Skill-Based Amusement Machine Licensing

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What types of licenses are issued for skill-based amusement machine (SBAM) gaming?
   - Type-B SBAM Operator
   - Type-C SBAM Operator
   - SBAM Vendor
   - Type-C SBAM Location
   - SBAM Key Employee

2. What is a Type-B SBAM Operator?
   Any person or business that owns and makes available to players one or more Type-B SBAMs in Ohio. Type-B Operators may not own any Type-C SBAMs used in Ohio.

3. What is a Type-C SBAM Operator?
   Any person or business that owns and makes available to players one or more Type-C SBAMs in Ohio.

4. I own both Type-B and Type-C SBAMs, do I have to get both Operator licenses?
   No. A licensed Type-C Operator may also own and operate Type-B games. It is unnecessary to get the Type-B Operator license if you hold a Type-C Operator license.

5. What is a SBAM Vendor?
   A person or business that manufacturers, sells, or distributes Type-B and/or Type-C SBAMs to any Operator or to another Vendor.

6. What is a SBAM Key Employee?
   A natural person that is the person making executive decisions for any other licensed business and any person that owns 25% or more of a licensee.

7. Do I have to apply for a license even if I have registered?
   Yes. Even if you submit a registration you will still need to apply for a license. Submitting a registration is not a license and doesn’t negate the requirement to apply and obtain a license.

8. How do I apply for a license?
   Applications are available online through the State of Ohio elicense portal at: www.elicense.ohio.gov

9. When do licenses expire?
   All licenses expire three years after the date of issuance.

10. I forgot my eLicense password. How can I retrieve it?
    Click the “reset password” button on the eLicense log-in page. An e-mail will be sent containing a link to change your password and log-in.

For a more information, visit the Commission website:
www.casinocontrol.ohio.gov/skillgames
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Can a Type-B SBAM Operator also operate a Type-C SBAM?
No. However, the Type-B Operator may apply for a Type-C Operator license if the Operator decides to operate Type-C games.

Do locations with only Type-B games need to register or apply for a license?
No. There is no registration or licensing required for a location that only has (but does not own) Type-B games.

If a Type-C location does not apply for a license, when does the Type-C Operator need to cease doing business at that location?
Operators must cease operations at unlicensed locations after being issued their Operator license.

If multiple people own 25% or more of a business, do they each have to apply for a Key Employee license?
Yes. Each individual with 25% or more ownership is required to apply for a Key Employee license.

Do I pay the application fee and license fee when renewing my license?
Yes. The fees are assessed upon renewal. The application fee is assessed when the licensee submits the renewal application and the license fee is assessed when the renewed license is issued.

What is the eLicense transaction fee?
This fee is assessed by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services for maintenance and operation of the eLicense system. The fee is assessed for registration fees and license fees (but not application fees).

Are there automatic bars to being issued a license?
No. There are no automatic disqualifying offenses. Instead, the Commission will issue licenses based on the overall suitability of the applicant.

Does the Commission refund an application fee for a denied license?
No. All application and licensing fees are non-refundable.

Do I need a license if I only have Type-A SBAMs?
No. Anyone can engage in Type-A SBAM gaming without a license.

How long will it take to get my license?
Applications are processed on a rolling basis. The length of time will depend on a variety of factors such as whether related applications are submitted and how long it takes to receive requested documentation.

Will businesses use Ohio business gateway to apply?
No. All applications for licenses are available through the Ohio eLicense portal at: www.elicense.ohio.gov.

If a Key Employee changes companies, does their license change?
No. A Key Employee license will go with the Key Employee even if they change businesses or employment. They must notify the Commission within 30 days of the change in employment.

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