



# Washington State Gambling Commission

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## Digital Surveillance Systems

**FOR CARD ROOMS, CARD ROOM EMPLOYEES, AND GAMBLING SERVICE SUPPLIERS  
THAT INSTALL/INTEGRATE DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**

***New Installations as of January 1, 2015***

A Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) is a recording system with a collection of surveillance cameras in which live signals are viewed and/or recorded within the system and are not publicly distributed or accessible. Internet or wireless connections are not allowed except for maintenance as authorized by WAC 230-15-267.

### **WAC 230-15-295**

***Digital video recording equipment requirements.***

***Digital recording, including audio recording where required, using a digital recording and storage system, must:***

#### ***(1) Record all images on a hard drive; and***

Operators should consider having backup hard drives in case of hard drive failure. If the licensee cannot record required activities, they cannot operate.

#### ***(2) Lock so that access to the erase and reformat functions and system data files is restricted to persons authorized in the internal controls; and***

Licensees are to maintain tight security protocols on their digital system to prevent possible corruption and/or loss of original recorded surveillance data. There must be separate levels of system users and unique log-in passwords in accordance with

paragraph (11)(a). An operator's internal controls will name the administrator.

#### ***(3) Provide uninterrupted recording of surveillance, during playback or copying. Licensees may use motion-activated recording; and***

A system must continuously record to the Digital Video Recorder (DVR) regardless of what activities the observer is performing on the system.

Digital cameras can be set to only record when motion is detected. Motion is detected anytime the cameras view a pixel change. The pictures are still observable to the surveillance operator, but the cameras do not provide a continuous recording when no motion is detected. Licensees are still required to maintain seven calendar days of recordings.

#### ***(4) Be capable of copying original images maintaining the original native format; and***

DVR recordings are in a format unique to the manufacturer (native format). When the recordings are transferred to a storage medium, the native format must be maintained. The "player" program from the manufacturer should be included with every copy of a recording made from the system. If the file is converted to a non-native format

the quality of the recording may be degraded. This requirement ensures the original, unaltered recording is preserved.

**(5) Be stored at a rate of not less than twenty-five images per second; and**

Television is shown at about 25 frames per second. Continuous or fast movements are easier to view at the 25+ frames per second settings. Movement that is too quick for the human eye to see, is easier to observe at the higher frame rates on playback in slow motion.

**(6) Record images at a minimum resolution of 320 x 240 and display during playback at a minimum resolution of 640 x 480; or meet subsection (11)(d); and**

Paragraph (11)(d) now applies.

**(7) Store images in a format that is readable by our computer equipment; and**

Operators should include the current "player" program from the manufacturer on every copy of a recording made from the system.

**(8) Store images in a format that we can verify and authenticate; and**

A manufacturer's verification or authentication must indicate when a recording has been altered from the time it was created.

**(9) Include the accurate time and date the video was originally recorded on the recorded images; and**

The date and time must be visible on playback.

**(10) Be equipped with an uninterruptible power source to allow a proper system shutdown; and**

Attaching DVRs and associated computers to a uninterruptible power source (UPS) or

a battery back-up will allow surveillance staff time to safely shut down the system. If the licensee has a back-up generator, the UPS will allow the system to continue operating until the power transfers to the generator. The casino cannot operate gambling activities without a surveillance system.

**(11) Meet the additional requirements in this subsection if you open a new Class F or house-banked card room using digital video recording equipment or install new digital video recording equipment in your existing Class F or house-banked card room. However, if you buy an existing card room, you will not be required to meet these requirements until you install new digital video recording equipment.**

**(a) Each user must have a sign in with a unique ID and password that is not shared with other users; and**

Adds accountability to the system.

**(b) Have an audio or visual indication of a malfunction; and**

Allows the detection of system malfunctions.

**(c) Digital video recording equipment must track at least the following functions, which are available to us and a person designated by the licensee to oversee the equipment (system administrator) by a menu button on the digital video recording system:**

**(i) Date and time users log in and out; and**

**(ii) Date and time when video signals from gaming cameras are interrupted and when connection is restored; and**

*(iii) Date, time, and user when video is recorded to removable storage media along with the date, time, and camera being copied; and*

*(iv) Date and time when the equipment fails to record video or audio when required; and*

*(v) Date and time when remote access to equipment begins and ends along with the ability to identify the person or organization accessing the equipment and the files accessed during the remote access.*

Adds accountability to the system.

*(d) Record and playback images with sufficient magnification and clarity that shows fluid motion and allows the viewer to clearly distinguish the value of currency, coins, gaming chips, playing cards, and outcome of the game and effectively monitor in detail all required areas.*

## **OTHER DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE QUESTIONS:**

### **Why we don't pre-approve systems.**

There are many variables involved in setting up a digital surveillance system. Therefore, we test each location's digital surveillance system for compliance separately prior to operation.

### **LICENSING:**

If the installer/integrator is a licensed card room employee employed at that facility, they will not need another license.

If the installer/integrator comes from a manufacturer or distributor, WAC 230-03-210 (1) (f) requires them to have a gambling service supplier license. **Without that license,**

they cannot enter the surveillance room or touch the installed/integrated surveillance system.

*\*Prepared by the WSGC Digital Surveillance Workgroup*

**If you or someone you know have a gambling problem, call (800) 547-6133**

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