

JACKPOT SYSTEMS AND EMS

A jackpot system is a gambling device linking a number of gaming machines. The system takes a set percentage of the turnover of all games played on the linked gaming machines, to create a 'pool' of money available to be won as an additional or separate prize. The pool is won when one of the linked gaming machines triggers the jackpot.

There are several varieties of jackpot systems in terms of the start up amount, the number of levels and the maximum amount that can be won at each level.

However, for EMS purposes, jackpots can be categorised as either 'downloadable' or 'non-downloadable' systems. Downloadable systems have two-way communication with connected gaming machines, while non-downloadable ones have only one-way communication and require a cancelled credit hand pay (cash payment) to be made to the player when a jackpot win is struck.

DOWNLOADABLE JACKPOT SYSTEMS

The Aristocrat 'Cashcade' is an example of this type of system, but there are other variants tailored to other makes of gaming machines. These systems are not directly connected to the EMS site controller as they directly transfer jackpot wins to the winning gaming machine.

However, once the QCOM protocol is enabled on linked gaming machines and they are connected to EMS, any wins awarded by these systems increment a dedicated gaming machine jackpot wins meter. This QCOM meter is called 'Total EGM Download Jackpot wins'. They increment a 'Total EGM cashless credit in' meter, which in turn increments the 'Total EGM Cents In' (Money in/Cash in) meter.

They will not, as they do at present in 'non-QCOM' mode, increment the gaming machine 'Total wins' meter. One effect of this is that for the purposes of calculating GMP, jackpot wins will be separately deducted, in exactly the same way as for non-downloadable systems.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Requirements for downloadable systems post-EMS is set out in Game Rule 119.

A daily reconciliation must be carried out between the gaming machine hard turnover meter, and the turnover recorded by the jackpot controller soft meter. This can be done using the Daily Jackpot Turnover Report. Any variances must be investigated - these requirements are no different to those under the current [2004] game rules.

NON-DOWNLOADABLE JACKPOT SYSTEMS

Translux and Fortune jackpots are examples of this type of system. Any jackpot wins awarded do not affect the gaming machine's accounting meters. However, because the jackpot controller is connected to EMS it collects details of wins as well as other jackpot information. The dollar amount of jackpot wins

awarded is included in daily, weekly and monthly reports on the EMS website (www.ems.govt.nz) as 'Jackpot wins'.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

You need to access the venue's 'Daily Jackpot Data' report each day via the website, and check that the report shows turnover increases from all connected machines (unless they have not been played during the day). If variances are shown you must investigate the matter.

For the purpose of daily reconciliation, the jackpot win data for individual gaming machines must be compared with the Daily Jackpot Cancelled Credit Report. If an adjustment to the win value is needed, the society must be informed and ensure the adjustment is made. The Daily Jackpot Cancelled Credit Report is used to record the payment of any prizes made by the non-downloadable system.

EMS produces a Weekly Jackpot Reconciliation Report. This must be checked and any significant variances investigated. If variances cannot be resolved, the system must be shut down and a technician called in.

Game Rules 120 and 121 set out these requirements.

WHAT IF A VENUE HAS BOTH TYPES OF JACKPOT SYSTEM?

If you operate both a downloadable and a non-downloadable jackpot system, jackpot wins as shown on EMS reports include all jackpot wins awarded by both systems - but the individual gaming machine QCOM meters only show those wins awarded by the downloadable system.

Only one non-downloadable system may be operated at a single venue, and no individual gaming machine can be connected to more than one jackpot system.

JACKPOT CONTROLLER SHUT DOWN

If a jackpot controller is faulty or malfunctioning and is to be switched off or replaced you must notify the EMS Help Desk, prior to shut down. A download of the current jackpot files must be taken before the controller is shut down.

Note: If a parameter change, reconfiguration or change of jackpot controller is required the jackpot controller must not be switched on again until the next business day.

EMS-generated weekly reports replaced Weekly Gaming Machine Profit Reports and WGMP Summary Reports (except under certain circumstances – refer to game rules 104, 125 and 126)

EMS provides daily jackpot activity and weekly jackpot reconciliation reports for non-downloadable jackpot systems.

A Weekly Reconciliation report was added to reconcile weekly banking. A New Unpaid Prize Report was also added.

Most of the pre-EMS reports have had minor changes and still need to be completed – these include those relating to cash clearances and cancelled credits, Gaming Machine Analysis (previously MMA), and the Gambling Equipment Fault/Player Dispute Report.

UNPAID JACKPOT PRIZES

Where any prize awarded by a jackpot system is not paid out, a New Unpaid Prize Report must be completed. It must be completed in triplicate – one copy given to the player (if applicable), one sent to the society, and one retained by the venue.

The non-payment of the prize will affect the amount of GMP to be banked and the society will need to create an adjustment.

ADJUSTMENTS TO EMS-REPORTED JACKPOT DATA

The only adjustments able to be made to EMS-reported jackpot data is to 'Jackpot wins'.

MORE INFORMATION

The EMS Societies and Venues User Manual provides you with additional information. The manual contains sections on the EMS system, the website and the Electronic Meter Access functionality. Please note that not all venues have elected to have Electronic Meter Access functionality at their venue.

Contact David Chatwin, Senior Inspector Technical, on 03 353 8308 or 0800 257 887 if you need any further explanation or assistance.