CHAPTER III
CASINOS AND GAME ROOMS (BINGO/MECHANICAL)
Section I
Casinos
Art. 91. Casinos. A casino is a place to play table games or baccarat in which cards, dice, slot machines or roulettes are played and which accepts public bets and the results depend on chance. Casinos can only be operated in hotels.
Slot machines are all the game machines, mechanical, electromechanical or electronic which allows a player a time to pay a piece for a game of chance and eventually obtain a price. They function by introducing coins, paper money or chips though a slot in the machine, with an automatic and immediate payment of a prize obtained or with the payment of credits accumulated by the player according to the program of the game.
Slot machines cannot function in places different from casinos. The installation in businesses in general or complementary services of bars, restaurants, discos, ball rooms, bingos, inns and other tourist activities or the like. Mutual games are those in which the money bet is distributed among all of those who have winning tickets, after discounting the pertinent legal deductions. These games can operate exclusively in casinos.
Art. 93. Rules of the game. The rules for the games of chance in casinos will be the same as those applied internationally.
Art. 94. Zoning. The zoning for the function of casinos is established in the following way:
ZONE I
The cities of Quito and Guayaquil: In hotels, classified by the Tourism Ministry, they will operate in the five star category, with a minimum of one hundred rooms. The minimum initial investment for the casino will be four hundred thousand American dollars.
ZONE II
The provincial capitals (except Quito, Guayaquil and the capital of the provinces of Amazonias). In hotels, classified by the Tourism Ministry, they will operate function in the five and four star category, with a minimum of sixty rooms. The minimum initial investment for the casino will be two hundred thousand American dollars.
ZONE III
In the capital cities of Amazonia and the rest of the cities in the country: In hotels, classified by the Tourism Ministry, they will operate function in the five and four star category, with a minimum of fifty rooms. The minimum initial investment for the casino will be one hundred and fifty hundred thousand American dollars.
ZONE IV
Province of Galapagos and the territorial sea: Ministry of Tourism. Casinos and game rooms (bingo-mechanical games) only in passenger tourism transportation boats (tourist cruises) in the insular zone (Galapagos) and the territorial sea, if these have a minimum of 40 double cabins for passengers.
Art. 5. Categories. In reason of their installation and services, the casinos are classified in luxury and first category. To be considered luxury, a casino must be located inside the installations of a hotel classified by the Ministry in that same category and have at least three international games of those mentioned in the present regulation. The casinos classified in the first category must function in hotels of the same category and count with two international games mentioned in the present regulation.

Those casinos which operate in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil must count with a minimum of six tables, sixty slot machines and the complementary services of bar and cafeteria, security, vigilance and gate watch.
For zones II, III and IV, the casinos must have a minimum of three tables and thirty slot machines and the complementary services determined in the above paragraph.

The complementary services enumerated in this article may be administered directly by the casino owner or by third persons, but in any case the owner of the casino is responsible for offering these services.
The category of the casinos will be similar to the one which appears on the hotel register its annual functioning license.
Art. 96. Casinos in the province of Galapagos. The installation of casinos in lodging places and others classified as tourist in the province of Galapagos is forbidden, except those installed on boats whose characteristics are determined in this regulation.
At. 97. Installations. The casinos must be large and visibility from any point of the same; walls, ceilings and floors must be soundproofed and coated with uninflammable materials. Lighting should be sufficient in all the room and especially in each game table. It will also have offices for Management, Accounting and Cashier's Box, exchange offices, an employees' lounge, personnel restrooms, men and women's restrooms, optimum ventilation or air conditions, internal and external telephone service.
Fire systems must be placed in places of easy access and perfect state of functioning and maintenance.
All the gaming places must have restrooms for each sex and these should be equipped with toilets and sinks according to the size of the premises; men's restrooms should have urinals. Ventilation must be direct.
Casinos operating inside luxury and first class hotels must occupy spaces which are property of the hotel and under no concept these places may be purchased by the companies which run the games of chance.
Art. 98. Prohibition to interrupt games. The establishment in general and every game table in particular is obliged to start the games when a player makes his corresponding bet. The games cannot be interrupted before the end, except in the case when all the players withdraw from the game of after three consecutive plays and no bets have been made.
Art. 99. Limits and schedules. Casinos will operate within the limits and schedules determined by the Tourism Ministry in coordination with the Government and the Police.
Art. 100. Bets. Bets in the different casino games can be made only with cash money, chips or clay chips. Oral bets are not valid.
Art 101. Money Exchange. The placer will have the right to Exchange the chips and clay chips which he has left or he has won, demanding the payment in cash or in check, according to his personal convenience. Changes of money for chips or clay chips may be done both in the Cashier's Box of the establishment or at the game tables.
Art. 102. Forgotten or lost amount. The amounts or bets which are forgotten or lost in the game tables and on the floor will be picked up by the heads of the tables or other establishment personnel and delivered to the Administration so that they are kept until a placer claims them. If this is not the case, these amounts will become property of the establishment.
Art. 103. Card games and dice. In card games, the cards will be grouped in decks of up to eight packages and each deck will be originally pre-taped before the games begin.
In games with dice, the Administrator will be in charge of them and may only be opened from their packing before the players in each table, who will verify their state and that they are complete or any other alternative which might happen.
Art 104. In the event that the winning Money cannot be paid to the players. When during the course of a game, the establishment cannot pay the winnings to the player, the Administrator will order the immediate suspension of the game and will establish the responsibilities of the case, proceeding to pay for the total amount of the prices obtained by the players.
Section 2.

