

16.7

Section 172 of the Act prescribes the number and category of gaming machines that are permitted in each type of gambling premises licensed by authorities. Neither the Commission nor licensing authorities have the power to set different limits or further expand or restrict the categories of machine that are permitted. In addition, limits are set separately in the Act for certain types of permit issued by authorities.

Categories of gaming machines**16.8**

Section 236 of the Act provides for the Secretary of State to make regulations to define four classes of gaming machine: categories A, B, C and D, with category B to be further divided into sub-categories. The regulations will define the classes according to the maximum amount that can be paid for playing the machine and the maximum prize it can deliver. The regulations may also define the classes according to the nature of the gambling for which the machine may be used and the premises where a machine may be used.

16.9

DCMS expects to issue draft regulations for consultation by mid-2006. Table 16.i sets the current proposals for the different categories with the maximum stakes and prizes that apply. This could be subject to change, and this guidance will be updated in due course.

Table 16.i

<i>Category of Machine</i>	<i>Maximum Stake</i>	<i>Maximum Prize</i>
A	Unlimited	Unlimited
B1	£2	£4,000
B2	£100	£500
B3	£1	£500
B4	£1	£250
C	50p	£25
D	10p or 30p when non-monetary prize	£5 cash or £8 non-monetary prize

16.10

The regulations will also specify which premises may have which type of sub-divided category B machine, since the Act is silent on this. DCMS has published its proposals on this, as set out in the paragraphs below.

Age restrictions**16.11**

There is a minimum age of 18 for all players for all category A, B and C machines. There is no minimum age for players of category D machines, however the Secretary of State has a reserve power to set a minimum age for playing category D machines with an associated power to exempt certain machines like cranes and penny pushers. The holder of a permit or premises licence will have to ensure that he complies with the codes of practice issued by the Commission on the location of and access to such machines by children and young persons, and their separation from category C and B machines where those are also located on the same premises.