

CHAPTER 105
REGISTERED AMUSEMENT DEVICES

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 2/25/31

481—105.1(10A,99B) Definitions. The definitions in Iowa Code section 99B.51 and rule 481—104.1(10A,99B) are incorporated by reference in this chapter. In addition, the following definitions apply to the possession and use of registered amusement devices.

“Counting mechanism” means an appliance that tallies the volume of business of an individual amusement device.

“Distributes” means to deliver, to provide or to otherwise make available in Iowa amusement devices required to be registered in accordance with these rules.

“Operation” means that a registered amusement device is made available for use by the public or made available for use on the premises of a charitable organization.

“Person” means a person as defined by Iowa Code section 4.1.

“Premises” means a location where one or more registered amusement devices is available for public use.

“Registered amusement device” means an electrical or mechanical amusement device in operation subject to registration by the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.53 and includes both the external and internal components.

“Responsible party” means the owner of the amusement device.

“Security mechanism” means an appliance that prevents a person from operating an electrical or mechanical amusement device by not allowing the acceptance of money until action is taken by the owner or owner’s designee to allow the person to operate the device.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.2(99B) Registered amusement devices. Each registered amusement device shall only be located on premises as described in Iowa Code section 99B.53.

105.2(1) Any change in the registered amusement device constitutes a new registered amusement device for which registration is required. The word “change” does not include repairs or replacement of parts that do not change or alter the operation of the device as originally registered.

105.2(2) If the amusement device needs to be repaired, the owner may repair it without losing the registration position or buying a new registration tag. A repair constitutes any change to a device as long as the type of game and the number of devices in a location is not changed. If the repairs or replacement parts alter the operation of the device as originally registered, the device must be reregistered before being made available for operation. If an amusement device needs to be replaced because it is defective, it must be replaced with the same game in order to keep the registration position.

105.2(3) Reserved.

105.2(4) An amusement device registration position becomes available under the following circumstances:

a. When a distributor or owner:

(1) Is going out of business,

(2) Fails to renew a registration by the renewal due date, or

(3) Has an electrical or mechanical device seized by law enforcement and the seizure is upheld through a forfeiture hearing.

b. When an amusement device is replaced with a new amusement device that has a different game.

c. When any other legal order has been issued that pertains to violations of Iowa Code chapter 99B, 123, or 123A.

105.2(5) Premises with a Class “B” or Class “E” retail alcohol license shall post a sign near a registered amusement device stating that a person must be 21 years of age or older to operate the registered amusement device and the premises shall ask for ID prior to disengaging the security mechanism.

105.2(6) Reserved.

105.2(7) If the department, or the department's designee, determines that a registered amusement device is not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter or any other provision of Iowa law, the device may be subject to seizure, and any registration associated with the device, including the registration of the manufacturer, distributor, or owner, may be revoked or suspended.

105.2(8) Situations that constitute advertising and promoting as restricted by Iowa Code section 99B.53(12) include but are not limited to posted signs, newspaper/magazine advertisements, radio and television advertisements, word of mouth and Internet posting.

105.2(9) If there is no amusement device registration availability, a person may be included on a waiting list for an amusement device registration position.

a. A person shall appear on the waiting list only once for a single registration position.

b. A person may be added to the waiting list by sending an email to gmms@dia.iowa.gov; by writing the department at Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing, Social and Charitable Gambling Unit, 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0083; or by calling 515.281.6840.

c. The department will maintain the waiting list in chronological order.

d. When a registration position becomes available, the department will notify the first person on the waiting list of the amusement device registration availability by mail or email. If multiple positions become available, the department may notify as many persons on the waiting list as there are available positions.

e. The person on the waiting list shall have ten days from the time the notification was sent to submit a registered amusement device application and the fee.

f. If the person does not submit the registration application, fee and proof of purchase within ten days, the person shall forfeit the position on the waiting list and be removed from the waiting list.

105.2(10) An initial amusement device registration shall only be allowed at a location that has a Class "C," special Class "C," Class "D," or Class "F" retail alcohol license issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 123.

105.2(11) If a person purchases an amusement device that is registered with the department, the registration tag, if available, must be removed from the purchased amusement device and returned to the department or the department notified in writing within ten calendar days of the change in ownership. The purchased device will be removed from the inventory of the original owner, thus creating a registration position on the waiting list. The purchaser must apply for a registration position on the waiting list for the device.

