



A Complete Guide to Curacao Gaming License 2022

WHITEPAPER

This whitepaper will provide a complete guide to successfully navigating Curacao's Gaming licensing process, including the legal framework, necessary technical requirements and data and hosting prerequisites, in line with compliance of the regulating bodies.

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A COMPLETE GUIDE TO CURACAO GAMING LICENSE 2022

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1 Introduction

Having been a pioneer in the legalization of online gambling, Curacao has kept its place as one of the most coveted locations worldwide for obtaining a gambling license. Curacao's strong involvement in the online gambling industry dates back to 1993, when the Curacao government was the first in the world to legislate the regulation of the online gambling industry. Almost 30 years later, Curacao remains firmly at the forefront of the Gaming industry, with over 450 online gambling operators licensed in the jurisdiction.

Curacao's streamlined approach, cost-efficiency and somewhat lenient application requirements makes it more accessible for new companies to obtain an Gaming license in comparison to its counterparts, although the jurisdiction's licensing procedure isn't completely without its own complexities.

This whitepaper will provide a complete guide to successfully navigating Curacao's Gaming licensing process, including the legal framework, necessary technical requirements and data and hosting prerequisites, in line with compliance of the regulating bodies.

2 A Brief History of the Gambling Industry in Curacao

Curacao is a Dutch Caribbean island and a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, previously known as the Netherlands Antilles. Following the initial enactment of legislation to regulate the online gambling industry in 1993, the government subsequently formed a Gaming License Authority a few years later in 1996 and began issuing licenses to operators.

By 1999, the Curacao Gaming Control Board (GCB) was founded and appointed regulator of land-based casino activities operating in Curacao, as well as becoming the licensing authority for all lotteries and charity bingo.

The GCB foundation's purpose was to protect public interest whilst maintaining the integrity of the gambling industry. In 2001, the Curacao Internet Gaming Association (CIGA) was formed by the government with the sole objective to ensure that online casino operators were in compliance with the necessary regulatory framework and licensing requirements set forth by the Minister of Justice.

More recently in 2019, the GCB was named AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism) supervisor by the Minister of Finance, and tasked with regulating the jurisdiction's gambling industry as a whole, including online gambling sites operational in or from Curacao.

3 The Benefits of Curacao as an Gaming Jurisdiction

Broadly speaking, obtaining an Gaming license can be an intimidating and lengthy process with regulations and procedures varying greatly per jurisdiction. With more countries passing gambling laws and offering online gambling licenses in recent years, Curacao has remained amongst the most favored for the following reasons.

3.1. One License

A Curacao Gaming license is comprehensive and covers all types of online gambling activities, including poker, sports betting, lotto and online casino games. Service providers, software developers and other suppliers and affiliates are also covered by this, so applicants need not apply for separate licenses or reapply at a subsequent time if they choose to diversify their offerings.

3.2. Simple Application Process

Partly due to the 'one-license-covers-all' approach, the ease of obtaining an online gambling license in Curacao is unlike any other jurisdiction. With a limited amount of paperwork and documents that need to be completed and submitted, attaining an Gaming license is often extremely convenient and straightforward.

The interval between applying and the license being issued is also the shortest of any other gambling license jurisdiction. In fact, if all documents are submitted and in order, the process can take as little as two business days or up to just six weeks in some cases.

3.3. Cost-efficient

Amongst the most inexpensive Gaming licenses available, Curacao is an especially sought-after jurisdiction for start-up online gambling businesses seeking to test their products without investing a substantial amount of money. The annual license renewal is affordable and in some cases both financial and technical support is provided to licensees.

3.4. Taxation System

Beyond licensing fees, holders of a Curacao Gaming license benefit from the jurisdiction's 0% corporate income tax and only 2% tax on net profits, as long as permanent establishment criteria and compliance are met, and all income is sourced from outside of the country. This incentive is not only lower than any other jurisdiction, but also fully compliant with international taxation practices and guaranteed until at least the 31st December 2025.

3.5. IT Infrastructure

Having become a hub for Gaming and Financial services, Curacao boasts cutting-edge IT connectivity and infrastructure. In fact, Curacao has one of the highest internet speeds in the Western Hemisphere and is impressively reliable with copious direct satellites and submarine optic fiber cables.

4 Legal Framework

The online gambling industry in Curacao works on a license (master license) and sub-license (IP license) system. Master licenses can be granted solely by the Minister of Justice and subsequently issued by the Governor General of Curacao. Both of these two licenses allow holders to conduct all kinds of gambling activities, however master license holders also have the authority to issue sub-licenses.

Since 1996, only four master licenses have been issued with no more set to be granted in the foreseeable future. Operators interested in applying for a sub-license in Curacao must do so via a master license holder. It is also important to note that each master license holder has their own policies and protocols in regards to licensing, handling disputes and complaints. Due to this, prospective applicants are advised to conduct the necessary research before submitting their application.

4.1 Master License Holders

The four master license holders in Curacao are as follows:

---- **Cyberluck Curacao N.V. (Curacao eGaming) #1668/JAZ**

Cyberluck Curacao N.V, also referred to as Curacao eGaming, was issued their master license in 1996 with headquarters at the Curacao Government International Telecom Ezone. Applicants wishing to apply to them for an Gaming license must adhere to a number of checks, including the vetting of shareholders and directors, and provide key information such as proof of address and income for company beneficiaries, as well as any police reports. Curacao eGaming requires that applicants have a physical presence in Curacao, as well as having their servers based on the island.

