

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

18 November 2008

Dear Trade Associations

## **New identity cards for foreign nationals**

The UK Border Agency will phase in identity cards for all foreign nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland over the next three years. From **25 November 2008**, they will start issuing compulsory identity cards to those who apply for an extension of their permission to stay in the United Kingdom as students or as the husbands, wives or partners of permanent residents. Other applicants will continue to receive a sticker (vignette) in their passport, and the two systems will run alongside each other for a few years.

These identity cards can be used for identification purposes and, from 25 November, foreign nationals may present these cards at casinos in the United Kingdom. Operators should, therefore, refine their procedures to include the ID card as a possible tool for identification of customers, but should ensure that the necessary customer due diligence checks are conducted to meet their obligations under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007.

The attached guidance document contains details of the identity cards, including their appearance and design. Further information can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/idcardsforforeignnationals/>

Yours sincerely

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