

IG Taskforce

From: IG Taskforce <IGTaskforce@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 25 November 2022 11:59 AM
To: nfo@gcb.cw
Subject: Correspondence from the Australian Communications and Media Authority [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 22.11.2022 Formal Warning for Contravention of Part 2 and 7A - Pokizino.pdf;
22.11.2022 Correspondence from ACMA to Gaming Control Board Curacao.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached correspondence from the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Kind regards,

Interactive Gambling Team

Australian Communications and Media Authority

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The ACMA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Formal Warning

under section 64A of the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001*

To: Dama N.V.

Of: Scharlooweg 39 U.3
Curacao

Attention:

I, Rochelle Zurnamer, delegate of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), being satisfied that Dama N.V., has contravened subsection 15(2A) of the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (the IGA):

HEREBY issue Dama N.V. a formal warning under section 64A of the IGA, for one or more contraventions of subsection 15(2A) being a civil penalty provision.

Details of the contravention

Obligations under the IGA

1. Subsection 15(2A) of the IGA provides that a person must not provide a prohibited interactive gambling service that has an Australian customer link.
2. A 'prohibited interactive gambling service' is defined in section 5 of the IGA and 'gambling service' is defined in section 4 of the IGA. Under section 8 of the IGA, a gambling service has an Australian-customer link if, and only if, any or all of the customers of the service are physically present in Australia.

Investigation

3. Under section 21 of the IGA, on 30 June 2022, the ACMA commenced an investigation into whether the Pokizino service provided prohibited interactive gambling services in contravention of the IGA.
4. During the period of the investigation the Pokizino service was available via the URL <https://www.pokizino.com/>.
5. Dama N.V. is the provider of the Pokizino service.

Contravention of subsection(s) [15(2A)]/[15AA(3)] of the IGA

6. The Pokizino service offered 'gambling services', including casino-style games of chance or mixed chance and skill, played for money where the customer gave consideration to play the game (paragraph (e) of the definition of 'gambling service' in section 4 of the IGA).
7. The Pokizino service was provided in the course of carrying on a business and was provided to customers using an internet carriage service (section 5 of the IGA).
8. The Pokizino service had an Australian customer-link.

9. The ACMA found that, as the provider of the Pokizino service, Dama N.V. has contravened subsection 15(2A) of the IGA by providing prohibited interactive gambling services to customers physically present in Australia

Dated this 22 November 2022



Rochelle Zurnamer
Delegate of the Australian Communications and Media Authority

22 November 2022

Gaming Control Board Curaçao
Emancipatie Boulevard Dominico F. "Don" Martina 23
Willemstad
Curaçao

By email: info@gcb.cw

ACMA file reference: ACMA2021/277-89

Dear Sir/Madam,

Contravention of the Australian *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* – Dama N.V.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) is responsible for investigating and taking enforcement action for contraventions of the Australian *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (the IGA).

The ACMA has recently completed an investigation into the service made available via the URL <https://www.pokizino.com/>. The ACMA found that Dama N.V. contravened subsection 15(2A) of the IGA by providing prohibited interactive gambling services to Australian customers.

On 13 September 2022, the ACMA advised Dama N.V. of the ACMA's preliminary contravention findings and received a response on 28 September 2022. The ACMA finalised the investigation on 10 November 2022. The ACMA has issued a Formal Warning to Dama N.V. under section 64A of the IGA.

If Dama N.V. continues to provide prohibited interactive gambling services to persons physically located in Australia, the ACMA may take further action.

I have attached a copy of the Formal Warning issued to Dama N.V..

We have brought this matter to your attention as we understand that there is an intention to expand the role of the Gaming Control Board Curaçao to the regulation of online gaming in Curaçao. We understand that findings of illegal activity may be relevant to your future consideration of the suitability of a licensee.

