



JUSTICE BEHIND BARS



Security Classification Factsheet

This factsheet sets out general information about security classification decisions.

What are the different security classifications?

There are three different security classifications you can receive in prison in Queensland:

- Maximum security; or
- High security; or
- Low security.

How is a security classification decided?

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) must consider the following factors in deciding what security classification to give a prisoner:

- The nature of the offence for which the prisoner has been charged or convicted;
- The risk of the prisoner escaping or attempting to escape from custody;
- The risk of the prisoner committing a further offence and the impact the further offence is likely to have on the community;
- The risk the prisoner poses to himself or herself, other prisoners, staff members and the security of the corrective services facility.

Once a decision has been made about your security classification, QCS must provide you with an Information Notice that explains the reasons for their decision.

QCS procedures state that reasons must be provided to you in writing within two working days after a security classification decision is made. Reasons are provided in a document called an Information Notice.



What impact does a security classification have?

Your security classification impacts which prison you are placed in and the level of security that is imposed on you.

QCS procedures state that all prisoners who are classified as high security will be accommodated in a high security prison. Prisoners given a low security classification **may** be accommodated in a low security prison or work camp.

Security classification reviews

The *Corrective Services Act 2006* (Qld) states that security classifications **must** be reviewed as follows:

- Maximum security classification – every 6 months
- High security classification – every 12 months (unless you are on remand and not serving a term of imprisonment for another offence)
- Low security classification – as required

Security classifications can be reviewed more frequently as part of an events based review. An events based review may take place because:

- your term of imprisonment has been changed by a court order; and
- of a significant event; for example you are get a breach of discipline or complete a rehabilitation program.

If you have a high security classification that has not been reviewed in the past 12 months, you can write to the General Manager stating:

- you request a review of your classification as soon as possible; and
- that the law requires the classification to be reviewed every 12 months.

If this does not result in your security classification being reviewed, you can contact PLS or the Queensland Ombudsman for free on the prison Arunta telephone system.

How to get a low security classification?

All security classification decisions should be considered on a case by case basis. There are no set time frames within the law or procedures for when a prisoner should receive a low classification. QCS procedures state that low security classifications will be given to prisoners:

- Requiring limited supervision;
- Not considered to be an escape risk; and
- Who have been assessed as a minimal risk of causing harm to the community.

You can write to the General Manager requesting a low security classification explaining how you think you have demonstrated the above factors while in prison.

Unhappy with your security classification?

If your security classification has been **increased**, section 16 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (Qld) provides you with a right to seek a review of that decision within **seven days** of receiving the Information Notice. Prisoners who have had their security classification increased can write to the Deputy Commissioner seeking a review of that decision at:

Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations
Queensland Corrective Services
GPO Box 1054
Brisbane 4001

If your security classification has been maintained, there is no right in the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (Qld) to challenge the decision. Legal reviews of security classification decisions are only available in limited circumstances and you should seek legal advice. For legal advice about your security classification you can call PLS on the prison Arunta telephone system.

If you want to make a complaint about your security classification decision you can call the Queensland Ombudsman on the prison Arunta telephone system or write to them at:

GPO Box 3314
Brisbane Qld 4001