# Gambling Fact Sheet #41

## Gambling on Cruise Ships in New Zealand Waters

### Is gambling allowed on cruise ships in New Zealand?

It is illegal under the New Zealand Gambling Act 2003 to conduct gambling on any ship that is in New Zealand territorial waters. The territorial waters extend 12 miles out from the coastal boundary.

If a ship has a casino or gambling area, this should be closed and not operational while the ship is in New Zealand territorial waters. Gambling cannot be conducted in any other part of the ship.

### About the Gambling Act 2003

Gambling in New Zealand is prohibited and illegal unless it is authorised under the Gambling Act 2003.

The purpose of the Gambling Act is to:

* Control the growth of gambling
* Prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling
* Authorise some gambling and prohibit the rest
* Facilitate responsible gambling
* Ensure the integrity and fairness of games
* Limit opportunities for crime or dishonesty associated with gambling
* Ensure that money from gambling benefits the community
* Facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of gambling.

### How does the Gambling Act define ‘gambling’?

Gambling, as defined in section 4 of the Gambling Act, can be briefly described as someone paying consideration (whether direct or indirect) on the outcome of something seeking to win a prize where the outcome is determined wholly or partly by chance.

### Need more information?

Ask the Gambling Compliance Group. They can provide further advice on any questions you might have.

* **Free phone:** 0800 257 887 (New Zealand only)
* **Email:** gambling.compliance@dia.govt.nz
* **Website:** <www.dia.govt.nz/gambling>