

USK regulations for gamescom 2021



gamescom
Cologne, 25 - 29 August 2021

Information for gamescom exhibitors

For all questions regarding tickets, reservations and journey please contact: gamescom@visitor.koelnmesse.de

Koelnmesse has officially assigned USK (Entertainment Software Self-Regulation Body) as youth-protection authority at gamescom. This task encompasses the age rating of any kind of content that is intended to be exhibited, (all platforms including mobile apps, browser games, game portals as well as trailers, stage presentations and other contents). Additionally, USK serves as the primary contact for all gamescom exhibitors with regard to any youth-protection-related issues, whether prior to or during the fair itself.

As an exhibitor you are entirely responsible for ensuring that your booth and presentation conform to German youth-protection requirements under the provisions of the German Children and Young Persons Protection Act ("JuSchG"). Compliance is validated by the regulatory authorities during the fair. For the purpose of consistent and uniform implementation, Koelnmesse and USK have jointly adopted the regulations described below. These regulations apply for ALL exhibitors at gamescom, entertainment area. Upon admission, in accordance with the age on their photo ID/health insurance card with photo, the organizer (Koelnmesse) will provide visitors with three types of non-removable wristbands in colors corresponding to the colors of the respective USK stickers for ages 12/16/18 which support booth personnel in terms of age verification. There are no exceptions. Parental accompaniment or consent forms do not replace proof of age.

All presentations of games, trailer and game-based presentations need to be rated by the USK to show them in the public. Unrated content can only be presented to adults in separate areas. Trailer and software without games related content like company trailers, recruiting videos or hardware trailers do not need a rating.

Deadline for submission is August, the 9th, 3pm.

Content must be sent with the **submission form** attached to test@usk.de or via mail. Games and trailers can be sent as disc, USB-stick, key, voucher, link or FTP.

The rating fees are based on the current **cost structure**.

Titles and trailers in the business area will NOT need to be reviewed by the USK in 2021.

Group stands, universities, national/international pavilions

This includes various contents of different degrees of completion. You will receive a complete stand rating that will include all submitted content. Content that cannot be subsumed up to and including "USK from age 12" must be tested separately or can be presented to adults in separate areas.

Streamers / Presentations / HandsOff-Demos

All presentations are subject to the same rules as playing stations, so 16 / 18 rated or unchecked content may not be presented publicly. If the selected clippings or the commentary and the non-interactivity change the games' impression and in your view allow a lower release, submit a 10-minute "fake-livestream", which includes the usual game elements and the live commentary. The release is then granted for this content and the commenting style, and applies to a broadly identical content presentation of that game.

At the Trade Fair

All gaming stations must be labeled with the correct rating so visitors can easily get the age rating information.

The sticker size must be at least 3,5 x 3,5 cm. If the same game is shown on multiple units in a row or in one area labeling all units is not necessary. The entrance or the back wall behind the units can be labeled instead, we recommend using at least 20x20cm stickers then.

Please find the sticker templates [here](#).

In trailers the rating does not need to be indicated either in the opening credits or on the presentation area.

The USK will **not** bring stickers to the gamescom. Please print them yourselves or order sticker rolls.

USK All Ages / 6 / 12

Content with this rating can be shown openly to anybody, though the staff must make sure that 12+-content must not be actively played by under agers.

USK 16 / 18 / not rated

Content with this rating can only be shown to visitors to the correct age group. Separate rooms, turned monitors and privacy screens are the choice to make sure no under ager can see that content. Access control to these areas must be conducted by the booth personnel.

Additional Information

- Companies who are in contact with the USK for the first time automatically fall under the rule of pre-payment. Please plan sufficient time for the clearance of all payments
- If your company aims to show a segment from a full version at gamescom please tie "gamescom-Demo" on the submission form and inform us about the content to be playable
- Games or Demos that already feature an earlier USK rating and have not changed in terms of youth protection issues must show that very rating
- IARC ratings are only valid within the participating storefronts and are not valid at gamescom
- Every displayed platform version must carry its own rating

Please note that the wristbands will also be handed out on Wednesday and that age checks must also be carried out on Wednesday.

The competent authorities (the City of Cologne) will thoroughly monitor compliance with the German Children and Young Persons Protection Act (JuSchG) at the fair and take the appropriate legal actions in the event of violations of the law. Any violations will be punished by closing the trade fair booth of the responsible company and can result in substantial fines. To prevent the latter, USK is available to help you resolve any questions, problems and ambiguities regarding youth protection.

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