

10 May 2005

Dear Class 4 Operator's Licence Holder

### **Minimum Standards – Minimum Technical Requirements for Electronic Monitoring System**

As an operator of gaming machines, you must connect all your gaming machines to an electronic monitoring system (EMS) at a date notified by the Secretary for Internal Affairs (section 86 of the Gambling Act 2003). As part of the preparation for EMS connection, the Department is consulting on proposed amendments to the class 4 gambling equipment minimum standards.

The minimum standards being consulted on relate to:

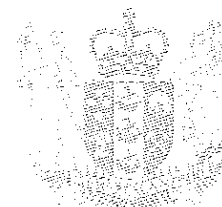
- the technical standards for the site controller. (There must be a site controller at each venue. It is the piece of equipment that receives and stores data from the gaming machines at each venue and connects to EMS);
- how gaming machines and the site controller interconnects.

While a lot of the proposed minimum standards are technical, there are several areas of the standard that relate to practical matters for societies. It is expected that it is these matters that will be of the greatest interest to societies. They include:

- cabling requirements (e.g. correct placement of cabling);
- location and security of the site controller;
- site controller power and communication requirements.

The EMS monitor (the monitor is the company that will operate EMS) will be responsible for the supply, installation and ongoing operation of the site controller. The class 4 operator's licence holder will be responsible for meeting and maintaining the requirements for connection to EMS (that is, fibre optic cabling connecting the site controller and gaming machines, site controller power supply, site controller location and security, and the communication link between the site controller and EMS as referenced in these standards).

You should note that the options for the connection link from the site controller to EMS as described in section 3.3.2.3 of the proposed standard are yet to be finalised by the Department and the monitor. This section of the proposed standard indicates all of the standard options but does not include all of the technical detail. If you have views on appropriate technical specifications, please use this consultation round as an opportunity to state them



The amendments to the minimum standards will be brought into force after consultation with societies and after all technical aspects have been confirmed with the monitor. You will be advised when all the minimum standards are to be brought into force. You should not do cabling for EMS until after the minimum standards are made.

These proposed amendments to the minimum standards are important requirements that reflect what must be in place to ensure your machines are ready for connection to EMS. In addition, all your gaming machines must be QCOM compliant to be connected to EMS. A further minimum standard for QCOM will be released for consultation soon.

The Department will also provide you with further information, consultation and support to help you get ready for EMS once the contract is signed and further detail is agreed with the monitor. In terms of the timing of venue connection to EMS, it is recognised that different societies and venues have different needs. To this end, societies will be consulted to help inform the Secretary's decision about the appropriate dates for venue connection. It is expected that:

- consultation over connection dates will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year; and
- venue connection will commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2006.

Please find enclosed a copy of the proposed amendments to the minimum standard for class 4 gambling equipment. The proposed amendments incorporate, in part, existing specifications from the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation (QOGR). Copies of the relevant specifications can be found at:

[http://www.qogr.qld.gov.au/publications/technical\\_information/Monitoring\\_Systems/index.shtml](http://www.qogr.qld.gov.au/publications/technical_information/Monitoring_Systems/index.shtml)

The incorporated specifications are:

- EGM Communications Interface and LAN Requirements Version 2.0 Revised 8 August 2001; and
- Site Controller Minimum Technical Requirements Version 2.0 Revised 23 June 2003.

The incorporated documents further reference a fibre optic communication application, developed by Agilent Technologies, which forms the basis of the physical fibre optic connection between a venue's gaming machines and the site controller. Links to this documentation can be found in the relevant QOGR specification reference above.

These proposed amendments to the minimum standard have also been sent to major gambling equipment suppliers for comment. You may wish to also seek technical advice on the proposal from your venues (if applicable) and those persons contracted to service your gambling equipment.

You are invited to make submissions on the proposed amendments within a consultation period of 20 working days. Please ensure your submission is returned to the Department of Internal Affairs by 10 June 2005.

Please address your submissions to:

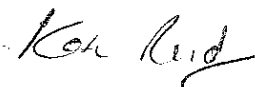
Bruce Manuge  
Senior Technical Advisor, Gaming Operational Policy  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
PO Box 805  
Wellington

Alternatively, you may email your submission to [bruce.manuge@dia.govt.nz](mailto:bruce.manuge@dia.govt.nz).

Should you have any technical queries please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Manuge at the above addresses or on (04) 495 9343.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Kate Reid  
Manager  
Gaming Operational Policy