

491—11.12 (99F) Progressive slot machines.

11.12(1) *Meter required.* A progressive machine is a slot machine game with an award amount that increases based on a function of credits bet on the slot machine. A progressive slot machine or group of linked progressive slot machines must have a meter showing the progressive jackpot payout.

11.12(2) *Progressive controllers.* The reset or base value and the rate of increment of a progressive jackpot game must be filed with a commission representative prior to implementation. A reset or base value must equal or exceed the equivalent nonprogressive jackpot payout.

11.12(3) *Limits.* A facility may impose a limit on the progressive jackpot payout of a slot machine if the limit imposed is greater than the progressive jackpot payout at the time the limit is imposed. The facility must prominently display a notice informing the public of the limit. No progressive meter may be turned back to a lesser amount unless one of the following circumstances occurs:

- a. The amount shown on the progressive meter is paid to a player as a jackpot.
- b. It is necessary to adjust the progressive meter to prevent it from displaying an amount greater than the limit imposed by the facility.
- c. It is necessary to change the progressive indicator because of game malfunction.

11.12(4) *Transfer of jackpots.* In the event of malfunction, replacement, or other reason approved by the commission, a progressive jackpot that is removed shall be transferred, less the reset value, to other progressive slot machine jackpots of similar progressive wager and probability at the same facility within 30 days from the removal date. In the event a similar progressive jackpot at the same facility is unavailable, other transfers shall be allowed. A commission representative shall be notified in writing prior to a removal or transfer.

11.12(5) *Records required.* Records must be maintained that record the amount shown on a progressive jackpot meter. Supporting documents must be maintained to explain any reduction in the payoff amount from a previous entry. The records and documents must be retained for a period of three years unless permission to destroy them earlier is given in writing by the administrator.

11.12(6) *Transfer of progressive slot machines.* A progressive slot machine, upon permission of the administrator, may be moved to a different facility if a bankruptcy, loss of license, or other good cause warrants.

11.12(7) *Linked machines.* Each machine on the link shall have the same probability of winning the progressive jackpot, adjusted for the total amount wagered. The product of the odds of winning the progressive jackpot multiplied by the maximum amount wagered shall be equal for all games on the link.

11.12(8) *Wide area progressive systems.* A wide area progressive system is a method of linking progressive slot machines or electronic gaming machines across telecommunication lines as part of a network connecting participating facilities. The purpose of a wide area progressive system is to offer a common progressive jackpot (system jackpot) at all participating locations. The operation of a wide area progressive system (multilink) is permitted subject to the following conditions:

a. The method of communication over the multilink must consist of dedicated on-line communication lines (direct connect) or equivalent as determined by the administrator, dial-tone lines, or wireless communication which may be subject to certain restrictions imposed by the administrator.

b. All communication between each facility location and the central system site must be encrypted.

c. All meter reading data must be obtained in real time in an on-line automated fashion. When requested to do so, the system must return meter readings on all slot machines or electronic gaming machines attached to the multilink within a reasonable time of the meter acquisition request. Manual reading of meter values may not be substituted for these requirements. There is no restriction as to the acceptable method of obtaining meter reading values, provided that the methods consist of either pulses from any machine computer board or associated wiring, or the use of serial interface to the machine's random access memory (RAM) or other nonvolatile memory.

d. The multilink must have the ability to monitor entry into the front door of the machine as well as the logic area of the machine and report such data to a central system.

e. The central system site must be located in the state of Iowa, be equipped with a noninterruptible power supply, and the central computer must be capable of on-line data redundancy should hard disk peripherals fail during operation. The office containing the central computer shall be equipped with a surveillance system that has been approved by the administrator. Any person authorized to provide a multilink shall be required to keep and maintain an entry and exit log for the office containing the central computer. Any person authorized to provide a multilink shall provide access to the office containing the central computer to the administrator and shall make available to the administrator all books, records, and information required by the administrator in fulfilling its regulatory purpose.

f. Any person authorized to provide a multilink must suspend play on the multilink if a communication failure of the system cannot be corrected within 24 consecutive hours.

g. Approval by a commission representative of any multilink shall occur only after the administrator has reviewed the multilink software and hardware and is satisfied that the operation of the system meets accepted industry standards for multilink products, as well as any other requirements that the administrator may impose to ensure the integrity, security, and legal operation of the multilink.

h. A meter that shows the amount of the system jackpot must be conspicuously displayed at or near the machines to which the jackpot applies. The system jackpot meter need not precisely show the actual moneys in the system jackpot award at each instant. Nothing shall prohibit the use of odometer or other paced updating progressive displays. In the case of the use of paced updating displays, the system jackpot meter must display the winning value after the jackpot broadcast is received from the central system, providing the remote site is communicating to the central computer. If a system jackpot is recognized in the middle of a systemwide poll cycle, the system jackpot display may contain a value less than the aggregated amount calculated by the central system. The coin values from the remaining portion of the poll cycle will be received by the central system but not the local site, in which case the system jackpot amount paid will always be the higher of the two reporting amounts.

i. When a system jackpot is won, a person authorized to provide the multilink shall have the opportunity to inspect the machine, storage media, the error events received by the central system, and any other data which could reasonably be used to ascertain the validity of the jackpot.

