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NOTICE TO LICENSEES

Notice # 2023-83

Issuing Division: Technology

DATE: October 6, 2023

TO: All Licensees and Interested Persons

FROM: Jim Barbee, Chief, Technology Division

SUBJECT: **Approval Categories for Equipment and Systems (ACES) Initiative**

I. INTRODUCTION

A goal of the Nevada Gaming Control Board (“Board”) is to provide gaming equipment manufacturers an environment that is conducive to the efficient and effective deployment of gaming system modifications to meet the dynamic needs of their customers and the gaming industry. In furtherance of that goal, the Technology Division is implementing the Approval Categories for Equipment and Systems (“ACES”) initiative.

Currently, modification(s) to the regulated component(s) (“controlled objects”) of a Cashless Wagering, On-Line Slot Metering, Race Book, or Sports Pool system (“system”) or other previously approved Associated Equipment submitted to the Technology Division must undergo a pre-approval inspection to ensure compliance with the Nevada regulatory structure.

Effective November 1, 2023, Associated Equipment modifications will be processed and approved based on the category the modifications fall into, which may not require a pre-approval inspection by a registered independent testing laboratory (“ITL”).

II. CATEGORIES

Category 1:

These are changes to functionalities or features unrelated to a Nevada regulatory requirement. These changes may be necessary as a result of non-regulated features being contained in a controlled object.

Examples include:

- Features or functionality specific to other jurisdictions not currently in use in Nevada
- Installer changes
- W2G updates
- Adjustments to non-regulated reports or forms

- Database optimization, indexing, version compatibility changes
- Operating system performance updates
- Graphical changes such as those related to the user interface
- Non-gaming system interface changes such as those related to lodging, food and beverage, or retail systems
- Peripheral and other I/O device support

Category 2:

These are modifications to a controlled object that contain regulatory changes that do not have a revenue reporting impact, do not introduce previously unapproved features or functionalities, and would not otherwise be considered a Category 3 approval.

Examples include:

- Player tracking, promotional, or loyalty system changes
- Communication handling or system architecture
- Changes to regulated forms
- Reconfiguring how information is displayed to the operator or patron
- Non-critical field issues

Category 3:

These are modifications to a controlled object that introduce new features or functionality, have a revenue reporting impact, or materially impact the operation of a system.

Examples include:

- Changes to regulated reports
- Cashless wagering modifications
- Cage & Credit modifications
- New payment methods
- New bonus schemes
- A change related to a condition placed on the system by a prior approval

III. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Category 1:

- Category 1 changes do not require a pre-approval inspection by an ITL or approval of the Board prior to deployment.
- The manufacturer must notify the Technology Division of the Category 1 changes prior to deployment. The notification must include the list of changes made along with the nomenclature and SHA1 hash of the resultant changed objects. Email Category 1 change notifications to ACESnotifications@gcb.nv.gov
- Category 1 changes must be inspected by an ITL and the inspection results provided to the Technology Division within 180 days of notification to the Technology Division or as part of the next Category 3 modification submission, whichever comes first.

Category 2:

- Category 2 modifications do not require a pre-approval inspection but do require approval by the Chair prior to deployment.
- Category 2 modifications are to be submitted to the Technology Division in accordance with Regulation 14.260. Inspection results are not required to be included in a Category 2 application for modification but may be included at the manufacturer's discretion.
- Category 2 modifications must be inspected by an ITL and the results provided to the Chair within 180 days of approval or as part of the next Category 3 modification submission, whichever comes first.
- The Technology Division's goal is to review and approve Category 2 modifications within 5 business days of the receipt of a complete application.

Category 3:

- Category 3 modifications require a pre-approval inspection by an ITL and approval by the Chair prior to deployment.
- Category 3 modifications are to be submitted to the Technology Division in accordance with Regulation 14.260 and must include the inspection and certification results of an ITL.

All changes to a controlled object since the last Category 3 approval, to include Category 1 and Category 2 modifications, must be inspected and certified by an ITL and included within the approval request for the current Category 3 modification.

Please remember that Regulation 14.300(2) requires prior written approval of the Chair for an Associated Equipment modification. Accordingly, including a Category 2 or Category 3 modification in a Category 1 change will be considered violation of this regulation.

The ACES initiative does not change the emergency modification approval requirements or process of Regulation 14.300.

Please direct questions on the ACES initiative to Technology Division Deputy Chief John Lastusky at (702) 486-2043 or jlastusky@gcb.nv.gov