

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is there a need to set a cap on the value of prizes offered at amusement centres and fun fairs?

The line between gaming and gambling is blurring. Games that involve elements of chance are becoming common at amusement centres and fun fairs. Moreover, the prizes offered at these places are increasingly of high value, such as smartphones and gaming consoles.

These trends are of concern as they bring the operation of amusement centres and fun fairs closer to gambling. They may increase the risk of gambling inducement, in particular vis-à-vis vulnerable persons, such as young children.

Setting a cap on the value of prizes offered at amusement machines and fun fairs will reduce the risk of gambling inducement, while allowing operators to continue to offer their current games.

2. What is the basis for the \$100 prize cap?

The quantum of the prize cap strikes a balance between minimising the risk of gambling inducement and not imposing too excessive a constraint on operators' business model. The \$100 cap will disallow high-value prizes such as tablets, mobile phones, computers and game consoles from being offered.

3. Why will operators be prohibited from offering cash, cash equivalents, credit, merchant vouchers or coupons as prizes? Why will the sell back of prizes to operators be prohibited?

There is a high risk of gambling inducement if we allow cash prizes and the sell-back of prizes for cash to be offered. Customers may be enticed to put in even more money to play the games, in the hope of winning larger amounts of cash in return.

Cash-equivalent prizes such as department store shopping vouchers, transferable store credit, discount vouchers and gift cards will similarly not be allowed, as they can be easily converted into cash.

4. How will MHA assess the value of products used as prizes when applying the \$100 cap?

We will use a reasonable estimate of the retail price of the product in Singapore. For example, we can use the recommended retail price by the manufacturer of the product.