A casino website can display a regulator's logo, quote a license number and call itself "fully regulated." None of those claims proves the site is authorized to take your bets. To check whether an online casino is actually licensed, verify its details directly with the regulator—and make sure the license covers the exact website and the games or services being offered.

Licensing is a useful starting point, not a guarantee that a casino is safe, fair or legal for every visitor. Rules and enforcement differ by jurisdiction, and a license issued abroad may not authorize a site to serve customers where you live. Independent testing can add evidence about game fairness, but it does not replace regulatory oversight.



This guide explains how to check online casino licensing, what to look for in a regulator's register, and how to interpret independent certification from organizations such as eCOGRA.

Why licensing is the baseline for trust

A gambling license generally means an operator has been authorized by a particular regulator to provide specified services under that regulator's rules. Depending on the jurisdiction and license, those rules may address player-fund handling, identity checks, responsible-gambling tools, game fairness, advertising and complaint procedures.

That matters because a licensed operator is accountable to an identifiable authority. If a dispute arises, the regulator may have powers to investigate, require changes, impose penalties or suspend a license. The exact protections and remedies depend on local law and the license involved.

Licensing is best understood as a minimum threshold for evaluating a casino—not a consumer endorsement. A regulated online casino can still have unfavorable terms, slow withdrawals or poor customer service. A license also does not guarantee that you will win, or that every complaint will be resolved in your favor.

Start with the regulator's official register

The most reliable check is to leave the casino's website and search the licensing authority's own website. Look for a public register, licensee search or list of authorized operators. Do not rely on a logo, a screenshot, a search-engine result or a link that the casino itself provides as your only evidence.

1. **Identify the claimed regulator.** Find the name of the authority, not just a flag or seal. Common examples include the UK Gambling Commission (UKGC) and the Malta Gaming Authority (MGA).
2. **Search the official register.** Use the regulator's website and search for the operator's legal company name, trading name or license number. A casino brand may be owned by a company with a different name.
3. **Match the website domain exactly.** Check whether the register identifies the web address you are using. A real operator's license does not automatically cover look-alike domains or unrelated sites.
4. **Check the status and scope.** Confirm that the license is current and that it covers the relevant activity. A company may hold a license for a different service, territory or brand—or have a license that is suspended or no longer active.
5. **Compare the legal details.** Match the company name and, where available, its registration details against the casino's terms and conditions, footer and contact information.
6. **Save your findings.** Keep a record of the register entry and the site's terms, especially if you plan to deposit. Details can change.

If the regulator's register does not list the operator or the domain, contact the authority using contact information from its official website. Ask whether the license is valid and whether it authorizes that specific site. A casino's support agent is not an independent source for confirming its own credentials.

Check whether the license applies where you live

Online gambling is regulated differently across countries and, in the United States, state by state. A license issued in one jurisdiction does not necessarily make an operator legal to serve customers in another. Before creating an account, check the rules that apply where you are physically located and whether the operator is authorized there.

This distinction is important for US readers. A casino may hold a legitimate foreign license and still not be authorized to offer online casino gambling in a particular U.S. state. State regulators publish their own lists of approved operators and may provide ways to report unauthorized gambling sites. Use the relevant state regulator's official resources rather than assuming an overseas license is enough.

Also check the casino's own terms for restricted countries and states. A site that accepts your registration or deposit is not necessarily confirming that your play is permitted under local rules. If the legal position is unclear, do not deposit until you have checked with an official source.

Not all jurisdictions offer the same oversight

"Licensed" is not a single worldwide standard. Regulators differ in their legal powers, licensing requirements, public transparency, complaint processes and enforcement practices. Some publish detailed licensee records and disciplinary decisions; others offer less information or have fewer practical ways to help players resolve disputes.

The UK Gambling Commission, for example, regulates gambling operators licensed to serve the relevant market in Great Britain. Its public information can help consumers check operator status and understand regulatory action. The Malta Gaming Authority is another established regulator, with its own licensing framework, register and enforcement approach. These authorities are not interchangeable, and their licenses do not automatically authorize service in every country.

