice of Decision for the three *Norml News* issues:

“As vehicles for the expression of political views in favour of cannabis law reform, the magazines have a legitimate purpose. [They] cannot fairly be said to promote or encourage criminal activity to an extent that their availability to New Zealand adults is likely to be injurious”. However, “persons [under 18] may not have the maturity of judgement to appreciate that the magazines’ support for currently criminal behaviour is in the context of law reform advocacy,” and they “may read them as encouraging experimentation with criminal behaviour”.

Libraries holding the classified magazines listed above are required to apply to the Film and Video Labelling Body for an official classification label to attach to the magazine's cover. You can contact the Labelling Body on 09 361 3882 or at enquiries@fvlb.org.nz.

No additional display conditions have been set. However, it is advisable for libraries to store restricted publications on closed shelves, as staff must ensure that no patrons under the age of restriction have access to them. For more information go to www.censorship.govt.nz/libraries/libraries-management-of-restricted-publications.html.

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Contact Details
**Office of Film and
Literature Classification**
PO Box 1999
Wellington 6140
Freephone: 0508 CENSOR
(0508 236 767)
Email: [information@](mailto:information@censorship.govt.nz)
censorship.govt.nz
Web:
www.censorship.govt.nz

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A note about the classification of magazines

Magazines, like books, do not have to be classified and labelled. However, under the Classification Act, suppliers of magazines must ensure that content which *would likely be restricted were it to be classified* is not made available to people under the age of the likely restriction. This is why adult sexually explicit magazines, for example, may not be given to people under 18, even though the magazines have not been classified.

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Classification of magazines

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Office of Film and
Literature Classification
PO Box 1999
Wellington 6140
Freephone: 0508 CENSOR
(0508 236 767)
Email: [information@
censorship.govt.nz](mailto:information@
censorship.govt.nz)
Web:
www.censorship.govt.nz