

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF CHARITABLE AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS**

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**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**Document number:**     **OCRP 2012-01**

**Subject:**               **Electronic pull-tab game displays, themes, and sounds**

**Issue date:**           **November 14, 2012**

**Expiration date:**     **In effect until otherwise rescinded**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to highlight the regulatory requirements for electronic pull-tab game displays, themes, and sounds and to provide guidance to manufacturers of distributed pull-tab systems regarding game displays, themes, and sounds.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 18.2-340.19(A)(5) of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes the Charitable Gaming Board to adopt regulations that define the electronic equipment used in the conduct of charitable gaming. This section further provides that electronic equipment for pull-tabs “shall not include (i) devices operated by dropping one or more coins or tokens into a slot and pulling a handle or pushing a button or touchpoint on a touchscreen to activate one to three or more reels marked into horizontal segments by varying symbols, where the predetermined prize amount depends on how and how many of the symbols line up when the rotating reels come to rest, or (ii) other similar devices that display flashing lights or illuminations, or bells, whistles, or other sounds, solely intended to entice players to play”.

The Charitable Gaming Regulations, 11VAC15-40 *et seq.*, establishes specific requirements that pertain to electronic pull-tab game displays, themes, and sounds. All electronic pull-tab game displays, themes, and sounds must be approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) prior to being available for play on an electronic pull-tab device in Virginia.

**GUIDANCE**

Submission of displays, themes, and sounds

Manufacturers of electronic pull-tab systems must submit all graphics, animations, text, and audio files that are included in each game theme intended for play in Virginia as well as any associated working papers. If a game theme exists in multiple versions that have different displays or sounds, each version of the theme must be submitted for approval. All submissions should be directed to the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs’ Program Manager at:

[michael.menefee@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.menefee@vdacs.virginia.gov)

OR

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs

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Approval of displays, themes, and sounds

VDACS will evaluate **game displays, themes, and sounds** for compliance with the following regulatory requirements:

- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 2 Available games, flare, and rules of play must be displayed on video screen
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 2 Rules of play shall include all winning combinations
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 5 No enticing animation while in idle state; may use simple display elements or screen savers to prevent monitor damage
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 6 No rolling animations
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 6 No flashing animations
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 6 No spinning animations
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 6 No rotating reels marked into horizontal segments by varying symbols
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 9 Following the play on an electronic pull-tab device, the result shall be clearly shown on the video display with any prizes that may have been awarded.
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 11 The default device display, upon entering game play mode, shall not be the top award
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 C No obscene or offensive graphics, animations, or references. VDACS will not approve game themes with components that include profanity, illegal activities, sexual or excretory organs or activities, or references that will incite a breach of peace.
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 D 5 Electronic pull-tab must be initially displayed with a cover and require player interaction to reveal the symbols and game outcome.
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 D 6 No device may simulate the play of roulette, poker, keno, lotto or lottery, twenty-one, blackjack, or any other card game
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 D 6 No device may simulate the play of any type of slot machine game
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 D 6 Card symbols such as ace, king, queen or heart are acceptable

- 11 VAC 15-40-410 D 7 Games must not contain any elements of skill.
- 11 VAC 15-40-410 A 7 No sound or music solely intended to entice a player to play

Upon approval of a manufacturer's submitted game theme(s), display(s), and sound(s), VDACS will issue a letter of approval to the manufacturer for that display, theme, or sound. The approval will remain in effect until such time as the display, theme, or sound is modified.

Questions may be directed to Michael Menefee, Program Manager for the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, at (804) 786-3983 or [michael.menefee@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.menefee@vdacs.virginia.gov).