

IAGR Creating Multi-Jurisdictional Business Form to Streamline Application Process

By Susan Hensel

Business entities often find themselves facing a myriad of application forms to be filed with various gaming jurisdictions when applying for gaming-related licenses.

To streamline the application process for business entities, in early 2012, the International Association of Gaming Regulators (IAGR) established a Multi-Jurisdictional Business Form (MJBF) Working Group to develop a form which would standardize the categories of information to be provided by business entities. Once the MJBF is implemented, we envisage that business entities will only need to complete a single form (with relevant riders that are specific to particular jurisdictions) for submission to IAGR member jurisdictions that accept the MJBF.

The MJBF initiative builds on Multi-Jurisdictional Personal History Form that is currently available on the IAGR website at www.iagr.org. That form is commonly used by numerous gaming jurisdictions throughout the world.

“One of the most frequent requests I have received from our members and the industry is for the creation of a Multi-Jurisdictional Business Form,” said Susan Hensel, President of IAGR and Licensing Director, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. “We have made great progress toward that goal in the last year and are looking forward to introducing a form that will improve the application experience for both the business entity submitting the document and the regulator receiving it.”

The working group, which is led by Lau Peet Meng, IAGR Vice-President and Chief Executive, Singapore Casino Regulatory Authority, has developed the current draft of the MJBF as an electronic smartform which allows the applicant to complete the form at any stage without the need for Internet access. The draft MJBF will allow applicants to provide new information where required, and has an encryption feature ensuring that confidential information within the form remains secure.

While many IAGR member jurisdictions have contributed to the form and some industry feedback has been provided, in order for the MJBF to be accepted and used, it will be crucial for regulators in additional gaming jurisdictions to work together on the information to be presented in the MJBF. We are also seeking to obtain expanded feedback from industry representatives on the usability of the form. To that end, we would like to invite all interested parties to email the Casino Regulatory Authority of Singapore which is consolidating feedback on behalf of IAGR at licensing@cra.gov.sg to obtain a copy of the current draft of the MJBF and to provide your comments.

Once a final draft has been completed and adopted by regulatory jurisdictions, IAGR plans to develop an independent, confidential database system which IAGR will make available to operators to securely hold the operator data necessary to generate application forms. Operators would have sole control of access to their own data.

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erators to keep regulators up to date with relevant changes automatically rather than more cumbersome individual notifications jurisdiction by jurisdiction each time, for example, there is a change in key shareholders or personnel.” said Hensel. “We are working to have the MJBF operational by 2014 and the database in place shortly thereafter so that countries such as Great Britain can use the MJBF and database as an integral part of their proposed remote gambling licensing reforms.”

An updated version of the form will be presented for discussion at the IAGR Conference in Oslo, Norway, in September 2013. ♣

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