

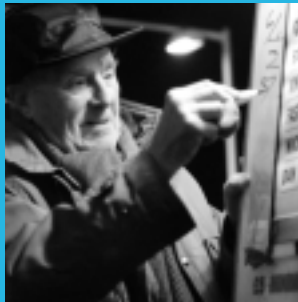
BETTING

Do I need a licence?

Information for people who operate in the betting industry

Regulation of the gambling industry in Britain is changing. From 1 September 2007, new legislation comes into force that places new responsibilities on gambling operators. Anyone who wishes to run a gambling business in Britain and certain other key staff must be licensed by the Gambling Commission.

This leaflet is designed to help you identify whether or not you need to apply for a licence. It explains which activities require a licence and the different types of licence that are available.



**GAMBLING
COMMISSION**

Why are licences being introduced?

The new arrangements have been introduced to regulate gambling in the public interest. In essence, this means:

- keeping crime out of gambling;
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

We are making sure this happens through a system of licence conditions and codes of practice.

Will I need a licence?

The betting industry is being regulated alongside other gambling activities, and the sector will be regulated for the first time by the Gambling Commission. If you plan to provide facilities for betting, gaming or participating in a lottery you will require a licence. You might be providing these facilities remotely (for example through the internet or telephone)¹, or on premises, including tracks.

There are three different types of licence:

- operating,
- personal, and
- premises.

You will need an **operating licence** if you provide facilities for gambling; and/or manufacture, supply, install, repair or adapt a gaming machine or gambling software in Britain.

In addition to an operating licence, you are also likely to need some **personal licences** for people within your organisation, unless you are classified as a small-scale operator and therefore may be exempt. You are generally classed as a small-scale operator if you have three or less people that occupy a qualifying position as named on your licence. Further details are provided in the Commission's separate guidance on small-scale operator exemption. In the meantime if you would like to know more, please see our website or contact the enquiries team on 0121 230 6666.

There are two types of personal licence:

- a **personal management licence** for individuals in certain management positions; and
- a **personal functional licence** for people who carry out certain functions.

You will need a **premises licence** where you are providing gambling services to the public from fixed premises rather than remotely.

¹ Gambling is 'remote' when people use technology such as the internet, phone, TV, radio or any other kind of electronic or other communicative device to participate.

The local licensing authority where the premises are situated is responsible for ensuring that premises are approved for gambling.

Your business may need all three types of licence, ie operating licence, premises licence and personal licence. This leaflet focuses on operating licences. Further details on personal licences are provided in the Commission's separate guidance on personal licences.

I operate in the betting industry, which type of operating licence will I need?

If you are a commercial betting operator who accepts or makes bets in the course of your business, including as a bookmaker in Britain you will require an **operating licence**, of which there are several types. A separate licence will be needed to authorise pool betting.

Non-remote betting operating licences

There are two types of non-remote general betting activity:

- Bookmakers who wish to offer betting from premises other than a track should apply for a **general betting (standard) operating licence**. This licence will also permit them to offer betting on tracks in Great Britain.
- On-course bookmakers who wish to offer betting **exclusively** on tracks should apply for a **general betting (limited) operating licence**. This licence does not permit them to offer other premises-based betting in Great Britain.

Remote betting operating licence

If you are offering remote betting services, you must apply for a **remote general betting operating licence**. However, if you hold a non-remote general betting standard or limited operating licence and wish to also accept bets via telephone only, you will only require an **ancillary remote operating licence** in addition to your non-remote licence.

If you are providing facilities for phone betting only, you may qualify for a **remote general betting (limited) licence**. This licence enables you to run a telephone betting service on a limited scale from a location not open to the public and therefore not needing a premises licence. However, if your telephone only betting service is of a large scale then you will require a remote general betting operating licence.

To see which licence you need you can look on the Gambling Commission website for more information or contact our enquiries team (see details overleaf).

Combined betting operations

If your application combines non-remote and remote activities, separate licences will be issued to the same operator covering activities authorised under the non-remote operating licence and separately the activities authorised under the remote operating licence.

When should I apply for my operating licence?

If you are an existing or a new operator, you should aim to submit your application as soon as possible. Existing operators who submit a valid application to us before 27 April 2007 will be able to continue to operate from 1 September 2007 until they receive their new licences.

How do I apply for a licence?

You need to apply to the Gambling Commission for operating licences and personal licences. We are now accepting operating and personal licence applications. Copies of the licence application forms, along with guidance notes to help you fill in the forms, are available on our website or by calling us on 0121 230 6666. The forms are available in both hard copy and electronic formats.

To ask for a form, or for further information and advice:

- email us on enquiries@gamblingcommission.gov.uk
- or call our enquiry line on 0121 230 6666.

When you apply for a form, please state whether you would prefer an electronic copy of the interactive form or a paper copy.

If you need a premises licence, you will need to apply to your local licensing authority. They will also be able to provide you with information about their application procedures.

How much will the licence cost?

For operating licences you will need to pay a one-off application fee and an annual fee for each licence. The size of the fee depends on the type of licensed gambling activities you operate or intend to operate. More information about the fee structure for operating licences is available on our website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or phone 0121 230 6666.

A personal management licence costs £330 and a personal functional licence costs £165 (and a further fee is payable every five years).

Further information

This leaflet provides a summary for people who operate in the betting sector. Other leaflets are available for the following sectors: adult gaming centres, bingo, casinos, family entertainment centres, gaming machines, gambling software, lotteries and pool betting.