If you have any questions on the above, please contact [REDACTED], Manager of the Interactive Gambling Team at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your engagement in this process.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rochelle Zurnamer

Executive Manager
Content Safeguards Branch

Attached: Formal Warning, Relevant provisions of the IGA

Key provisions of the IGA

4 Definitions

designated interactive gambling service means:

- (a) a prohibited interactive gambling service; or
- (b) an unlicensed regulated interactive gambling service.

gambling service means:

- (a) a service for the placing, making, receiving or acceptance of bets; or
- (b) a service the sole or dominant purpose of which is to introduce individuals who wish to make or place bets to individuals who are willing to receive or accept those bets; or
- (c) a service for the conduct of a lottery; or
- (d) a service for the supply of lottery tickets; or
- (e) a service for the conduct of a game, where:
 - (i) the game is played for money or anything of value; and
 - (ii) the game is a game of chance or of mixed chance and skill; and
 - (iii) a customer of the service gives or agrees to give consideration to play or enter the game; or
- (f) a gambling service (within the ordinary meaning of that expression) that is not covered by any of the above paragraphs.

Unlicensed regulated interactive gambling service means a regulated interactive gambling service that is provided in contravention of subsection 15AA(3).

5 Prohibited interactive gambling services

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a **prohibited interactive gambling service** is a gambling service, where:

- (a) the service is provided in the course of carrying on a business; and
- (b) the service is provided to customers using any of the following:
 - (i) an internet carriage service;
 - (ii) any other listed carriage service;
 - (iii) a broadcasting service;
 - (iv) any other content service;
 - (v) a datacasting service

Note: This definition relates to the offence provisions and civil penalty provisions set out in section 15 and Part 7A.

(2) Subsection (1) has effect subject to subsection (3).

Excluded services

(3) For the purposes of this Act, none of the following services is a **prohibited interactive gambling service**:

- (a) a telephone betting service;
- (aa) an excluded wagering service (see section 8A);
- (ab) an excluded gaming service (see section 8B);
- (aba) a place-based betting service (see section 8BA);
- (ac) a service that has a designated broadcasting link (see section 8C);
- (ad) a service that has a designated datacasting link (see section 8C);
- (ae) an excluded lottery service (see section 8D);
- (b) a service to the extent to which it relates to the entering into of contracts that are financial products within the meaning of Chapter 7 of the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- (ba) a wholesale gambling service;
- (bb) a trade promotion gambling service (see section 8BB);
- (c) an exempt service (see section 10).

8 Australian-customer link

For the purposes of this Act, a gambling service has an Australian-customer link if, and only if, any or all of the customers of the service are physically present in Australia.

8E Regulated interactive gambling service

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a **regulated interactive gambling service** is:

- (a) a telephone betting service (see section 8AA); or
- (b) an excluded wagering service (see section 8A); or

- (c) an excluded gaming service (see section 8B); or
- (d) a place-based betting service (see section 8BA); or
- (e) a service that has a designated broadcasting link (see section 8C); or
- (f) a service that has a designated datacasting link (see section 8C); or
- (g) an excluded lottery service (see section 8D); or
- (h) an exempt service (see section 10);

where:

- (i) the service is provided in the course of carrying on a business; and
 - (j) the service is provided to customers using any of the following:
 - (i) an internet carriage service;
 - (ii) any other listed carriage service;
 - (iii) a broadcasting service;
 - (iv) any other content service;
 - (v) a datacasting service; and
 - (k) in the case of an exempt service—a determination under subsection (2) is in force in relation to the service.
- (2) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine that each exempt service included in a specified class of exempt services is covered by paragraph (1)(k).
- (3) Subsection (1) has effect subject to subsection (4).
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, neither of the following services is a **regulated interactive gambling service**:
- (a) a wholesale gambling service;
 - (b) a trade promotion gambling service (see section 8BB).

8F Prohibited internet gambling content

For the purposes of this Act, if:

- (a) an ordinary reasonable person would conclude that the sole or primary purpose of particular internet content is to enable a person to enter into dealings in the capacity of customer of either or both of the following:
 - (i) one or more illegal interactive gambling services;
 - (ii) one or more unlicensed regulated interactive gambling services; and
 - (b) end-users in Australia can access the internet content;
- the internet content is **prohibited internet gambling content**.

15 Prohibited interactive gambling services not to be provided to customers in Australia

- (2A) A person must not provide a prohibited interactive gambling service that has an Australian-customer link (see section 8).

Civil penalty: 7,500 penalty units.

- (3) Subsections (1) and (2A) do not apply if the person:
- (a) did not know; and
 - (b) could not, with reasonable diligence, have ascertained;
- that the service had an Australian-customer link.

Note: In the case of proceedings for an offence against subsection (1), the defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matters in subsection (3) (see subsection 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).