

Fact Sheet

Gambling Act 2003: FACT SHEET 36 - EMS

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 will not be 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 will increment a dedicated gaming machine jackpot wins meter. This QCOM meter is called 'Total EGM Download Jackpot wins'. They will also increment a 'Total EGM cashless credit in' meter, which will in turn increment 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 will be connected to EMS it will collect details of wins as well as other jackpot information. The dollar amount of jackpot wins awarded will be 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. You will continue to use the Daily Jackpot Cancelled Credit Report to record the payment of any prizes made by the non-downloadable system.

EMS will produce a Weekly Jackpot Reconciliation Report, which will be almost identical to the current Weekly Jackpot System Analysis. 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** will include **all** jackpot wins awarded by **both** systems - but the individual gaming machine QCOM meters will 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 will replace Weekly Gaming Machine Profit Reports and WGMP Summary Reports (except under certain circumstances – refer to game rules 104, 125 and 126)

EMS will provide daily jackpot activity and weekly jackpot reconciliation reports for non-downloadable jackpot systems

A new Weekly Reconciliation report has been added to reconcile weekly banking

A new Unpaid Prize Report has been added

Most of the existing (pre-EMS) reports will have only minor changes and will 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 monitor will be providing an EMS Societies and Venues User Manual to provide you with additional information. The manual will contain sections the EMS system, the website and the Electronic Meter Access functionality. Please note that not all venues will elect 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.

While reasonable measures have been taken to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information contained in this Fact Sheet it does not replace information contained in the Gambling Act 2003 or the Racing Act 2003 or any provisions pursuant to these Acts. This Fact Sheet is for general information only and is not a substitute for independent, professional legal or financial advice.