



# **Gambling Act 2005 – Information Sheet**

## **Family Entertainment Centres**

Family entertainment centres (FECs) cater for families, including unaccompanied children and young persons. There are two types of FECs either licensed or unlicensed.

### **Licensed FECs**

A licensed family entertainment centre has both category D and C machines it will need to be licensed. The operator will need to apply for an operating licence from the Gambling Commission and a premises licence from the licensing authority. For further information on premises licences, please refer to information on this website relating to premises licences.

Children will be allowed to enter Licensed FECs and to gamble on category D machines. Any category C machines must be located in areas restricted to over 18 year olds.

### **Unlicensed FECs**

Unlicensed FECs will only be able to offer category D machines in reliance on a gaming machine permit. Any number of category D machines can be made available with such a permit (subject to other considerations, such as fire regulations and health and safety, which will not be issues for the licensing authority under the Gambling Act). Permits cannot be issued to vessels or vehicles.

Unlicensed FEC gaming permits are granted for ten years, after which the permit must be renewed.

### **Applying for a permit**

Schedule 10 of the Act sets out the application process and regulatory regime for FEC gaming machine permits.

The application for a permit can only be made by a person who occupies or plans to occupy the premises to be used as an unlicensed FEC and, if the applicant is an individual, he or she must be aged 18 or over. Applications for a permit cannot be made if a premises licence is in effect for the same premises.

The Licensing Authority is required to publish a statement of licensing principles which sets out matters they will consider when exercising their functions in considering applications for permits. Applicants may wish to familiarise themselves with this.

Please see separate guidance as to stakes and prizes for the various types of gaming machine.

*Please note: This document has been drafted for general information purposes. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Authority accepts no liability for any error or omission. If you have any queries on licensing requirements you should contact the Licensing Section, the Gambling Commission or your own legal adviser for advice.*