

## Arcades

### What do we mean by 'arcades'?

There are three types of arcades: Adult Gaming Centres (AGCs), licensed Family Entertainment Centres (FECs), and unlicensed FECs. They are categorised according to the type of gaming machine they offer and the prizes available.

**Unlicensed FECs** are permitted to have machines with the lowest stakes and prizes, known as category D machines. Children and young people are allowed to play these machines. These premises require a permit from their local licensing authority to operate.

Any arcade wishing to offer other than Category D machines must be licensed by the Gambling Commission.

**Licensed FECs** are able to offer an unlimited number of category C and D gaming machines. Category C machines must be located in areas restricted to over-18s. Children and young people are allowed to enter licensed FECs but only to gamble on category D machines or play on non-gambling machines and amusements.

**AGCs** are strictly for over-18s, and children are not allowed in any part of the premises. They can offer up to four category B3 or category B4 gaming machines in addition to an unlimited number of category C and D machines.

### How are arcades regulated?

Most organisations and individuals that provide facilities for betting or gaming require a licence to operate, whether the facilities are provided remotely (for example through the internet or telephone), or in premises. The Commission has developed licence conditions and codes of practice that govern licence holders and it has powers to prosecute or impose fines on operators who breach their licence conditions.

There are three types of licence for arcade operators:

- Operating licences are required by those that provide facilities for gambling in Britain\*.
- Personal licences are required by individuals in certain management positions except for those organisations categorised as small-scale operators.
- Premises licences are required where gambling services are provided to the public from fixed premises rather than remotely. These are issued by the local licensing authority.

### Arcades facts and figures

- Around 44% of gaming machines (115,000) are located in arcades.
- There are around 1,000 FECs, varying from those on Brighton Pier and large seaside arcades to individual shop size units. Most FECs are part of very small groups, usually owner-operated.
- There are around 1,000 AGCs. Most AGCs tend to be owned by private family companies operating between one and 50 centres, with the majority being single, owner-operated, sites.

\* except unlicensed FECs as indicated above



Category of machine	Maximum stakes and prizes	
	Stake	Prize
B3	£1	£500
B4	£1	£250
C	50p	£35
D	10p	£5
	30p	£8

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The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the public interest. It does so by keeping crime out of gambling, by ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and by protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The Commission also provides independent advice to government on gambling in Britain. For further information or to register your interest in the Commission please visit our website at: [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk)

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