



本署檔號 Our Ref. (8) in HAD LA ELT/15/4/5/8
來函檔號 Your Ref.
電話 Tel : 2116 5142 or 2116 5150 (Enquiry)
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28 February 2019

To: All Amusement Game Centre Licensees

Amusement Game Machines in Amusement Game Centres

With the advancement of technology, there are more and more types of amusement game machines emerging in the market for amusement game players, for example, Virtual Reality¹ (VR) game machines and game machines restraining the players in enclosed cabinets/ cabins/ units.

As an Amusement Game Centre (AGC) licensee, you must observe and comply with the AGC Ordinance (Cap. 435), the licence conditions and the Laws of Hong Kong for operating the game machines (including those game machines using new technology) in licensed AGCs. Separate approval from other government departments may also be required (e.g. prior approval from the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for the operation of amusement ride²).

Please be reminded that licensees should obtain prior approval from this Office before operation of game machines in AGC for persons under the age of 16 years. As to the operation of game machines in AGC for persons who have attained the age of 16 years, licensees should comply with Licence Condition No.10(d) to ensure that no machine / device is installed with game which may compromise the safety or health of any person in the premises. In particular, licensees who operate game machines which may likely affect the perceptual ability of players should ensure that sufficient precautionary / safety measures are put in place to protect the players, other patrons, spectators, passers-by, etc. in the AGC. Depending on the playing mode/ setting of the game machines, the following measures may be required:

- (i) The VR game area should be clearly demarcated and separated from the rest of the AGC in order to prevent VR game players wearing head-mounted devices from leaving the VR game area unintentionally;
- (ii) Reasonable measures should be taken within the VR game area to reduce bump / falling hazard;
- (iii) Loose items within the VR game area should be secured;

¹ VR is an advanced technology that uses the head-mounted devices to generate realistic images, sounds and other sensations that simulate a user's physical presence in a virtual environment. If a game machine using VR technology meets the definition of "machine or device" as stipulated in section 2 of the AGC Ordinance, the operation of such game machine may require an AGC licence.

² For the definition of "amusement ride", please refer to the Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 449).

- (iv) The age, physical and health requirements for each game (if appropriate) should be clearly stated in the premises and conveyed to the players;
- (v) Safety instructions (such as short video, written guide or staff's demonstration, etc.) shall be clearly conveyed to the players before they start to play the game machines. The content shall include but not limited to actions to be taken in case of fire and introduction of exit route and fire alarm system in the premises;
- (vi) An emergency alert system which can stop the music or the sound and visual images/ effects produced by the VR game/ machine system and at the same time produce visible and audible warning signals in case of a fire alarm should be provided;
- (vii) The players should be clearly briefed on the rules and regulations imposed by the manufacturer/ operator and suitable safety demonstration should be given;
- (viii) The game area, in which only the players/ marshal(s) are allowed to enter, should be clearly set out to protect spectators and passers-by;
- (ix) Sufficient number of marshal(s)/ staff must be present in the game area at all times to closely monitor the safety of the game players and ensure that the players are playing the game machines according to the rules and regulations imposed by the manufacturer/ operator; and
- (x) The licensee or his/ her agent(s) must be present at the premises at all times to facilitate the players and other patrons therein to evacuate to place of safety in case of fire or other calamity.

Should you have any enquiries on the above, please contact our Licensing Officer at 2116 5142 or 2116 5150.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

for Chief Officer (Licensing Authority)
Office of the Licensing Authority
Home Affairs Department

c.c. Licensed Amusement Game Centres Trade Association
Commissioner of Police (Attn.: SP/Licensing)