



PRESS RELEASE

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RGA ISSUES ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR THE ONLINE GAMBLING INDUSTRY

The Remote Gambling Association (RGA) has today issued practical guidelines to help companies in the online gambling industry combat money laundering. They have been developed in the light of a report produced in 2009 for the RGA by MHA Consulting.

The RGA is committed to keeping the online gambling industry crime-free and to the encouragement of high standards of probity and integrity, both for the benefit of its members and the public generally. Combating money laundering effectively is a major objective in this area and the purpose of these guidelines is to help RGA members and others to achieve that in a consistent manner.

Although many of these guidelines are specific to the European Union and the regulatory structure there, the principles and many of the suggestions for good practice will have a wider geographical application. They are meant to complement legal and regulatory requirements, irrespective of the jurisdictions where operators are licensed.

Clive Hawkswood, the RGA's Chief Executive, commented that: *"These guidelines draw on the vast experience of our members and the recommendations of external experts in the field, such as MHA consulting. They are designed to help online gambling operators meet their responsibilities and to provide some practical assistance for operational staff. They will be reviewed regularly by the RGA's Crime Issues Committee and reissued as necessary. We also hope that they might be useful to other stakeholders, such as newer*

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regulators, who need to know what might reasonably be expected of the companies they regulate.”

Notes for editors

Copies of both the guidelines and the 2009 report by MHA consulting can be found at www.rga.eu.com

There is a hierarchy of regulation where money laundering is concerned. This includes international regulation, such as the EU Money Laundering Directive, and national regulations which can be a combination of gambling licence conditions or broader laws which apply to a range of commercial activities. These guidelines are not meant to be a substitute for any of those. Instead they are intended to augment them and to highlight some ways in which they might best be applied at a practical level.

There is continued speculation about the level of money laundering involving online gambling and the risk it presents as the industry moves ahead. In an attempt to bring some objectivity to these issues the RGA commissioned in 2009 a report from MHA Consulting.

It concluded that a combination of statutory and self regulation had effectively reduced the risk of money laundering through online gambling and that there were almost no examples of money laundering in licensed jurisdictions, but it also underlined the need for the industry to remain vigilant; to work with regulators, law enforcement agencies and others to disseminate best practice; and to ensure that all related rules and guidelines keep pace with technological developments and the inventiveness of money launderers.

The RGA represents the world's largest licensed, and stock market-listed remote gambling companies. It provides the industry with a single voice on all issues of importance to regulators, legislators, and key decision makers around the world.

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