

Registration of legacy gaming machines

August 2007

1 Introduction

1.1 The Gambling Commission (the Commission) requires a register of legacy machines in order to:

- prevent further legacy machines being produced after 1 September 2007; and
- differentiate legacy machines from new machines which will be compliant with the technical standards that apply post 1 September.

1.2 The legacy standards require prescribed details of legacy machines to be registered with the Commission.

2 Definition of legacy machines and what it means for operators

2.1 The definition of a legacy machine, which is set out in the legacy machine standards, is as follows:

A gaming machine, as defined by section 235 of the Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), is a legacy machine, if:

- *it is of category B3, B4, C or D;*
- *it was available for lawful use on premises within Great Britain on 31 August 2007 (whether as a 'Jackpot' machine under the provisions of section 31 Gaming Act 1968 or as an 'amusement with prizes' machine under the provisions of section 34 of that Act);*
- *it is so configured as to comply with any regulations made under section 240 of the 2005 Act which apply to it; and*
- *prescribed details of it have been registered with the Gambling Commission by 31 August 2007.*

This deadline has now changed, please see section 3 – Timing of Information for details.

2.2 This means that a B3, B4, C, or D (other than non-complex category D) gaming machine sited or in stock at a manufacturer or operator at 31 August 2007 is a legacy machine if it meets the other legacy requirements set out above. Non-complex category D machines (e.g. pushers and cranes) have specific standards that apply and do not need to be registered with the Commission as legacy machines.

2.3 The machines can be moved to other premises and be sold between operators. This will enable machines to be downgraded through the categories, for example being changed from a category C in a pub, to a category D in a family entertainment centre (where only the stakes and prizes will be different).

2.4 The machines can remain as legacy machines unless they are modified in order to take advantage of the new freedoms (eg ability to accept cash and non-cash payments or single metering); or unless they are substantially altered so that they effectively become new machines. If they are modified in this way, they will cease to be legacy machines and thus will automatically be required to meet the relevant new technical standards in full. They can be adapted to comply with any regulatory or other legislative requirements without losing their legacy status.

- 2.5 The Commission believes that this position will allow machines to move out of the market over time rather than having to be removed by 1 September 2007, whilst also ensuring that only those genuinely in the market at the end of August and compliant with the legacy standards will be permitted to continue to operate.

3 Timing of information

- 3.1 The Commission requires the situation as at 31 August to be recorded on the register. This means that all machines for which legacy status is claimed that were supplied or owned by an individual or business at that date, even if they are subsequently sold, should be recorded. The information must be provided to the Commission (and any new identifier required displayed on the machine) by 1 December 2007. This is a change from the legacy machine technical standards which stated that prescribed details of each legacy machine should be registered with the Commission by 31 August 2007.
- 3.2 The Commission considers that it should be possible for the vast majority of legacy machines to be labelled and registered by 1 December 2007. There may be a minority of smaller suppliers where this may be more difficult. The Commission is willing to consider requests for extensions to this deadline, but cannot guarantee they will be granted.

4 The return

- 4.1 The owner of the machine will need to provide the return. This will often be the supplier, except where individuals or businesses own their machines outright. The Commission would prefer electronic returns, submitted in the attached spreadsheet. Electronic returns should be sent to:

legacymachines@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

- 4.2 Written returns are also acceptable. They should be provided on a printed version of the spreadsheet or in a similar format including the same information. Written returns should be sent to:

**Legacy Machines,
Compliance Administration Team**
Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B2 4BP

Licensee information

- 4.3 In the spreadsheet version of the return, the drop down menu asks the operator completing the return to state the type of licence the operator holds, giving options for AGC or FEC, Bingo, Casino, Manufacturer or Supplier, Non-commercial club and Other. In a further drop down menu it also asks who issued the operator's licence, giving options of the Commission, the Gaming Board or the local authority. We would prefer the Commission issued operating licence number where the person or company providing the return has one. Those providing a written return should also provide this information.

Gaming Machine Data: unique identifier

- 4.4 There are three options for what the unique identifier for each machine can be: the serial number of the machine, the asset number of the machine or, where those are appropriate, a new identifier based on the owner's postcode, address number and a five digit number unique to that machine.

- 4.5** The Commission's preference is for the full machine serial number to be used as the unique identifier. However, we understand that some suppliers do not use the full serial number on their computer systems and that this information is not easily provided. Where it is easier to provide, the Commission is content for the asset number of the machine to be used instead, provided that number is unique to that machine (compared to other machines administered by that supplier). In both cases this number would have to be displayed on the outside of the machine. For further details, please see the section titled 'identifier on the machine'.
- 4.5** Where a machine does not have a serial or asset number, the supplier or owner should generate their own identifier to put on the machine and include in the register. The identifier should consist of the post code of the supplier/ owner, their business address number or name and a 5 digit number unique to each machine logged by that supplier or owner. The identifier should be entered on the return in the format B2-4BP-1-00001.

Gaming Machine Data: manufacturer and game title

- 4.6** We also require the name of the company that manufactured the machine and the title of the game available on the machine.

5 Information on the machine

Identifier on the machine

- 5.1** The unique identifier will need to be displayed on the outside of the machine. Most serial or asset numbers are displayed on the back of the machine and that is acceptable. It is the supplier's or owner's responsibility to ensure that the identifier on the machine matches what is on the register. Unless the identifier on the machine matches the one on the register a machine will not have legacy status.
- 5.2** Where a new identifier has been generated it should be displayed on a sticker in a visible position on the machine. The identifier should ideally be printed, although clear handwritten stickers are acceptable.

Category sticker

- 5.3** In addition to the identifier, DCMS regulations will require each machine to display what category it is. This will need to identify if it is a legacy machine. A new identifier could be on the same sticker as this category information.

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The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the public interest. It does so by keeping crime out of gambling, by ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and by protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The Commission also provides independent advice to government on gambling in Britain.

For further information or to register your interest in the Commission please visit our website at: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

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