

19:46-1.18 Cards; receipt, storage, inspections, and removal from use

(a) When decks of cards are received for use in the casino or casino simulcasting facility from the manufacturer or distributor thereof, they shall be placed for storage in a locked cabinet in the cashiers' cage or within a primary or secondary storage area by at least two individuals, one of whom shall be from the casino department and the other from the casino security department or casino accounting department. The cabinet or primary storage area shall be located in the cashiers' cage or in another secure place, the location and physical characteristics of which shall be approved by the Commission. Secondary storage areas shall be used for the storage of surplus cards. Cards maintained in secondary storage areas shall not be distributed to gaming pits or tables for use in gaming until the cards have been moved to a primary storage area. All secondary storage areas shall be located in secure areas, the location and physical characteristics of which shall be approved by the Commission. Nothing herein shall preclude a casino licensee from having a separate storage area for the cards to be used at the game of poker; provided, however, the location and physical characteristics of the separate storage area shall be approved by the Commission.

(b) All primary, secondary and poker storage areas, other than the cashiers' cage, shall have two separate locks. The casino security department shall maintain one key and the casino department or cashiers' cage shall maintain the other key; provided, however, that no person employed by the casino department below the table games shift manager in the organizational hierarchy shall have access to the casino department key for the primary and secondary storage areas and no person below the poker shift supervisor in the organizational hierarchy shall have access to the casino department key to the poker storage area. Cards stored in a cabinet within the cashiers' cage shall be secured by a lock, the key to which shall be maintained by a tables games shift manager or casino supervisor thereof.

(c) Immediately prior to the commencement of each gaming day and at other times as may be necessary, the assistant shift manager or casino supervisor thereof, in the presence of a casino security officer, shall remove the appropriate number of decks of cards for that gaming day from a primary storage area, and if applicable, the poker shift supervisor or supervisor thereof, in the presence of a casino security officer, shall remove the appropriate number of decks of cards to be used at poker for that gaming day from the poker storage area.

(d) If removed from the primary storage area, the table games shift manager or casino supervisor thereof and the casino security officer who removed the decks shall distribute sufficient decks to the poker shift supervisor and to the pit boss who shall then distribute the decks to the dealer at each table. If removed from the poker storage area, the decks shall be removed by the poker shift supervisor, in the

presence of the casino security officer, and transported to the poker pit stand. Subsequently, the poker shift supervisor shall distribute the decks to the dealer at each poker table either directly or through the floorperson assigned to supervise the dealer. The distribution of the decks to the poker tables shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.2.

1. The poker shift supervisor or pit boss shall place extra decks for card reserve into the pit stand.

2. Prior to distributing the decks to each table, the poker shift supervisor or floorperson shall examine each package to determine if any replacement cards are necessary pursuant to (n)5 below. If needed, the poker shift supervisor or floorperson shall place the appropriate replacement cards into the deck from the cards held in reserve at the pit stand. Upon insertion of the replacement cards into the deck, the poker shift supervisor or floorperson shall re-examine the front of each card and the back of each card to ensure a consistent shading pattern and to ensure that the condition of the deck with the inclusion of the replacement cards has sufficient quality in order to maintain the integrity of gaming at poker. If the integrity of gaming at poker would in any way be compromised by the use of the deck with the replacement cards, the entire deck of cards shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container, identified with the date and time and shall be signed by the poker shift supervisor. The poker shift supervisor shall maintain the envelope or container in a secure place within the pit stand until collection by a casino security officer.

3. Cards in the pit stand shall be placed in a locked compartment, keys to which shall be in the possession of the poker shift supervisor or supervisor thereof or the pit boss or casino supervisor thereof.

(e) With the exception of cards used to game at pokette, which are governed by the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:47-12.3, prior to their use at a table, all decks shall be inspected by the dealer, and the inspection verified by a floorperson. Card inspection at the gaming table shall require each pack to be used to be sorted into sequence and into suit to assure that all cards are in the deck. The dealer shall also check the back of each card to assure that it is not flawed, scratched or marked in any way.

1. If, after checking the cards, the dealer finds that a card is unsuitable for use, a poker shift supervisor or casino supervisor shall bring a substitute card from the card reserve in the pit stand.

2. The unsuitable card shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container, identified by table number, date, and time and shall be signed by the dealer and floorperson assigned to that table. The poker shift supervisor or casino supervisor shall maintain the envelope or container in a secure place within the pit until collection by a casino security officer.

