



Culture, Heritage
and Tourism

Manitoba Film Classification Board

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Memo to: Proprietors, managers and staff of arcades and video rental and retailers that sell or rent or allow the viewing at their establishment of any platform version of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas.

From: Henry Huber, Chair, Manitoba Film Classification Board

Topic: Information re the recall and re-classification of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas.

The Manitoba Film Classification Board is instructing all businesses that rent, sell or show at their establishment any platform version of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas to cease renting, selling or showing the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas until corrective action as mandated by the ESRB has taken place.

All businesses are to remove copies of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas from their shelves or public view until the corrective action as mandated by the ESRB has taken place.

On July 20, 2005 the ESRB stated in a press release: "The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) today announced the findings of its investigation into the "Hot Coffee" modification for Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, and its immediate revocation of the game's M (Mature 17+) rating¹. The game's publisher, Rockstar Games, a subsidiary of Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc., will immediately advise retailers to cease all sales of the game until corrective actions, as mandated by the ESRB, can be taken.

In addition to directing retailers to cease all sales of the game, Rockstar has agreed to take the following ESRB-mandated corrective actions:

- Offer retailers the option of either re-stickering existing inventory with an AO (Adults Only 18+) rating, or exchanging all unsold inventory for new versions of the game that has the hidden content removed and the original M rating intact.

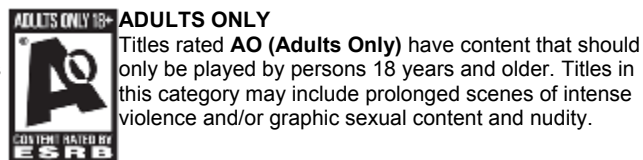
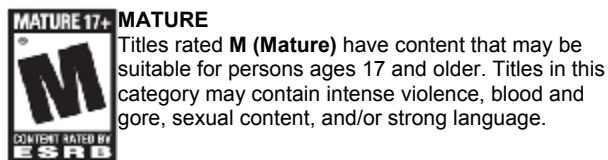
¹ *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* was originally released with an M (Mature 17+) rating with Strong Sexual Content, Intense Violence, Strong Language, Blood and Gore, and Use of Drugs.

What this means for Manitoba establishments that show, rent or sell any platform version of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas.

1. All businesses that rent, sell or show at their establishment any platform version of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas are to cease renting, selling or showing the video game GTA: San Andreas until corrective action as mandated by the ESRB has taken place.
2. Businesses have the following options:
 - a) Exchanging all unsold inventory for new versions of the game that has the hidden content removed and the original M rating intact. Game maker Rockstar will produce these new versions that will be clearly marked as being new. Retailers and rental establishments should contact their distributor to exchange inventory. If the distributor is Video One, contact Darren Fisher at (204) 694-6007 or 1-800-665-1330.
 - b) Re-stickering existing inventory with an AO (Adults Only 18+) rating. The game maker Rockstar will provide your distributor with these over-stickers in the near future. If merchants chose to over sticker the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas with an AO (Adults Only 18+) sticker, it may only be sold or rented to a person who is 18 and over. Merchants who chose to over sticker the game must sell or rent it in an Adult only store (restricted to persons 18 and over) or keep it under the counter and sell or rent it only to persons who have ID indicating they are 18 and over.
 - c) Merchants who rent or sell an AO (Adults Only 18+) video game to anyone under 18 will be in non-compliance of the Amusements act. Failure by merchants to enforce the age restrictions will mean they are in non-compliance with the Amusements Act A70 and subject to the penalties as outlined in the Act.

Under the Amusement Act A70 and its regulations the Manitoba Film Classification Board regulates all film/video/DVD (including video games) for public exhibition and home use in Manitoba. The following is from the "video and Computer Game Update" that is on the MFCB website and was sent out with MFCB Video/DVD Update: # N – 10 dated May 15 to May 28, 2005. "Amendments to the *Amusements Act*, Bill 25, *The Amusements Amendment Act* was passed on June 11, 2004 to help ensure that video and computer games played by Manitoba children contain content suitable for their age. The regulations of *The Amusements Amendment Act* came into force on June 1, 2005. The regulations will allow for video and computer games classified by the voluntary industry operated Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) to be adopted and enforced in Manitoba.

As of June 1, 2005 the Manitoba Film Classification Board has enforce the age restrictions of the M (Mature) 17+ and AO (Adult Only) 18+ ratings of the ESRB classifications. As a result it will be an offence to sell or rent video and computer games classified as M (Mature) 17+ to persons under the age of 17 years or AO (Adults Only) 18+ to persons under the age of 18 years. The following ESRB icons must be displayed on any video game rated M (Mature) 17+ and AO (Adult Only) 18+ for sale or rent in Manitoba and retailers must enforce the age restrictions as indicated.



Retailers have an obligation to check personal identification if they are unsure whether a person meets the age requirement and must also ensure that "Mature" and "Adults Only" video and computer games are not exhibited, e.g. on in-store game systems, when persons under the age of 17 years (for Mature video games) and 18 years (for Adult Only video games) are present."

Further information contact MFCB manager Ken Rodeck at (204) 945-0888 or inspector Doug Smith (cell 792-5872) or toll-free at 1-866-612-2399 or www.gov.mb.ca/filmclassification