Game Rooms

Art. 105. Game rooms (Mechanical Bingos)

Game rooms (mechanical bingos) will be considered the establishments open to the public in which previous authorization of the Ministry of Tourism. In these places, the mutual bingo game is organized and the players purchase one or several card and bet for a cash money based in the conditions, amounts and percentages determined before each one of the plays, depending on the number of participating players.

Game rooms (mechanical bingos) can only function in closed spaces, built or adapted for this effect and with the previous approval as to the physical spaces and adaptations of the Ministry of Tourism, with no prejudice of the authorization for the use and adaptation awarded by the corresponding city. Those establishments destined to the exploitation of game rooms (mechanical bingos) cannot be located less than three hundred meters from educational institutions, churches and police stations. No game of chance nor indoor games may be installed. Ministry of Tourism.

Art. 106. Zoning. The installation of game rooms (mechanical bingos) will have the following zoning:

ZONE 1.

In the cities of Quito and Guayaquil.

Game rooms (mechanical bingos) may operate in only one environment and with an adequate visual communication; the general area of the room will be at least eight hundred square meters. The construction, location and implementation of these installations will be subject to the regulations for the use and destination for the land that the corresponding cities have.

ZONE II

In the capitals of provinces (except Quito and Guayaquil). Game rooms (mechanical bingos) may operate in an area of at least four hundred square meters; the construction, location and implementation of these facilities will be subject to the regulations which the corresponding cities have about use and destination of the land.

ZONE III

In the rest of the cities in the country. Game rooms (mechanical bingos) may operate in an area of at least two hundred square meters; the construction, location and implementation of these facilities will be subject to the regulations which the corresponding cities have about use and destination of the land.

Art. 107. Classification. Depending on the tourist facilities, type of construction, service, security, etc. and based on the evaluation made by the Ministry of Tourism, game rooms (mechanical bingos) are classified in: luxury, firs, second and third categories.

For the effects of classification, the minimum area will be considered in compliance with the present regulation; and the game systems which will be electric and electronic, made up by closed TV circuits and electric or electronic panels which allow the public to follow the game closely on the screens.

Art. 108. Complementary services. The following may be included as complementary services:

- Bar Service
- Cafeteria
- Surveillance and door guard; and
- Parking

Art. 109. Requirements. The spaces for game rooms must have perfect visibility and ventilation. The walls and ceilings must be sound proof. Lighting will be sufficient in all the rooms and especially in every game table. It will also have offices for Management,

Accounting and Cashier's Box, exchange offices, an employees' lounge, internal and external telephone service.
Fire systems must be placed in places of easy access and perfect state of functioning and maintenance.
All the gaming places must have restrooms for each sex and these should be equipped with toilets and sinks according to the size of the premises; men's restrooms should have urinals.
Section 3
Common dispositions for casinos and game rooms Ministry of Tourism.
Art 110. Administrator. The casino or game room (mechanical bingo) administrator will be its representative before the Ministry of Tourism and the administrative responsible of said places. The appointments of administrators of gaming places will be communicated to the Tourism Ministry, who will carry a register of acts and actions of every game room. The resignation of the Administrator, no mater the cause, will be communicated to the Ministry or Tourism at the same time when the company appoints his substitute.
Art. 111. Prohibition of participating in the games. It is forbidden to the partners, shareholders, members of the board of directors, owners, managers and other employees of the casino or game room to participate in the games, nor to carry out functions which are not the proper or inherent to his position.
Art. 112. Personnel of age. All personnel participating in the organization and function of the games of chance must be of age.
Art. 113. Internal regulation. Casinos and game rooms (mechanical bingos) will have an internal regulation prepared by their owners, containing the functioning regulations of the same. These regulations must be informed to the Tourism Ministry.
Art. 114. Prohibitions to the personnel. It is strictly forbidden to the casino and game room personnel :

a) To participate directly or indirectly in the economical part of the games;
b) To loan money to the players.
c) Use gaming material which is not in good conditions, and
d) Drink alcoholic beverages during their service hours.

Art. 115. Accusations. Any person may accuse, before the Tourism Ministry, any casinos or game rooms which are functioning illegally or without the registration or the annual working permit.
Art. 116. Import of equipment and machinery. The Ministry of Government and Police, before granting permissions for the import and machinery for games of chance, will request the favourable previous report of the Tourism Ministry.
Imported machinery must have a program of games which guarantee a return percentage to the public, certified by the manufacturer and they must be manufactured or refurbished for less than six years.
By refurbishing
Refurbishing means the process by which a slot machine is built again, incorporating new technology and material directly related with its function and operation, and that on the date they are used in the manufacturing of a similar machine.
Art. 117. Activities though the internet. To register as a casino or game room concerning your activity to a web page, to separate a domain or make any activity in the internet, you must present a certified copy of the current functioning license and tax payment for the current year plus the respective certificate that all the requisites of the law for the operation have been complied. Only the casinos which meet these requisites may appear in the directory corresponding to the country which appears on the Internet.