(f) All envelopes and containers used to hold or transport cards collected by security shall be transparent.

1. The envelopes or containers and the method used to seal them shall be designed or constructed so that any tampering shall be evident.

2. The envelopes or containers and seals shall be approved by the Commission.

(g) Any cards which have been opened and placed on a gaming table shall be changed at least every 24 hours. In addition:

1. Cards opened for use on a baccarat or fast action hold 'em table shall be changed at least once during the gaming day;

2. Cards opened for use on a pai gow poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker or three card poker table and dealt from a dealing shoe shall be changed at least every eight hours;

3. Cards opened for use on a pai gow poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker or three card poker table and dealt from the dealer's hand shall be changed at least every four hours; and

4. Cards opened for use on a poker table shall be changed at least every four hours.

(h) Cards damaged during course of play shall be replaced by the dealer who shall request a floorperson or supervisor thereof for the game of poker or casino supervisor for all other games to bring cards in substitution from the pit stand.

1. The damaged cards shall be placed in a sealed envelope, identified by table number, date and time and shall be signed by the dealer and the individual who brought the replacement card to the table.

2. The poker shift supervisor or casino supervisor shall maintain the envelopes or containers in a secure place within the pit until collection by a casino security officer.

(i) At the end of each gaming day or, in the alternative, at least once each gaming day at the same time each day, as designated by the casino licensee and approved by the Commission, and at such other times as may be necessary, the floorperson or supervisor thereof for the game of poker or casino supervisor for all other games shall collect all used cards.

1. These cards shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container. A label shall be attached to each envelope or container which shall identify the table number, date and time and shall be signed by the dealer and floorperson assigned to the table.

2. The poker shift supervisor or casino supervisor shall maintain the envelopes or containers in a secure place within the pit until collection by a casino security officer.

(j) The casino licensee shall remove any cards at any time during the day if there is any indication of tampering, flaws, scratches, marks or other defects that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game, or at the request of the Commission or Division.

(k) All extra decks in card reserve with broken seals shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container, with a label attached to each envelope or container which identifies the date and time and is signed by the floorperson or supervisor thereof for poker and the pit boss for all other games.

(l) At the end of each gaming day or, in the alternative, at least once each gaming day at the same time each day, as designated by the casino licensee and approved by the Commission, and at such other times as may be necessary, a casino security officer shall collect and sign all envelopes or containers with damaged cards, cards used during the gaming day, and all extra decks in card reserve with broken seals and shall return the envelopes or containers to the casino security department.

(m) At the end of each gaming day or, in the alternative, at least once each gaming day at the same time each day, as designated by the casino licensee and approved by the Commission, and at such other times as may be necessary, a table games shift manager or casino supervisor thereof may collect all extra decks in card reserve. If the casino maintains a separate storage area for poker cards, a poker shift supervisor or supervisor thereof may collect all extra decks in card reserve for the game of poker. If collected, all sealed decks shall either be canceled or destroyed or returned to the storage area.

(n) When the envelopes or containers of used cards and reserve cards with broken seals are returned to the casino security department, they shall be inspected for tampering, marks, alterations, missing or additional cards or anything that might indicate unfair play.

1. For cards used in blackjack, spanish 21, double attack blackjack, red dog, casino war, fast action hold 'em or minibaccarat using the dealing procedures in N.J.A.C. 19:47-7.7(c)1 or 2, the casino licensee shall cause to be inspected either:

i. All decks used during the day; or

ii. A sample of decks selected at random or in accordance with an approved stratification plan, provided that the procedures for selecting the sample size and for assuring a proper selection of the sample are submitted to and approved by the Commission. This sample shall be collected, stored and inspected separately from the sample required by (n)2ii below, and shall not be commingled with any cards from that sample.

2. For cards used in baccarat, or cards used in mini-baccarat using the dealing procedures in N.J.A.C. 19:47-7.7(c)3, the casino licensee shall cause to be inspected either:

- i. All decks used during the day; or
- ii. A sample of decks selected at random or in accordance with an approved stratification plan, provided that the procedures for selecting the sample size and for assuring a proper selection of the sample are submitted to and approved by the Commission. This sample shall be collected, stored and inspected separately from the sample required by (n)1ii above, and shall not be commingled with any cards from that sample.

