A casino's website may display a license number, regulator logo or "licensed and regulated" claim. Those details are useful clues—but they are not proof on their own. A number can be copied from another operator, a logo can be outdated, and a legitimate license may not cover the website or country you are using.

To check a casino properly, start with the regulator's official register. Confirm that the license is active, belongs to the legal company named on the site and covers the exact website address. Then check whether the regulator oversees gambling where you live. Independent testing, such as certification from eCOGRA, can add evidence about game testing or fairness, but it is not a substitute for a gambling license.

This guide explains how to verify online casino licensing, what a license can—and cannot—tell you, and how to spot claims that deserve a closer look.

Why a casino license matters

A license is a baseline for trust because it identifies a regulator responsible for supervising an operator under a particular set of rules. Depending on the jurisdiction and the license, those rules may address areas such as customer funds, identity checks, responsible gambling, complaints and the fairness of games.



But "licensed" does not mean "risk-free." Regulators differ in their requirements, enforcement powers and approaches to consumer protection. A license also does not guarantee that every dispute will be resolved in your favor, that a casino will remain in business, or that you are legally permitted to use it from your location.

Think of a license as a starting point for due diligence—not a recommendation or a promise of a good experience. A regulated online casino should be transparent about the company operating it and the authority supervising that company.

How to verify a casino license number

Use the regulator's own website rather than relying on a casino's "check our license" button. A button may lead to a genuine record, but it could also point to an outdated page or a look-alike site. Search for the regulator independently, then navigate to its official licensee register.

1. **Find the operator's legal name.** Look in the website footer, terms and conditions, privacy notice or responsible-gambling section. The brand name shown in advertisements may not be the company that holds the license.
2. **Record the license details.** Note the license number, regulator, company name and any stated license type. Save the exact casino website address, including the domain ending.
3. **Search the regulator's official register.** Use the license number and legal company name. If the register has separate categories for operators, software suppliers or other businesses, make sure you are looking at the relevant record.
4. **Compare the record with the website.** Check that the company and license number match, and look for the casino's exact domain or brand. A valid license held by a similarly named company does not automatically cover the site you are visiting.
5. **Check the status and any restrictions.** Look for whether the license is active, suspended, surrendered or otherwise limited. Read notices or enforcement updates where available.
6. **Confirm the territory.** Check whether the license authorizes the operator to serve customers in your country or state. A license from another jurisdiction does not necessarily authorize gambling where you live.

If the register does not make the relationship between the company, brand and domain clear, contact the regulator using contact information on its official website. You can also ask the casino for the name of its license-holding entity and the regulator's record. Treat an evasive response as a reason to pause.

Checking the UK Gambling Commission

The UK Gambling Commission (UKGC) publishes a public register where consumers can look up licensed gambling businesses. To verify a claimed **UK Gambling Commission license**, search the register using the company name or license number, then compare the result with the casino's legal disclosures and website address.

Do not stop after finding a company with a matching or similar name. Confirm that officialgcc.com the entry relates to the relevant type of gambling activity and that the casino's domain is associated with the licensed business. Also check the record's current status and any listed regulatory action.



A UKGC license is relevant to the operator's authorization under the UK's gambling framework. It does not by itself establish that the site is authorized in every other country, nor does it mean that every service or product a

brand advertises is covered. If you are outside the UK, check the rules that apply where you live and whether the operator is permitted to serve your market.

Checking a Malta Gaming Authority license

The Malta Gaming Authority (MGA) maintains information about its licensed operators and, where applicable, the brands associated with them. Use the MGA's official website to find its licensee information rather than treating a logo or license number on a casino page as confirmation.

Compare the official record with the operator's legal name, license status and the site you intend to use. If the website says it is "MGA licensed" but the official record does not support that claim—or the record points to a different company or brand—do not assume the discrepancy is harmless. Ask the MGA or the operator for clarification before depositing money.

More broadly, licensing standards and enforcement differ by jurisdiction. A regulator's name can tell you where an operator is supervised, but the name alone does not tell you everything about complaint processes, oversight or your local legal protections. Read the regulator's consumer guidance and consider how you can escalate a dispute.

