

EMS Venue-Readiness Guide

Common Venue Connection Issues

Since the Minimum Technical Requirements for EMS (cabling and site controller) were issued a number of venues have been cabled. An inspection of some venues has identified the following issues:

- Gaming machines not connected or bypassed, even though they are QCOM compliant
- Gaming Machine fibre optic interface cards ('bricks) not connected to the gaming machine port (that is, the cable from the brick to a connector on the gaming machine)
- Bricks not working due a number of reasons such as: fuses missing, jumper not configured correctly, not plugged into power, or inappropriately powered from an external power source
- Fibre cabling reversed i.e. the IN and OUT signals reversed
- No electrical power available at the site controller location.

Some of these issues may be able to be rectified on the day, but others may take some time and lead to delays. If the issues are unable to be rectified at the time then either the gaming machine concerned will not be enabled, and therefore unavailable for play, or all the machines at the venue may not be connected.

Maintenance Work on Gaming Machines

Once you start preparing a venue for QCOM connection (e.g. installing the required cable networks etc), it is important that any subsequent work on gaming machines does not cause the installation to fail or be non-compliant.

Societies and venues should ensure that whenever work is done on the venue gambling equipment, the service technicians clearly advise that the cabling system and QCOM is **still** operative and ready for Secretary's date.

When the venue is being connected to EMS, there are simple and quick tests that can be done to ensure that nothing has been compromised. These tests can be **visual** and/or involve an **instrument check** of cable continuity.

The visual check involves making sure all bricks are powered up correctly, fibre cables are connected in the right place, and that the brick is connected to the appropriate gaming machine port.

The instrument check of the cable is done by feeding a signal into the loop, and checking that it is received at the other end of the loop. A visual check of the brick's light flashing should indicate that a particular gaming machine is connected to the fibre cable.

Figure showing typical QCOM cabling and fibre optic interface card ‘brick’ connections.

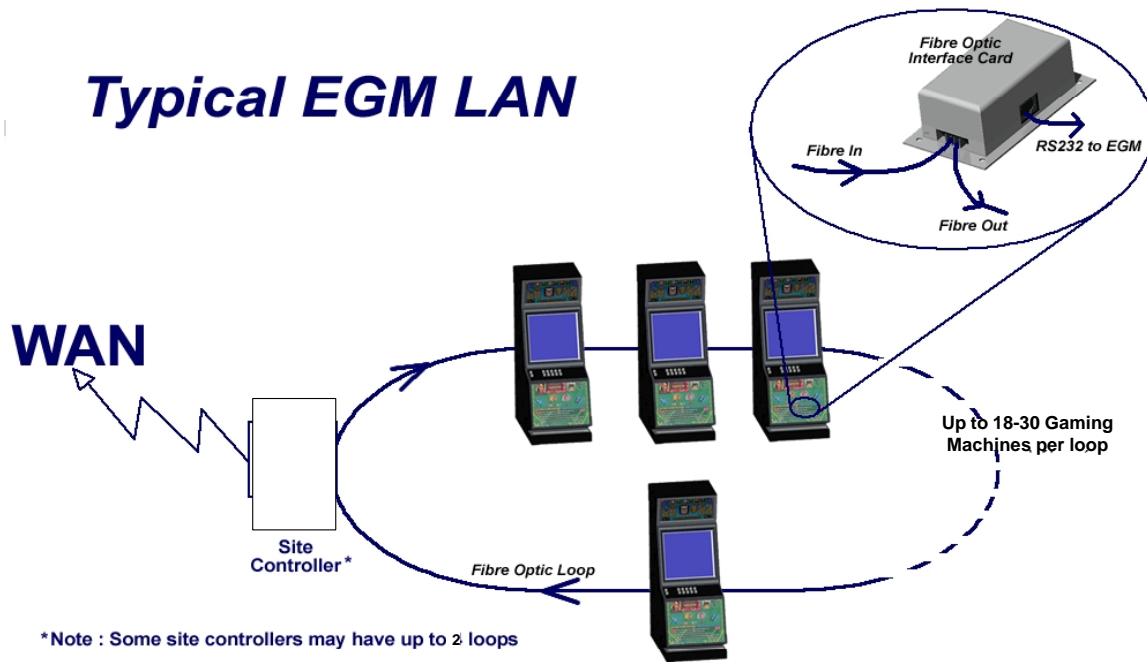
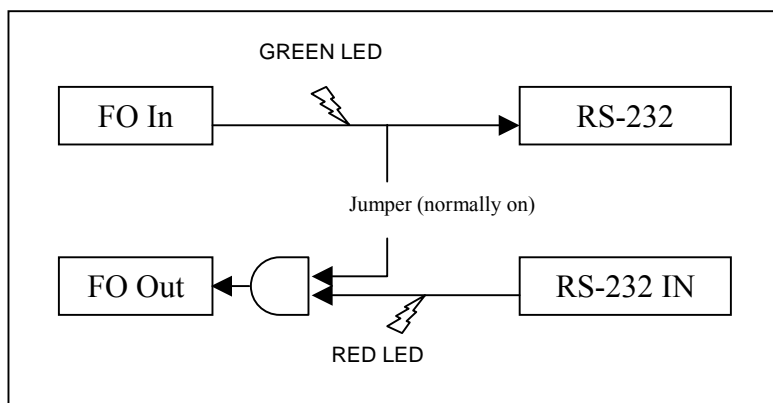


Figure showing FO ‘Brick’ LED and jumper operation

Once the venue has been connected to EMS, you should see the following lights

- The green LED will flash when a signal is received from the fibre cable.
- The red LED will flash only when it is in QCOM mode.



Secretary's Notice

The mail out of Secretary's Notices began on 2 June for venues connecting in July. Once you receive your Secretary's Notice you should:

- Check the venue cabling plan and ensure the correct plans are sent back with the Secretary's Notice (**Note:** this plan must be kept complete and accurate at all times)
- Make any necessary changes to the notice
- Return the notice by the due date you have been given

It is advisable to take a copy of the documents that you are sending back to us for your records

If the Secretary's Notice is not returned before the due date your venue may not be connected before 17 March 2007. Following this date, machines will be disabled until they are connected to EMS.

Note: There is a freeze on any changes at your venue from the date of production of your Secretary's Notice until the day after your venue has been connected to the EMS. Therefore, any necessary amendments for game changes, machine upgrades etc must be completed well before the Department sends you your Secretary's Notice.

Game Rules

The Gambling Act (Class 4) Game Rules 2004 have been revised as a result of the introduction of EMS.

A copy of the Gambling Act (Class 4) Game Rules 2006 was sent to all societies and venues on June 13, along with a series of explanatory fact sheets. You will be particularly interested in Part 4 of the Game Rules as it relates directly to EMS.

If you require further copies of the Game Rules or the EMS Fact Sheets they are available on our website at www.dia.govt.nz

Jackpot Parameters

It is the corporate society's responsibility to ensure that the combined RTP (Return to Player) of the gaming machine and jackpot does not exceed 92%. This is the maximum return to player permitted by Minimum Standards.

More information: Contact David Chatwin on (03) 353 8308 or david.chatwin@dia.govt.nz