

## GAMBLING LAW UPDATE

# New requirements for the design of online slots

From 31 October 2021, new [Remote Technical Standards](#) (RTS) provisions will place restrictions on online slots products licensed by the British Gambling Commission (GC). We set out below the key changes and their applicability.

**Display of net position**

A customer's net position (all winnings minus all losses) since the gaming session started must be permanently displayed on the game screen during the gaming session.

The "gaming session" relates to the customer's play on one game from when they enter the game until when they exit it.

The GC has not set requirements for minimum font size, display position etc.

**Display of elapsed time**

Elapsed time must be displayed for the duration of the gaming session in seconds, minutes and hours.

As for display of net position, this must be displayed in the game screen but there is no minimum font size. The timer may start either from when the game is opened, or from when play commences.

**Multiple games**

The gambling system must not offer functionality which facilitates playing multiple slots at the same time, such as split screen or multi screen options.

This does not mean operators or game designers need to create software which actively *prevents* customers playing multiple games in different windows, although the GC may consider this in the future.

Operators should be aware that this change may lead to more attempts to open multiple accounts.

**Auto-play**

A customer must be required to commit to each game cycle individually. Auto-play will no longer be allowed.

A "game cycle" runs from when the player presses the start button or take equivalent action and ends when all the money staked or won has either been lost or made available for collection by the player.

**2.5 second minimum spin**

There must be a minimum of 2.5 seconds from the time a game is started until the next game cycle (see definition under auto-play) can be commenced.

Feature and bonus rounds are part of the same game cycle, provided no additional funds (real or bonus) are wagered.

**"Spin stop" features**

The system must not permit a customer to reduce the time until the result is presented. This will apply even where the spin cycle is longer than 2.5 seconds.

**Celebration of wins**

Auditory or visual effects associated with a win are not permitted for returns of less than or equal value to the stake.

The outcome may be communicated by displaying the amount awarded, showing winning lines for a short period or playing a brief sound that is distinguishable from the win sound.

**Applicability of the New Provisions**

*The new provisions apply to "slots" games only. This is defined as "casino games of a reel-based type (including games that have non-traditional reels)." The GC considers that grid-based games would fall within the definition.*

*A number of online games types will fall outside the requirement, but the GC has warned that "any attempts to design, or redesign slots products to circumvent the definition may be considered a breach of the RTS".*

**If you would like any further advice or assistance on the new requirements, please contact Melanie Ellis ([melanie.ellis@northridgelaw.com](mailto:melanie.ellis@northridgelaw.com)) or Tom Edmonds ([tom.edmonds@northridgelaw.com](mailto:tom.edmonds@northridgelaw.com))**