



# ICO NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 1

March 2009

## System Notification

External Bonus systems are one of the new waves in the Colorado casino industry. The definition of an external bonus is a system comprised of various hardware and software components whereby the initiation of the winning event is not controlled by the slot machine; instead it is controlled by a separate server or controller having its own random number generator that randomly selects the bonus award. This system maintains a symbiotic relationship where the host gaming device can function without the system but the system cannot function without the gaming device. Specifically, an external bonus system does not apply to external systems that are designed to be operated as part of specific game program and are therefore used in the calculation of the game's theoretical hold percentage. The External Bonusing System shall implement a communication protocol that causes the game to increment its Machine Paid External Bonus Payout and/or the Attendant Paid External Bonus Payout meter.

When a field trial is performed on an external bonus controller or system, the Division defines them as a system approval linked to specific slot machines, and not a slot machine approval. The Division must ensure the system versions and the slot machines linked to the system are the same platform or type of machine used in the field trial. The Division will send a memo to the casino listing the documents the manufacturer is required to provide the casino, as well as the casino's requirements for new machine system testing and machine metering. Given this, external bonus systems fall under the Intent to Use a System requirement in the Internal Controls. The Division must be notified 30 days prior to the anticipated go-live date by using the Intent to Use a System Notification form.



## Division of Gaming

The Audit Section will be posting an Auditor I and an Auditor II position for the Division's Cripple Creek office approximately April 1. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them review the qualification requirements that will be posted on the Colorado State Government Job Announcement web site or call Laurie Scott, Audit Manager at 719-689-3362 or Geri Clerkin, Chief Auditor at 303-205-1315.

### Blackhawk/Central City Audit Staff Update

As of March 23 the Audit section covering the casinos located in Black Hawk and Central City is fully staffed. We will be touring the casinos in Blackhawk and Central City over the next several weeks and introducing the new staff members. The audit staff is based out of the Lakewood office but will maintain a presence in the Central City office.

Contact information for Roger Pinson, Audit Manager is (303)205-1372 [rpinson@spike.dor.state.co.us](mailto:rpinson@spike.dor.state.co.us). New contact numbers for the staff will be forwarded out as they are finalized.

## Standard Reports Update

At long last there is major progress with the Standardized Report project. The Division of Gaming has completed its field trial of the Aristocrat (ATI) Version 11.5.2 Colorado Standardized Reports at Golden Gates Casino in Black Hawk. The purpose of the field trial was to ensure system data integrity and reliability of the reports. The Division is satisfied that the Standardized Reports provided by ATI are reliable.

As a result, the Division is ready to proceed with the installation of Standardized Reports in casinos that use the ATI Oasis System.

The Division is requiring all casinos with the ATI Oasis system to complete the System Install/Upgrade Notification Form found on the Systems Testing Forms page of the Division web site. (The form is under the "Notification of System Installation" section.) This form should be completed and returned to the Division by April 17, 2009. When completing the "Type of module to be tested" section of the form, please indicate either "Standard Reports with existing ATI reports" or "Standard Reports with third-party reports."

## BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you for submitting your 2008 Bi-Annual ICO report. We appreciate your efforts in complying with the new procedures established for 2008. There have been some comments regarding the current format and its applicability when an attribute worksheet is not present. The instructions indicate that a form that does not have an attribute worksheet must be tested for compliance with the ICMP. In this case, we would expect that only one sample date for the form be reviewed, as opposed to the criteria established for sample selection. Another question was posed concerning when the ICO check list requires review of a form that is not listed on the Sample

Selection Documentation. Please add the form to the Sample Selection Documentation where we have included blank lines. We are in the process of updating the Sample Selection Documentation and the instructions for use in the preparation of the first bi-annual report for 2009.



### **UPCOMING ICO MEETINGS**

The next ICO meetings will be held in May 2009. You are encouraged to submit any questions or topics of discussion you would like addressed, either by the Division or your fellow ICOs. Please call or email your questions or topics to:

Roger Pinson (303) 582-0529, [rpinson@spike.dor.state.co.us](mailto:rpinson@spike.dor.state.co.us),

Laurie Scott (719) 689-3362, [lscott@spike.dor.state.co.us](mailto:lscott@spike.dor.state.co.us),

Shannon Voth (303) 205-1304, [svoth@spike.dor.state.co.us](mailto:svoth@spike.dor.state.co.us).

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

#### ***ICO Meetings***

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 – Central City/Black Hawk, location TBD at 10:00 am

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 – Cripple Creek, location TBD at 10:00 am

If your casino could host one of the meetings, please call or email Geri Clerkin at 303-205-1315 or [gclerkin@spike.dor.state.co.us](mailto:gclerkin@spike.dor.state.co.us)

#### ***Forensic Trainings***

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 – Central City/Black Hawk, Riviera at 1:00 pm

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 – Cripple Creek, Double Eagle at 1:00 pm

#### ***Commission Meeting Dates:***

- Thursday, March 19, in Lakewood
- Thursday, April 16, in Lakewood
- Thursday, May 21, in Lakewood
- Thursday, June 18, in Lakewood
- Thursday, July 16, in Lakewood
- Thursday, August 20, in Lakewood
- Thursday, September 17, in Lakewood
- Thursday, October 15, in Lakewood
- Thursday, November 19, in Lakewood
- Thursday, December 17, in Lakewood

#### ***Next ICO Report Due:***

Friday, July 31, 2009

This is the report for the period of January through June 2009.

### **USEFUL WEBSITES:**

The Drop & Count Schedule, Minimum Bankroll Worksheet, and Tax Template are located at:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Rev-Gaming/RGM/1213781235251>

ICO checklist and attribute worksheets: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Rev-Gaming/RGM/1213781235682>

