

IN RE:

**DECLARATORY RULING
BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA
LOTTERY COMMISSION**

**RULING 93-2
ARSD 48:02:05:02(2)
PROHIBITION ON VIDEO LOTTERY PLAY**

RULING: Employees of operators and licensed service technicians under contract with operators are prohibited from playing video lottery machines they service and maintain.

ARSD 48:02:05:02(2) states that it is the duty of all licensees to: "Conduct their video lottery operations in a manner that does not pose a threat to the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of South Dakota; reflect adversely on the security and integrity of the lottery, or harm the video lottery industry." It is imperative that operators conduct their video lottery operations in a manner which insures that the security and integrity of the lottery is not brought into question by the public.

There is a perception among the public that persons having internal access to the machines they service and maintain have information unavailable to others on the machines' performance, thereby giving them an unfair advantage in playing such machines. This creates a false impression that the games are not fair for all players and reflects adversely on the security and integrity of the lottery.

The Lottery recognizes that in servicing machines it is sometimes necessary to place bills and coins in the machine to insure it is operating properly. This policy does not prohibit operator employees and service technicians from performing such tests; however, it should be kept to an absolute minimum for the sole purpose of testing the operation of the machine. The lottery recommends that when testing bill acceptors, play of accumulated credits should be restricted to no more than one hand or game, and that remaining unplayed credits be immediately cashed out.

This policy does not prohibit establishment employees from playing machines in establishments where they work. However, operators should consult with establishment owners on the sensitivity of the issue, especially in those instances where establishment owners and employees have been granted authorization to remove money from the machines.

This policy is being adopted as a result of complaints and inquiries received by the Lottery on this issue.

Dated this ____th day of September, 1993.

BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA LOTTERY COMMISSION:

Gary Richards, Chairman