The Gambling Act 2005 is the law which covers gambling in Great Britain including, among other things, gaming machines (commonly called fruit or slot machines).

This leaflet provides a quick guide to help you make sure you do not break the law. But it is only an introduction to the law around gaming machines and you should find out more at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or call our contact centre on 0121 230 6666.
What type of machines can be made available at travelling fairs?

Only Category D machines can be made available at travelling fairs.

In broad terms Category D machines are low stake fruit machine style machines, coin pushers (sometimes called penny falls) or crane grabs.

Category D machines can be identified by their low stakes and prizes as shown in the examples in this leaflet.

What is a Category D gaming machine?

Only Category D machines can be made available at travelling fairs. Other category gaming machines must be located in premises that are licensed by a licensing authority.

Fruit machine style

Who can work with gaming machines?

Only a company or an individual with a Gambling Commission operating licence or a valid single machine permit (which only covers one machine for one year) can supply or do any maintenance work on a gaming machine.

You must not sell or supply gaming machines unless you have a Gambling Commission operating licence. In some cases you can sell through a licensed gaming machine supplier or by having a single use permit - for more information about how you can do that see our website www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or call our contact centre on 0121 230 6666.

Can under-18s work with gaming machines?

Under 18s are allowed to play Category D machines but they are not permitted to work in connection with any gaming machine – that means every part of working with the machine including even emptying the cash box.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

To find out more about gaming machines and how you can stay within the law go to our website www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or call the contact centre on 0121 230 6666.

Maximum stake is 10p if the prize is cash or partly cash

Maximum non-cash prize is £8

Maximum cash prize is £5

Picture shows an example of a complex Category D machine, but machines can look very different. You must make sure the machine you have does not exceed these stakes or prizes.
Maximum non-cash prize is £50.

Maximum stake is £1.

Picture shows an example of a non-complex Category D machine, but machines can look very different. You must make sure the machine you have does not exceed these stakes or prizes.

Coin pusher style

Maximum overall prize value is £20 with a maximum cash prize of £10.

If you offer a £10 cash prize, you will need to ensure that no other cash element can be included as this will exceed the maximum cash prize.

Tokens that may be exchanged for non-cash prizes can be substituted.

Maximum stake is 20p
Crane grab style

Maximum non-cash prize value is £50 for crane grab machines only.

Maximum stake is £1 for crane grab machines only.

Picture shows an example of a non-complex Category D machine, but machines can look very different. You must make sure the machine you have does not exceed these stakes or prizes.

For other category D gaming machines, the stakes and prizes vary as follows:

Category D – with non-cash prizes, the maximum stake is 30p and maximum prize is £8.

Category D – with cash prize, the maximum stake is 10p and maximum prize is £5.

Category D – with combined cash and non-cash prize, the maximum stake is 10p and maximum prize is £8 (of which no more than £5 may be a cash prize).

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk