8 August 2008

TO: Class 4 Gaming Machine Societies
Gaming Machine Manufacturers

GAMING MACHINE MINIMUM EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Following consultation, the Australian/New Zealand Gaming Machine National Standard Version 9.0 has been prescribed and came into force on 8 August 2008. This is the standard against which gaming machines are tested.

The following standards have also been prescribed:

- New Zealand Appendix to National Standard Version 9.0
- Minimum Technical Requirements for Linked Jackpot Systems

The following standards have also been amended:

- Electronic Monitoring System (Cabling and Site Controller)
- Electronic Monitoring System (QCOM Protocol)
- Harm Prevention and Minimisation technical standards

All of these standards are technical in nature and are used by manufacturers in the development of gambling equipment. These standards are also used by the Department for approving the equipment able to be used in the class 4 sector.

The amendments to the existing standards are largely technical in nature. For example, the changes to the Harm Minimisation and Prevention standard (the standard for player information displays) have been made to facilitate the manufacturer design and testing process.

These amendments do not impact on any equipment societies are currently using nor do the amendments require societies to purchase any new equipment. However, two of the amendments are discussed in further detail below for your information.

Electronic Monitoring System (Cabling and Site Controller)

This standard has been amended to allow for the introduction of “sniffer” technology. This technology allows venue management systems to be attached to the EMS loop in venues and read information from it in real time. The standard is primarily concerned to ensure the integrity of EMS through regulating any connection mechanism.
The introduction of this technology may result in societies being offered technology that enhances existing venue management systems. The nature and functionality of any such systems is not known.

The Department reminds and cautions societies to ensure that any product it considers for purchase adds real value to venue management and can be justified as an actual, reasonable and necessary expense on this basis.

**Minimum Technical Requirements for Linked Jackpot Systems**

On 21 February 2008 the Department advised that it would not be mandating at that time the use of downloadable jackpots by 1 July 2009, as proposed in the consultation document (draft jackpot standard) for class 4 jackpot systems. This remains the case.

However, the Department has gazetted a technical standard that deals with some integrity and player fairness issues. The technical requirements of the draft jackpot standard that were consulted on earlier in the year have been included. In many cases mandatory requirements have been rewritten as optional.

This standard reflects the technology currently approved and allows existing systems to be upgraded or replaced with newer equipment. This standard does not require societies to upgrade current systems.

The Department intends to conduct further consultation at a later date that will canvass options to address the issues identified in the last consultation round (e.g. the harm prevention and minimisation concerns raised).

Should you have any queries about these amendments, please contact the Department’s Gaming Technology team.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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Director
Gambling Compliance Group