

# Fairs and fairgrounds

## A quick introduction to the Gambling Act 2005

### Machines permitted at fairs

The Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) is the law which covers gambling in Great Britain including, among other things, gaming machines (commonly called fruit or slot machines).



This leaflet provides a quick guide to help you make sure you do not break the law if you operate a travelling fair. The Act defines a travelling fair as 'wholly or principally' providing amusements and states that they must be on a site that has been used for fairs for no more than 27 days per calendar year.



## What type of machines can be made available at travelling fairs?

Only Category D machines can be made available at travelling fairs.

In broad terms Category D machines are low stake fruit machine style machines, coin pushers (sometimes called penny falls) or crane grabs.

Category D machines can be identified by their low stakes and prizes as shown in the examples in this leaflet.

Anyone allowing other categories of gaming machines to be used at fairs may be prosecuted under the Gambling Act 2005 (with a maximum fine of £5,000 and/or 51 weeks imprisonment (six months in Scotland)).



## Who can work with gaming machines?

Only a company or an individual with a Gambling Commission operating licence or a valid single machine permit (which only covers one machine for one year) can supply or do any maintenance work on a gaming machine.



You must not sell or supply gaming machines unless you have a Gambling Commission operating licence. In some cases you can sell through a licensed gaming machine supplier or by having a single use permit - for more information about how you can do that see our website [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or call our contact centre on 0121 230 6666.



## Can under-18s work with gaming machines?

Under 18s are allowed to **play** Category D machines but they are **not permitted** to work in connection with any gaming machine – that means every part of working with the machine including even emptying the cash box.

## What is a Category D gaming machine?

Only Category D machines can be made available at travelling fairs. Other category gaming machines must be located in premises that are licensed or certified by a licensing authority.

### Fruit machine style



*Maximum stake is 10p if the prize is cash*

*Maximum stake is 30p if the prize is non-cash*

*Maximum non-cash prize is £8-00*

*Maximum cash prize is £5-00*

*Picture shows an example of a Category D machine, but machines can look very different. You must make sure the machine you have does not exceed these stakes or prizes*

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

To find out more about gaming machines and how you can stay within the law go to our website [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or call the contact centre on 0121 230 6666

## Coin pusher style



Maximum cash prize is £8, so the maximum note you can place inside the machine is a £5 note and the maximum prize is £15, of which only up to £8 can be cash; the remainder must be non-cash.

Maximum stake is 10p.

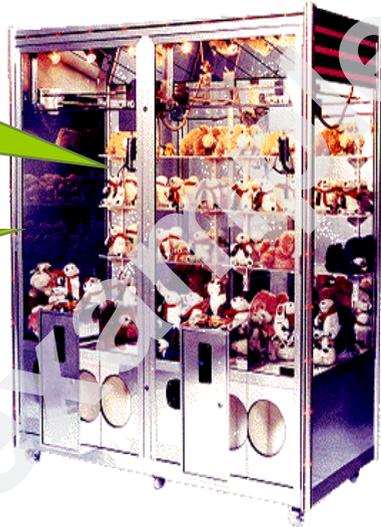
If any cash is offered in the prize the maximum stake is 10p and maximum prize is £8, of which only £5 can be cash, the remainder must be non cash.

Maximum non-cash prize is £50

Maximum stake is £1

Picture shows an example of a Category D machine, but machines can look very different. You must make sure the machine you have does not exceed these stakes.

## Crane grab style



keeping gambling fair and safe for all

[www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk)

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