

# Prisoner security classification information sheet



## What security classification can a prisoner be?

Under the *Corrective Services Act 2006* s12 all prisoners must be classified as a maximum; high; or low security classification by the appropriate decision-maker.\*

A male prisoner who is on remand and not currently serving a sentence must be classified no lower than high. A female prisoner who is on remand may be classified low after consideration by the decision-maker in each individual case.

*\*A decision-maker is the person who has been delegated the authority to determine the classification and placement of prisoners.*

## What is considered by a decision-maker when making a security classification decision?

The decision-maker has four factors that must be considered under the *Corrective Services Act 2006* s12:

- 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 commission of the further offence is likely to have on the community; and
- The risk the prisoner poses to himself, herself, and other prisoners, officers and the security of the corrective services facility.

	Maximum security classification	High security classification	Low security classification
<p><b>What is a security classification?</b></p> <p>Prisoners are classified into security classification levels within the prison system to allow for progression through their prison sentence and to assist with reintegration. Each prisoner is assessed for a security classification with factors including sentence length, behaviour and individual circumstances being considered.</p> <p><b>What does a security classification mean for a prisoner?</b></p> <p>The classification of a prisoner will determine the accommodation or correctional facility they can be placed at.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prisoner with a maximum security classification will be accommodated in a Maximum Security Unit (MSU).</li> <li>• If there are no cells available in the MSU, the prisoner will be accommodated in a high security correctional facility under a Maximum Security Order (MSO).</li> <li>• Higher levels of supervision and management are in place for prisoners with a maximum security classification.</li> <li>• A MSO may be made if the decision-maker reasonably believes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ there is a high risk of the prisoner escaping or attempting to escape;</li> <li>○ there is a high risk of the prisoner killing or seriously injuring other prisoners or other persons;</li> <li>○ the prisoner is a substantial threat to the security or good order of the corrective services facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prisoner with a high security classification can only be accommodated in a high security correctional facility.</li> </ul>	<p>A low security classification does not automatically result in a prisoner's transfer to a low security correctional facility. A separate placement consideration is made in relation to the prisoner's eligibility and suitability for low security placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A male prisoner with a low security classification can be accommodated in either a high security correctional facility or a low security correctional facility (farm).</li> <li>• A female prisoner with a low security classification can be accommodated in either a high security correctional facility, a low security correctional facility (farm) or a community custody centre.</li> <li>• Only prisoners with a low security classification who are placed in low security correctional facilities can apply for a Work Order to participate in the work camps.</li> </ul>
<p><b>When does QCS change a prisoner's security classification?</b></p> <p>Under the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> s13 a prisoner's security classification should be reviewed at regular intervals, however this does not necessarily mean that a prisoner's classification will change.</p> <p>Any classification can be reviewed following a significant event at any point in time. This is known as an event based review.</p> <p>Every prisoner is individually assessed by the decision-maker for every classification decision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review intervals no longer than six months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review intervals no longer than one year.</li> <li>• A decision-maker will meet with all prisoners who are being considered for a low security classification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review will be triggered by any significant event including if the prisoner is charged with further offences; or</li> <li>• When a prisoner's period of imprisonment is changed by a court.</li> </ul>