What to compare in the official register

Detail What to check Why it matters Legal company name Does it match the entity named in the casino's terms? The advertised brand and the licensed operator may be different names. License number and type Does the number appear in the official register, and is the license relevant to the casino's activity? A number copied from another company or license category does not verify the site. Website or brand Is the exact domain or casino brand linked to the licensed company? A real license does not necessarily cover every website using a similar name. Current status Is the authorization active, and are there restrictions or notices? A license may have changed or no longer be valid. Jurisdiction Does the authorization apply to the market where you are located? Foreign licensing may not authorize an operator to serve you locally.

Jurisdiction quality and enforcement are not identical

There is no single global casino license. Regulators set and enforce their own rules, and their responsibilities vary. Some publish detailed registers and enforcement decisions; others may provide less information that is easy for consumers to interpret. Complaint routes, financial requirements and the scope of supervision can also differ.

That variation is why the phrase "internationally licensed" is not enough. Ask: licensed by whom, under which company, for which website and for which customers? Then look up the answer yourself. A license from a recognized regulator can provide meaningful oversight, but it should not be treated as interchangeable with every other license.

Also distinguish a regulator from a company that tests games, accredits processes or provides a trust mark. These roles may complement each other, but they are not the same. A certification badge cannot grant permission to operate a casino, and a gambling license does not necessarily mean that every game on the site has received independent testing.

What independent certification can prove

Independent certification can provide evidence beyond a casino's own claims—but only for the specific services, systems or tests covered. Before relying on a badge, find out who issued it, what was tested, when the assessment

took place and whether the certificate applies to the casino or only to particular games or software.

eCOGRA is an independent testing and certification organization associated with online gambling. It is not a government gambling regulator and does not issue gambling licenses. Its work may include testing or assessing areas such as game fairness, random number generation, payout percentages, security or operational controls, depending on the service and scope involved.

That distinction matters. A casino can truthfully point to an eCOGRA-related certification for a specific area without that certification proving that the operator is licensed in your jurisdiction. Likewise, a logo alone does not establish that a current assessment covers the exact casino, game or service you are using.

How to assess an eCOGRA claim

- Look for a certificate or verification page that identifies the company or product covered.
- Check the scope: a test of certain games is not a certification of every casino operation.
- Look for dates, current status and the testing organization's own explanation of its methods.
- Verify the claim through eCOGRA's official channels rather than relying solely on a casino-hosted badge.
- Keep the result separate from the licensing check: certification is additional evidence, not authorization to operate.

Warning signs that a license claim may be unreliable

- The casino gives a license number but does not name the regulator or legal company.
- The number leads to a different operator, an inactive record or an unrelated type of license.
- The official register does not list the casino's domain or brand, and the operator cannot explain the connection.
- The site uses a regulator's logo but offers no verifiable record or current status.
- The terms and conditions name a different company from the one in the regulator's register.
- The operator pressures you to deposit before answering basic questions about its license.

A mismatch is not always proof of fraud. Companies can rebrand, change domains or reorganize their business. But it is a reason to seek confirmation from the regulator, not a reason to accept the casino's explanation without checking.

What to do if you cannot verify the license

Do not deposit or submit sensitive personal information until you understand who operates the site and whether it is authorized to serve you. Take screenshots of the casino's license claim and the relevant register results. Contact the regulator through its official website if the record is unclear, and keep copies of any response from the operator.

If you already have an account or funds at a site whose license claim cannot be verified, avoid sending additional money while you investigate. Use the regulator's published complaint process where applicable, and contact your payment provider if you believe a transaction was unauthorized. Do not share passwords, one-time codes or identity documents with anyone claiming to "verify" your account through an unsolicited message.

A practical checklist before you play

1. Identify the casino's legal operator in its terms and conditions.
2. Find the regulator's official register independently.
3. Match the company, license number, status and exact website or brand.
4. Confirm that the license applies to your location and the service offered.
5. Check for relevant regulatory notices and understand the complaint route.
6. Treat eCOGRA or other testing claims as additional evidence, not as a license.
7. If anything remains unclear, pause and ask the regulator before depositing.

The bottom line

Confirming a casino license means more than checking whether a number looks official. Verify it in the regulator's own register, match the record to the legal operator and exact domain, and make sure the authorization is current and relevant to where you live.

Online casino licensing is an important baseline for trust, but jurisdiction and enforcement matter. Independent certification from organizations such as eCOGRA may offer useful evidence about specific testing or controls, yet it does not replace oversight by a gambling regulator. When the record, company name or website does not line up, stop and verify before you play.