



department for
culture, media
and sport

Factsheet 2

Fruit machines to be phased out of take away food shops and other non-arcade premises

Gambling act 2005: changes that affect your business



This fact sheet has been prepared for businesses with a permit for a gaming machine issued by their local authority under Section 34 of the Gaming Act 1968.

These include:

- take away food shops
 - minicab and taxi offices
 - guesthouses
 - other non-arcade and unlicensed premises
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From 1 August 2006, fruit machines will begin to be phased out from these premises. This is to ensure that children and other vulnerable people are not exposed to gambling in certain non-gambling premises.

Please note that this measure will not apply to:

- pubs, clubs and other alcohol licensed premises; or
- amusement arcades.

Key points

Section 34 of the Gaming Act 1968 permits the provision of gaming machines in various gambling and non-gambling premises. This includes premises such as take away food shops and taxi offices which are able to apply under Section 34 for permits for gaming machines with a maximum stake and prize limit of 30p and £5 respectively.

This fact sheet is intended for take away food shops, taxi offices and other similar non-gambling premises which currently offer gaming machines.

- If you currently have a fruit machine, you will be allowed to continue to have your fruit machine until your current permit expires.
- From 1 August 2006 you will not be able to renew your permit or apply for a new fruit machine permit once your current permit runs out.
- If you do not currently have a fruit machine, you will not be able to apply for a permit for a fruit machine from 1 August 2006.
- Please contact your local authority for more details or refer to the Department for Culture Media and Sport's website (www.culture.gov.uk)



DATES EVENT

1 August 2006

The premises listed above will not be allowed to renew their expired permit for a fruit machine, or apply for a new permit, after this date.

1 August 2006 – 31 July 2009

All existing permits will be allowed to run their course. However, businesses will no longer be able to operate gaming machines once their existing permit expires.

31 July 2009

All existing permits will expire on this date. It will be illegal to offer fruit machines in the premises listed above after this date.

Background

The gambling laws in Great Britain are being updated and a new regime for the regulation of commercial gambling is being established. The new laws will come fully into force on 1 September 2007.

The DCMS is working closely with local authorities, the newly established Gambling Commission and industry to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible for businesses.

The Gambling Act 2005 replaces most of the existing laws about gambling in Great Britain and puts in place an improved, more comprehensive structure of gambling regulation. It modernises 40-year-old gambling laws, ready to face the challenges of today and the future. This includes a new structure of flexible protections for children and vulnerable adults and, in particular, brings the burgeoning Internet gaming sector within British regulation for the first time.

The Gambling Act has three very clear objectives:

1. Keeping gambling crime free.
2. Making sure that gambling is fair and open; and
3. Protecting children and vulnerable adults.

The independent Gambling Review Body recommended in 2001 that gaming machines be banned from unlicensed premises like chip shops and taxi offices so that children in particular should not be exposed to ambient gambling in premises where there may often be little supervision. This conclusion was subsequently endorsed by an all party committee of MPs that considered the draft Gambling Bill. The government accepted this recommendation and, as a result, the provision allowing for the grant of gaming machine permits for chip shops, taxi offices and similar premises was not replicated in the 2005 Act.

More details

For more details, please contact your local authority and refer to the websites of the Department for Culture Media and Sport and Gambling Commission (below).