3. The casino licensee shall also inspect:

- i. Any cards which the Commission or Division requests the casino licensee to remove for the purpose of inspection;

- iii. All cards used for pai gow poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker or three card poker;

- iv. All cards used for pokette, which must be inspected by sorting the cards sequentially by suit; and

- v. All cards used for poker.

4. The procedures for inspecting all decks required to be inspected under this subsection, with the exception of pokette cards, shall, at a minimum, include:

- i. The sorting of cards sequentially by suit;

- ii. The inspection of the backs with an ultraviolet light;

- iii. The inspection of the sides of the cards for crimps, bends, cuts and shaving; and

- iv. The inspection of the front and back of all plastic cards for consistent shading and coloring.

5. If, during the inspection procedures required in (n)3 above, one or more plastic cards in a deck are determined to be unsuitable for continued use, those cards shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container and a three-part Card Discrepancy Report shall be completed in accordance with n(9) below.

6. Upon completion of the inspection procedures required in (n)3 above, each deck of plastic cards which is determined suitable for continued use shall be placed in sequential order, repackaged and returned to the primary or poker storage area for subsequent use. If a deck has any missing cards pursuant to n(4) above, the individual

who repackages the cards shall indicate the need for the appropriate replacement card(s) in a manner approved by the Commission.

7. The casino licensee shall develop internal control procedures for returning the repackaged cards to the storage area.

8. The individuals performing said inspection shall complete a work order form which shall detail the procedures performed and list the tables from which the cards were removed and the results of the inspection. The individual shall sign the form upon completion of the inspection procedures.

9. The casino licensee shall submit the training procedures for those employees performing the inspection, which shall be approved by the Commission;

10. Evidence of tampering, marks, alterations, missing or additional cards or anything that might indicate unfair play discovered at this time, or at any other time, shall be immediately reported to the Commission and Division by the completion and delivery of a three-part Card Discrepancy Report.

- i. The report shall accompany the cards when delivered to the Commission.

- ii. The cards shall be retained for further inspection by the Commission.

- iii. The Commission inspector receiving the cards shall sign the original, duplicate and triplicate copy of the Card Discrepancy Report and retain the original at the Commission Booth. The duplicate copy shall be delivered to the Division office located within the casino hotel facility. The triplicate copy shall be retained by the casino licensee.

(o) The casino licensee shall submit to the Commission for approval procedures for:

1. A card inventory system which shall include, at a minimum, the recordation of the following:

- i. The balance of cards on hand;

- ii. The cards removed from storage;

- iii. The cards returned to storage or received from the manufacturer;

- iv. The date of the transaction; and

- v. The signatures of the individuals involved;

2. A reconciliation on a daily basis of the cards distributed; the cards destroyed and canceled, the cards returned to the storage area and, if any, the cards in card reserve; and

3. A physical inventory of the cards at least once every three months.

i. This inventory shall be performed by an individual with no incompatible functions and shall be verified to the balance of cards on hand required in (o)1i above.

ii. Any discrepancies shall immediately be reported to the Commission and Division.

(p) Where cards in an envelope or container are inspected and found to be without any indication of tampering marks, alterations, missing or additional cards or anything that might indicate unfair play, those cards with the exception of plastic cards used at poker which are of sufficient quality for reuse, shall within 48 hours of collection be destroyed or canceled. Once released by the Commission and Division, the cards submitted as evidence shall immediately be destroyed or canceled.

1. Destruction of cards shall be by shredding.

2. Cancellation of cards shall be by drilling a circular hole of at least one fourth of an inch in diameter through the center of each card in the deck.

3. The destruction and cancellation of cards shall take place in a secure place, the location and physical characteristics of which shall be approved by the Commission.

(q) If a deck of plastic cards has been reused 12 or more times and the deck has been determined to be suitable for reuse by the individual performing the inspection procedures required by (n)3 above, before that deck may be reused at a poker table, the deck must be inspected by a poker shift supervisor or floorperson. A satisfactory inspection shall be documented by the poker shift supervisor or floorperson. If the poker shift supervisor or floorperson determines that the deck may not be reused, the deck shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container, with a label attached which identifies the date and time and shall be signed by the poker shift supervisor or floorperson. At the end of the gaming day or at such other times as may be necessary, said envelope or container shall be collected by a casino security officer and be returned to the casino security department for destruction or cancellation pursuant to (p) above.

