



PEGI administrators | game and app ratings

Refusal of a UK Certificate

The VSC has in certain circumstances the legal right to refuse to grant a UK age rating certificate for any video game notwithstanding that an age rating is given under the PEGI system for other PEGI participating countries. Any such refusal by the VSC would mean that any such game is effectively 'banned' from legal supply in the UK.

The circumstances under which the VSC has such right to 'ban' are very restricted and are confined to rights given under the law and certain statutes and in particular the provisions of the Video Recordings Act (as amended). The VSC does not have the right to 'ban' simply because a video game may be potentially offensive or unacceptable to certain sectors of UK society. If the VSC endeavored to 'ban' any game in circumstances which were not authorised under the law then it would probably be liable to legal action.

The procedure for identifying any video game which may be considered for banning is set out in the section dealing with Controversial Content whereby all games containing such content are referred to the Operations Manager.

In turn the Operations Manager shall consider any such game together with the Director General. The VSC may take independent external legal advice on any such matter.

In circumstances where any such game is considered for 'banning' pursuant to the provisions of the Video Recordings Act (as amended) then the game shall be referred to the Expert Advisory Panel who shall give advice as to all matters which must be taken into account in reaching a final decision.

If after due consideration the opinion is that a game should be refused a UK certificate then the matter shall then be referred to the VSC Chair and Vice-Chairs for a final decision together with the advice of the Expert Advisory Panel (if applicable).

Before reaching a final decision the VSC Chair and Vice-Chairs may require the VSC executive to take such further action or provide such further information as they consider necessary.

In the event that a final decision is made not to 'ban' any game concerned then the game shall be given an age rating in accordance with normal procedures.

In the event that a decision is made that a game should be 'banned' then this shall be communicated to the publisher or other party submitting the game together with the reasons for the 'ban' and details as to how any such decision can be appealed which are set out in The APPEALS PROCESS PDF.

In the event that a decision is appealed the matter shall then be referred to the Chair of the Appeals Panel and from that point onwards the appeal shall be under the full control and direction of the Chair of the Appeals Panel. The VSC executive shall do all such things and provide such information as the Chair of the Appeals Panel shall request.