---- **Gaming Curacao (GC) #365/JAZ**

Of the four master license holders, Gaming Curacao is considered to have the best reputation in terms of regulating licenses and handling complaints. Gaming Curacao was established and granted with a master license in 1998, and as well as issuing IP licenses, also provides company formation services. GC is stringent in regards to applicants proving their financial stability, which is audited on an annual basis, however operators are not required to be incorporated in Curacao in order to receive a license from them.

---- **Curacao Interactive Licensing N.V. (CIL) #5536/JAZ**

Granted their master license in 2001, Curacao Interactive Licensing belongs to a company called e-Management, which in itself offers a range of other services. It is known that companies wishing to apply to CIL for an Gaming license must have a physical mailing address and some of their services based in Curacao, although more information on their licensing requirements are somewhat enigmatic.

---- Antillephone NV #8048/JAZ

Antillephone NV was issued their master license in 1996 and licensees must successfully pass in-depth background checks in order to obtain a license from them, which includes submitting proof of income and police reports, amongst other documents. As well as having a company based in Curacao as per the government's requirements, Antillephone also requests that operators install a server at their own Colocation facility.

4.2 Types of Gaming allowed with a Curacao Gaming License

As aforesaid, a Curacao Gaming license allows operators to legally offer all types of online gambling activities. License holders can offer any game type, some of which include:

- 4.2.1. Games of chance; such as roulette, blackjack or slots
- 4.2.2. Peer to peer games of skill; such as poker or backgammon
- 4.2.3. Lotteries
- 4.2.4. Pool betting; betting on the result of a particular event
- 4.2.5. Fantasy football

It should be noted that the terms of a Curacao Gaming license prohibit holders from providing online gambling services to a number of countries; those where online gambling is strictly banned and those that prohibit foreign online gambling sites entirely.

4.3 Licensing Requirements & Fees

4.3.1. Requirements

Although it is significantly simpler to apply for an Gaming license in Curacao in comparison to other jurisdictions, there are certain requirements that need to be met for an operator to be considered eligible.

A company should be incorporated in Curacao with E-zone status in order to apply for a license and benefit from the tax incentives. To register a legal entity in Curacao, the company must have a disclosed address and local administrator. Applicants are asked to submit standard due diligence information, more specifically in regards to the company directors, shareholders and their general business operations.

Applicants must prove their credibility by submitting specific documents, although requirements may vary depending on the master license holder. Some of the required documentation may include:

- Notarized copy of passport
- CV
- Utility bill
- Proof of domain ownership
- Criminal records where applicable
- Professional reference letter

Hardware must also be co-located in Curacao with at least the client database on a local server to satisfy the requirements of permanent establishment, whilst a Random Number Generator (RNG) testing certificate is also required to verify the technical standards of the gambling software.

4.3.2. Fees

The fees necessitated in securing a Curacao Gaming license vary, and heavily depend on the exact corporate structure and requirements set out by the master license holder. In addition to the initial application fee, other costs include the incorporation of a Curacao company, local hardware procurement and hosting fees, in order to meet the necessary licensing requirements. It can be said that due to the nature of Curacao's licensing process, costs are flexible to some extent.

5 Types of Hosting for Gaming Companies

In order to successfully attain a Curacao Gaming license, applicants must have at least one server located there, although many operators opt for backup servers overseas. The success of any online gambling site is directly correlated to a seamless experience, and therefore dependent on optimal hosting services.

5.1. Cloud

The on-demand, flexible resources of a cloud environment allows online gambling operators to seamlessly deliver their services to a global audience. Not only is the innovative technology faster and more user-friendly for players, but operators forego the limitations and high expenses of maintaining physical servers, which could also potentially hinder their scalability. Cloud technology also makes it easier to create a redundant architecture that could save operators from significant losses in the event of a disaster.

5.2. Bare-metal Servers

Bare-metal servers, or dedicated servers, offer Gaming providers a powerful infrastructure hosting solution. With online casinos being resource-heavy, dedicated servers are optimal for providing the necessary resources to handle huge spikes in traffic without it affecting performance. In an industry where security is amongst the biggest concerns for both Gaming operators and players, bare-metal servers can be optimized to reduce the risk of vulnerabilities and exposure of sensitive data.

5.3. Private Racks & Colocation

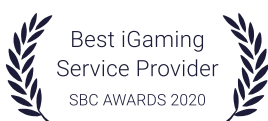
With demand and user experience expectations becoming increasingly challenging to meet, colocation provides online gambling operators a comprehensive solution that is both cost and time-effective. By deploying IT infrastructure within a fully compliant, state-of-the-art data center, operators can benefit from high-capacity bandwidth, low latency connectivity and specialist support, at locations situated in prime Gaming jurisdictions.

Get started with a multi-award winning Gaming Hosting Provider

NetShop ISP is a leading Data Center Services & Server Hosting Provider headquartered in Cyprus. With over 10 years of industry experience, NetShop ISP has been the recipient of multiple industry awards distinguishing the company's position within the Gaming sector.

With an expanding presence in key Gaming jurisdictions worldwide and extensive industry knowledge, NetShop ISP has cemented its place as a prominent Gaming hosting solutions provider, delivering reliable infrastructure environments that are specifically designed for online betting, casinos, poker, slots and more.

For more information on NetShop ISP's award-winning Gaming solutions, visit www.netshop-isp.com.cy/solutions/Gaming



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