Amended by R.1983 d.308, effective August 1, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 829(a), 15 N.J.R. 1259(a).

Text substantially amended.

Amended by R.1983 d.538, effective November 21, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1370(a), 15 N.J.R. 1958(b).

Substantially amended text.

Amended by R.1987 d.336, effective August 17, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 2121(a), 19 N.J.R. 1570(b).

Added "immediately" and "and delivery" to (l).

Experimental 90-day implementation (N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(k) and (n)), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 5:12-69(e), 5:12-70(f) and 5:12-100(e), effective March 12, 1990 (expired June 10, 1990).

See: 22 N.J.R. 841(b).

Amended by R.1992 d.110, effective March 2, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 3243(a), 24 N.J.R. 858(c).

Revised text to modify procedures for handling extra cards in card reserve. Stylistic revisions throughout text. Restructured section through (g)-(p).

Amended by R.1992 d.406, effective October 19, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 569(a), 24 N.J.R. 1517(a), 24 N.J.R. 3742(a).

Added text, throughout section, regarding games of pai gow poker and pokette.

Amended by R.1992 d.453, effective November 16, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2140(a), 24 N.J.R. 4279(b).

In (e) and (n), added text regarding cards used in pokette.

Experimental implementation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 5:12-69(e), effective on or after November 24, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4283(a).

Dealing pai gow poker from the hand.

Amended by R.1993 d.37, effective January 19, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3695(a), 25 N.J.R. 348(b).

Revised (a).

Amended by R.1993 d.86, effective February 16, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4339(a), 25 N.J.R. 719(a).

In (a), deleted language stipulating that primary storage area be located "in or immediately adjacent to the casino floor". In (i), (l) and (m), added alternative provision for collection of cards.

Amended by R.1993 d.192, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4247(a), 25 N.J.R. 1887(b).

Revised (g)2 and added (g)3.

Amended by R.1994 d.141, effective March 21, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5906(a), 26 N.J.R. 1380(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.430, effective August 7, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1767(b), 27 N.J.R. 2967(a).

Added caribbean stud poker.

Amended by R.1995 d.534, effective October 2, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 2119(a), 27 N.J.R. 3795(b).

Amended by R.1996 d.317, effective July 15, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 1362(a), 28 N.J.R. 3627(a).

Amended by R.1997 d.134, effective March 17, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2531(a), 29 N.J.R. 928(a).

In (g)2, (g)3 and (n)2iii, added reference to three card poker.

Petition for Rulemaking: Notice of Receipt of a Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2571(d).

Amended by R.1998 d.18, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3432(b), 30 N.J.R. 112(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.371, effective July 20, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4672(a), 30 N.J.R. 2639(b).

In (g)1 and (n)1, inserted references to fast action hold 'em.

Amended by R.1999 d.29, effective January 19, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 30(a), 31 N.J.R. 144(a).

In (n)1, inserted references to casino war and fast action hold 'em.

Amended by R.1999 d.42, effective February 1, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 4034(a), 31 N.J.R. 454(a).

In (n), inserted a reference to casino war, deleted "baccarat" preceding "fast action" and inserted "using the dealing procedures in N.J.A.C. 19:47-7.7(c)1 or (c)2" in the introductory paragraph of 1, added a new last sentence in 1ii, added a new 2, and recodified former 2 through 9 as 3 through 10.

Amended by R.2000 d.2, effective January 3, 2000.

See: 30 N.J.R. 4149(a), 32 N.J.R. 71(a).

In (n)1, rewrote the introductory paragraph.

Amended by R.2001 d.288, effective August 20, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 4240(a), 33 N.J.R. 2824(a).

In (g)2, (g)3 and (n)3iii, added references to colorado hold 'em poker.

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2871(b).

Amended by R.2003 d.243, effective June 16, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1395(a), 35 N.J.R. 2740(a).

In (g)2 and 3 and (n)3iii, inserted " boston 5 stud poker" following "colorado hold 'em poker".

Amended by R.2004 d.326, effective August 16, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 1305(a), 36 N.J.R. 3889(a).

Inserted "double cross poker" following "5 stud poker," throughout.

Amended by R.2004 d.340, effective September 7, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2310(a), 36 N.J.R. 4166(a).

In (n), inserted "double attack blackjack" in 1 and "double cross poker" in 3iii.