
**INTEGRITY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
PLAYING CARD STANDARDS FOR
TABLE GAMES**

Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming
Authority 

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Introduction

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) is responsible for the regulation of gaming in Saskatchewan as mandated under *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*.

(SLGA) may, according to *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*, set the terms and conditions of gaming supplier certificates of registration. In the event that SLGA issues a gaming supplier certificate of registration to you, that certificate of registration will include a term that you shall at all times comply with all applicable Gaming Integrity Standards established by SLGA from time to time.

This document outlines the technical gaming integrity standards for playing cards used for table games in a casino environment.

Background

These standards were developed in consultation with Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, and Prairieland Park Exhibition Corporation. Additionally, documents on playing cards for table games consulted include: control features in manufacturing industry, and discussions with other Canadian and American jurisdictions.

Purpose

These standards are intended to provide regulatory guidance to manufacturers, suppliers, and gaming operators about acceptable technical gaming integrity requirements in Saskatchewan. Where practices amongst operators may differ from acceptable standards, the regulator, as SLGA, will review to determine acceptable practices.

These standards provide the basis for consistent public policy. They are founded on objectives that meet the test for: fairness, accountability, security, honesty, reliability, and safety.

1.00 General

1.1 Ownership and Control of Technical Gaming Integrity Document

The ownership and control of this document and all subsequent amendments rest with SLGA.

1.1.1 Document Revision

Technological change in the industry may require SLGA to issue corresponding amendments and changes to previously approved standards. Reasonable notice will be given to all manufacturers, suppliers, testing laboratories, and operators, for implementation.

1.2 Parameters of Document

This document is intended to outline those standards that apply to play cards for table games, covering: construction, security features, and packaging requirements.

1.3 Technical Innovations

SLGA recognizes that the industry produces an innovative range of playing cards for table games. When appropriate, innovations will be evaluated, and the standards amended accordingly, as per section 1.1.1 of this document.

2.00 Quantity

Unless otherwise stated, all acceptable decks of cards shall mean concepts and equipment typified by a complete standard deck of fifty-two (52) cards consisting of four suits; hearts, spades, diamonds, and clubs. Each suit will consist of thirteen (13) cards, numbered A-10, with jacks, queens, and kings.

3.00 Construction

Durability, warping, and shuffler compatibility are three significant concerns to table games. Standards to measure the quality of playing cards for table games address quality of construction, and security features, as outlined in following sections.

3.01 Card Stock

The requirements for casino-grade paper stock are:

- Durability;
- Consistent thickness;
- Consistent fiber content;
- Consistent color, resistant to fading; and
- Sharpness of snap.

3.02 Humidity

The cards shall be able to withstand a wide range of humidity conditions and shall withstand both high and low humidity conditions.

3.03 Memory Characteristics

Playing cards shall be constructed of such a quality that individual cards shall be able to withstand minor bending without being permanently damaged. The card shall have the capacity to resist forming a “memory” from bending or physical manipulation.

If a card is marked through bending or physical manipulation during play, the deck must be withdrawn from play as per casino operating policy.

3.04 Density

Playing cards shall be constructed so that individual cards have sufficient weight and density to prevent fluttering or flipping during dealing, and will prevent card face from showing during process of dealing.

3.05 Shuffler Compatibility

The cards shall be constructed for use by automatic shufflers.

3.06 Print

Card information must be applied using a “hot stamp” or other approved lithographic practice to ensure that markings cannot be altered intentionally or through normal use.

3.07 Markings

The following are requirements for traditional markings on cards:

- a) The backs of each card in a deck must be identical and no card shall contain any marking, symbol, or design that will enable an individual to know the identity of any element printed on the face of the card or that will differentiate the back of that card from any other card in the deck.
- b) The name or logo of the operator must be imprinted on the backside of each playing card twice in a mirror image. The mirror image name or logo of the operator must be spaced a minimum of 3/4 of an inch apart.
- c) If playing cards have a white border, the border must be a minimum of 3/16 of an inch on each side of the card.
- d) Each suit shall consist of numerical cards from:
 - Two (2) to ten (10);
 - One jack;
 - One queen;
 - One king; and
 - One ace.
- e) Traditional Suits.
 - “**hearts**” ♥ hearts must be a burgundy red or red colour;
 - “**diamonds**” ♦ diamond pips must be a burgundy red or red colour;
 - “**spades**” ♠ spades must be a black colour; and
 - “**clubs**” ♣ trefoil-shaped figure must be a black colour.

3.08 Size and Shape

SLGA recognizes that different games and mechanical shufflers may require a different size card. Variations in size will be reviewed for approval on a case-by-case basis by SLGA.

Where traditional cards are used, the following guidelines are to be followed:

- a) All edges must be perfectly square with each side at a precise 90-degree angle to each adjacent side of the card; and
- b) The radius of all four corners must be exactly the same.

4.00 Packaging Requirements

4.01 Method

All finished card decks must be packaged using either of the following methods:

- a) Cellophane or shrink-wrap in single deck boxes with a tamper resistant security seal and a tear band; or
- b) Cardboard boxes with cellophane window to permit identifying the cards contained within the box with a tamper resistant security seal and a tear band.

4.02 Information

The following must be included as part of the packaging and be clearly distinguishable:

- a) Manufacturer's identification name or logo must be placed on each deck; or alternatively,
- b) The manufacturer's identification name or logo must be placed on each box containing individual decks of playing cards.

5.00 Definitions

Traditional - Concepts and equipment typified by a four suited deck consisting of a standard deck of fifty-two (52) cards, numbered 2-10, and suits of jacks, queens, kings and aces.

Operator - Casino or establishment authorized to operate table games using playing cards under *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*.

Snap - The tendency of a body (card) to return to its original shape after it has been bent, stretched, or compressed.

6.00 Revision Log

REVISION #	DATE	SECTION CHANGED
001		
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE		
AMENDED LANGUAGE		
REVISION #	DATE	SECTION CHANGED
002		
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE		
AMENDED LANGUAGE		
REVISION #	DATE	SECTION CHANGED
003		
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE		
AMENDED LANGUAGE		
REVISION #	DATE	SECTION CHANGED
004		
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE		
AMENDED LANGUAGE		
REVISION #	DATE	SECTION CHANGED
005		
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE		
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REVISION #	DATE	SECTION CHANGED
006		
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE		
AMENDED LANGUAGE		