105.2(12) An amusement device that is registered with the department and located in a warehouse may be placed in a location that has a Class "C," special Class "C," Class "D," or Class "F" retail alcohol license issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 123. Such a device may also be used as a replacement device.

105.2(13) The registration application for all new amusement devices must be accompanied by the receipt, invoice, or bill of sale containing the seller's name, company name, and address, transaction date, motherboard serial number, and name of the game.

105.2(14) Devices shall not allow for more than one player. Each playing position constitutes one amusement device.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.3(99B) Prohibited registered amusement devices. The following devices are prohibited:

1. Amusement devices registered in violation of statutory or regulatory requirements governing such devices.

2. Registered amusement devices that are prohibited by rule 481—104.3(99B).

3. Any registered amusement device designed or adapted to facilitate gambling.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.4(99B) Prizes. Prizes may be awarded for use of a registered amusement device in conformance with rule 481—104.4(99B).

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.5(99B) Registration by a manufacturer, distributor, or an owner that operates for profit. A person engaged in business in Iowa as a manufacturer, a distributor, or an owner that operates for profit

shall be registered with the department prior to engaging in business in Iowa. A person shall register under each of the categories that applies to the business to be conducted in Iowa and pay the designated fee for each category of registration as set forth in Iowa Code section 99B.56.

105.5(1) Reserved.

105.5(2) Registration forms are available from the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing, Social and Charitable Gambling Unit, 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50321; or by telephone at 515.281.6840.

105.5(3) If registration information changes, the person shall notify the department in writing of the changes within ten calendar days.

105.5(4) Registration fees are nonrefundable.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.6(99B) Registration of registered amusement devices. Each owner of an amusement device subject to registration by the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.53 shall obtain a registration before the amusement device is available for operation. A registration issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 99B is required to offer a registered amusement device for use.

105.6(1) Reserved.

105.6(2) In the event a registration position is not open, the distributor's or owner's name may be placed on the department's waiting list. The distributor or owner will be notified by the department when a position is available. Upon the distributor's or owner's completion of the application form and payment of the required fee, the department will issue a registration tag valid for one year from the date of issuance.

a. Application forms are available from the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing, Amusement Devices, 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50321. The application form shall contain all information required by the department.

b. Prior to placement of the amusement device for public use, the registration tag shall be prominently displayed on the front of the registered amusement device in such a manner as to be clearly visible to the general public.

c. Any changes to the information provided on the application, including but not limited to changes in ownership, registered amusement device location, and the cessation of business in this state, shall be reported to the department in writing or electronically within ten calendar days of the occurrence of any of the above events.

d. Registration fees are nonrefundable.

105.6(3) A new registered amusement device must be obtained from a manufacturer that is registered with the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.56. A registered amusement device that has been placed on location and used may be obtained from a manufacturer, distributor or owner that is registered with the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.56. A distributor or owner that ceases, for any reason, to be registered pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.56 may sell any registered amusement devices in the distributor's or owner's possession within 12 months from the date registration ceases. For all amusement devices new to the purchaser, proof of purchase, which includes the seller's name, company name, and address, must accompany the application for registration of the machine.

105.6(4) Reserved.

105.6(5) Each electrical or mechanical amusement device required to be registered pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.53 shall include on the amusement device a counting mechanism.

a. The department of inspections, appeals, and licensing or the department of public safety will notify the distributor, owner, or qualified organization in advance to have access to the information provided by the counting mechanism.

b. The counting mechanism shall be at least six digits in length; and cumulatively count the total amounts inserted in the device during game play. If the mechanism being used tallies in dollars and cents, at least six digits must be used for the dollar amount. The counting mechanism shall not be able to be reset.

c. The counting mechanism shall be equipped with a battery backup, or an equivalent, and accurately maintain all required information for 30 days after power is discontinued from the device.

105.6(6) The owner of the registered amusement device shall exercise due diligence in ensuring that the amusement device complies with these rules and all laws governing such devices. Upon request by the

department or the department's designee, any manufacturer or distributor registered with the department, or any owner of a registered device, shall permit the inspection of any amusement device and make available for inspection all records, documents, and agreements pertaining to the amusement device.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.7(99B) Violations. Failure to comply with the limitations imposed on the use and possession of registered amusement devices in Iowa Code chapter 99B may result in the following:

1. Conviction for illegal gambling may result under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 725.
2. Suspension or revocation of a retail alcohol license may result under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 123.
3. Property may be forfeited under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 809.
4. Violation of any laws pertaining to gambling may result in suspension or revocation of a registration as prescribed in Iowa Code section 99B.55.
5. Unless otherwise prescribed in Iowa Code section 99B.55, a registration may be revoked upon the violation of any gambling law, rule or regulation, including Iowa Code chapter 99B, 481—Chapter 104, or this chapter.
6. A registration may be revoked if the registrant or an agent of the registrant engages in any act or omission that would have permitted the department to refuse to issue a registration under Iowa Code chapter 99B.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.8(10A,99B) Appeal rights. Decisions to refuse to issue a registration or to revoke a registration by the department may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in 7—Chapter 2506. The refusal to issue a registration or the notice of revocation will be in writing and state the specific grounds for the action. When an appeal is received, the status of the registration is governed by the following standards:

105.8(1) No registration will be issued when a new application is denied.

105.8(2) A previously issued registration remains effective until a final agency decision is issued.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 8/5/26]

481—105.9(10A,99B) Procedure for denial, revocation, or suspension of a registration.

105.9(1) The department may revoke, suspend, or deny a registration issued pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.56 for cause following 30 days' written notice delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service and an opportunity for hearing pursuant to rule 481—105.8(10A,99B).

105.9(2) If the registrant has not requested a hearing within the prescribed time period, the department may affirm, modify or set aside the department's proposed action in the department's final written decision.

105.9(3) The department may suspend a registration prior to a hearing if the director determines that the public integrity of the registered activity is compromised or that there is a risk to public health, safety, or welfare.

105.9(4) The department may rescind the notice of revocation, suspension, or denial at any point prior to hearing when the department becomes satisfied that the reasons for revocation, suspension, or denial have been or will be removed.

105.9(5) The department will send by certified mail, return receipt requested, or serve personally upon the applicant or registrant a copy of the department's final decision.

105.9(6) If the department finds cause for denial of a registration, the applicant shall not reapply for registration of an amusement device for two years.

105.9(7) If the department finds cause for revocation or suspension, the department shall suspend or revoke the registration for a period not to exceed two years.

105.9(8) In addition to the suspension or revocation, a registrant that allows an individual under the age of 21 to operate an electrical or mechanical amusement device may also be fined for a scheduled violation pursuant to Iowa Code section 805.8C(4) and 805.8C(5).

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.10(99B) Annual verification of device location. Each distributor or owner that owns amusement devices shall, with the annual distributor or owner registration, verify all device locations.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.11(99B) Criteria for approval or denial of a registration.

105.11(1) The department will consider the responsible person's history of compliance with Iowa Code sections 99B.51 through 99B.58 and other gambling laws and rules in determining whether to approve or deny an application for registration of an amusement device, a manufacturer, a distributor, or an owner.

105.11(2) The department will deny a registration application if the registration does not comply with Iowa Code section 99B.52 and the following:

- a. The applicant owes back taxes or fees to the state of Iowa.
- b. An amusement device registration availability position is not available.
- c. For any other reason, the department deems denial of the registration appropriate.

105.11(3) The period for refusal to issue a registration shall not exceed two years.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

481—105.12(10A,99B) Suspension or revocation of a registration. If the responsible party violates the law, including Iowa Code chapter 99B, 481—Chapter 104, this chapter, or any other laws or administrative rules, the registrant's registration may be suspended or revoked.

[ARC 0017D, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 99B.1, 99B.2 and 99B.51 through 99B.58.

[Filed 12/17/03, Notice 10/29/03—published 1/7/04, effective 2/11/04]¹

[Filed 7/12/05, Notice 5/11/05—published 8/3/05, effective 9/7/05]

[Filed emergency 8/8/07—published 8/29/07, effective 9/1/07]

[Filed 10/5/07, Notice 8/29/07—published 10/24/07, effective 11/28/07]

[Filed ARC 1930C (Notice ARC 1859C, IAB 2/4/15), IAB 4/1/15, effective 5/6/15]

[Filed ARC 3523C (Notice ARC 3407C, IAB 10/25/17), IAB 12/20/17, effective 1/24/18]

[Filed ARC 4015C (Notice ARC 3922C, IAB 8/1/18), IAB 9/26/18, effective 10/31/18]

[Filed ARC 6976C (Notice ARC 6879C, IAB 2/8/23), IAB 4/5/23, effective 5/10/23]

[Filed ARC 0017D (Notice ARC 9756C, IAB 11/26/25), IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 8/5/26]

¹ Effective date of 2/11/04 delayed 70 days by the Administrative Rules Review Committee at its meeting held February 9, 2004.