(1) The central system shall produce reports that will clearly demonstrate the method of arriving at the payoff amount. This shall include the coins contributed beginning with the polling cycle immediately following the previous jackpot and will include all coins contributed up to, and including, the polling cycle, which includes the jackpot signal. Coins contributed to and registered by the system before the jackpot message is received will be deemed to have been contributed to the progressive amount prior to the current jackpot. Coins contributed to the system subsequent to the jackpot message's being received as well as coins contributed to the system before the jackpot message is received by the system, but registered after the jackpot message is received at the system, will be deemed to have been contributed to the progressive amount of the next jackpot.

(2) The system jackpot may be disbursed in periodic payments as long as each machine clearly displays the fact that the jackpot will be paid in such periodic payments. In addition, the number of periodic payments and time between payments must be clearly displayed on the face of the slot machine in a nonmisleading manner.

(3) Two system jackpots which occur in the same polling cycle before the progressive amount can reset will be deemed to have occurred simultaneously; therefore, each winner shall receive the full amount shown on the system jackpot meter.

j. Any person authorized to provide a multilink must supply to the commission, as requested, reports which support and verify the economic activity of the system.

(1) Any person authorized to provide a multilink must supply to the commission, as requested, reports and information indicating the amount of, and basis for, the current system jackpot. Such reports may include an aggregate report and a detail report. The aggregate report may show only the balancing of the system with regard to systemwide totals. The detail report shall be in such form as to indicate for each machine, summarized by location, the coin-in totals as such terms are commonly understood in the industry.

(2) In addition, upon the invoicing of any facility participating in a multilink, each such facility must be given a printout of each machine operated by that facility, the coins contributed by each machine to the system jackpot for the period for which an invoice is remitted, and any other information required by the commission to confirm the validity of the facility's contributions to the system jackpot.

k. In calculating adjusted gross receipts, a facility may deduct its pro-rata share of the present value of any system jackpots awarded. Such deduction shall be listed on the detailed accounting records provided by the person authorized to provide the multilink. A facility's pro-rata share is based on the number of coins in from that facility's machines on the multilink, compared to the total amount of coins in on the whole system for the time period(s) between jackpot(s) awarded.

l. In the event a facility ceases operations and a progressive jackpot is awarded subsequent to the last day of the final month of operation, the facility may not file an amended wagering tax submission or make a claim for a wagering tax refund based on its contributions to that particular progressive prize pool.

m. A facility, or an entity that is licensed as a manufacturer or distributor, shall provide the multilink, in accordance with a written agreement which shall be reviewed and approved by the commission prior to offering the jackpots.

n. The payment of any system jackpot offered on a multilink shall be administered by the person authorized to provide the multilink, and such person shall have primary liability for payment of any system jackpot the person administers. In addition, any facility shall have secondary liability for the payment of system jackpots won on a multilink in which the licensee is or was a participant if and to the extent that the person authorized to provide the multilink fails to make payment when due.

o. A person who is authorized to provide the multilink shall comply with the following:

(1) A reserve shall be established and maintained by the provider of the multilink in an amount of not less than the sum of the following amounts:

1. The present value of the aggregate remaining balances owed on all jackpots previously won by patrons on the multilink.
2. The present value of the amount currently reflected on the jackpot meters of the multilink.
3. The present value of one additional reset (start amount) of the multilink.

(2) The reserve shall continue to be maintained until all payments owed to winners of the system jackpots have been made.

(3) For system jackpots disbursed in periodic payments, any qualified investment shall be purchased within 90 days following notice of the win of the system jackpot, and a copy of such qualified investment will be provided to the commission office within 30 days of purchase. Any qualified investment shall have a surrender value at maturity, excluding any interest paid before the maturity date, equal to or greater than the value of the corresponding periodic jackpot payment, and shall have a maturity date prior to the date the periodic jackpot payment is required to be made.

(4) The person authorized to provide the multilink shall not be permitted to sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of any qualified investments prior to their maturity unless approval to do so is first obtained from the commission.

(5) Upon becoming aware of an event of noncompliance with the terms of the reserve requirement mandated by subparagraph (1) above, the person authorized to provide the multilink must immediately notify the commission of such event. An event of noncompliance includes a nonpayment of a jackpot periodic payment or a circumstance which may cause the person authorized to provide the multilink to be unable to fulfill, or which may otherwise impair the person's ability to satisfy, the person's jackpot payment obligations.

(6) On a quarterly basis, the person authorized to provide the multilink must deliver to the commission office a calculation of system reserves required under subparagraph (1) above. The calculation shall come with a certification of financial compliance signed by a duly authorized financial officer of the person authorized to provide the multilink, on a form prescribed by the commission, validating the calculation.

(7) The reserve required under subparagraph (1) must be examined by an independent certified public accountant according to procedures approved by the commission. Two copies of the report must be submitted to the commission office within 90 days after the conclusion of the fiscal year of the person authorized to provide the multilink.

p. For system jackpots disbursed in periodic payments, subsequent to the date of the win, a winner may be offered the option to receive, in lieu of periodic payments, a discounted single cash payment in the form of a “qualified prize option,” as that term is defined in Section 451(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. The person authorized to provide the multilink shall calculate the single cash payment based on the discount rate. Until the new discount rate becomes effective, the discount rate selected by the person authorized to provide the multilink shall be used to calculate the single cash payment for all qualified prizes that occur subsequent to the date of the selected discount rate.

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