Gambling Fact Sheet #36

Jackpot Systems & the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)

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Downloadable jackpot systems

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.

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 Gaming Machine Profits (GMP), jackpot wins will be separately deducted.

Jackpot Controller shut down

Refer to Game Rule 59 for rules relating to the change, replacement or decommissioning of jackpot systems.

Gaming technicians will need to contact the EMS Service Desk if work on the gaming machines is required – for example, where the technician has made configuration changes or RAM cleared the gaming machine after jackpot changes.

Unpaid jackpot prizes

Where any prize awarded by a jackpot system is not paid out, an Unpaid Prize Report must be completed (refer game rules 33 and 43). 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 (refer Game Rule 53).
Adjustments to EMS-reported jackpot data

The only adjustments able to be made to EMS-reported jackpot data are to ‘Jackpot wins’.

More information

The EMS Societies and Venues User Manual provide 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.

Free phone the Gambling Compliance Group on 0800 257 887 (New Zealand only) or email gambling.compliance@dia.govt.nz if you need any further explanation or assistance.

Note: 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.