When comparing jurisdictions, look beyond reputation or a familiar name. Ask what the regulator actually oversees, whether the license is active, what customer complaints process applies, and whether the authority publishes sanctions or other enforcement decisions. A regulator's existence is less meaningful if you cannot verify the operator or find out how complaints are officialgcc.com handled.

What to check Why it matters Where to verify License status A past or suspended license may not authorize current operations. The regulator's official register or licensee search Exact domain A valid license held by one brand or website may not cover a copycat site. The regulator's record and the casino's terms Territorial authorization A foreign license may not permit the casino to serve you where you live. Your national or state gambling regulator Complaint route You need to know who can review an unresolved dispute and under what process. The regulator's consumer guidance and the casino's terms Testing or certification Independent reports may provide evidence about specific games or systems. The certifier's own website and published report details

How to tell a real license claim from a misleading one

Be cautious if the casino's licensing page gives only a logo, a vague statement such as "internationally regulated," or a number that cannot be found in the regulator's records. Some sites display the name of a real regulator without being licensed by it. Others use a genuine company's details while directing players to a different domain.

Look for consistency across the site: the operator's legal name, registered address, license number, regulator and website domain should line up with official records. A mismatch does not automatically prove fraud, since brands and corporate structures can be complicated, but it is a reason to pause and ask the regulator for clarification.

Also read the terms for information about withdrawals, identity verification, bonuses, account closure and disputes. Licensing does not make restrictive terms disappear. Pay particular attention to bonus conditions and withdrawal limits before you accept an offer or deposit funds.

Independent certification: evidence beyond the casino's claims

Regulatory licensing and independent certification answer different questions. A regulator authorizes and oversees an operator under a jurisdiction's rules. A testing or certification organization may examine particular games, random-number generation, return-to-player calculations, security controls or other defined areas. A certificate can be useful supporting evidence, but it is not a substitute for a license.

eCOGRA is an independent testing and standards organization known in the online gambling industry. Its work can include evaluating game fairness and testing systems or processes against defined standards. The precise scope depends on the service, product and report. Do not assume that an eCOGRA name or seal means the entire casino has been audited in every respect.

What eCOGRA testing can—and cannot—tell you

Depending on the specific engagement, testing may provide evidence about whether games use appropriate random-number generation, whether game outcomes align with stated mathematical expectations, or whether certain controls meet a defined standard. Some reports concern a particular game, software provider or system rather than every game and service on the casino site.

To evaluate a claim, look for details: what was tested, which company or product was assessed, when the work took place, and whether the certificate or report is current. Verify the claim through eCOGRA's own resources where possible. A badge pasted onto a casino page is not proof by itself, and an old or narrowly scoped certificate should not be treated as a blanket endorsement.

Even a genuine test does not predict your results. Casino games are designed with mathematical odds, and an independent fairness check does not remove the house edge, guarantee a payout or establish that the operator is licensed to serve you.



Red flags that should make you stop

- The operator claims a license but does not name the regulator or legal company.
- The license number is missing from the regulator's register, or the status is inactive.
- The register lists a different website and the casino cannot explain the discrepancy.
- The site promises guaranteed winnings, risk-free gambling or unusually easy withdrawals.
- Customer support refuses to provide the legal operator name or complaint process.
- The terms are hard to find, inconsistent, or give the operator broad discretion to withhold funds.
- The casino pressures you to deposit quickly or bypasses identity and location checks.

One warning sign alone may not settle the question, but several together are a strong reason not to share payment details or deposit money. If you have already deposited and suspect a site is unauthorized, contact your bank or payment provider promptly, preserve relevant records and report the site to the regulator in your jurisdiction.

A practical checklist before you deposit

1. Find the casino's legal operator name and claimed regulator.
2. Verify the license independently in the regulator's official register.
3. Confirm the exact domain, license status and authorized services.
4. Check whether the casino is permitted to serve customers where you are located.
5. Read the withdrawal, bonus and dispute terms before depositing.
6. Verify any eCOGRA or other certification through the certifier, and check its scope and date.
7. Use the regulator's official complaint route if you cannot resolve a dispute with the operator.

The bottom line

To check online casino licensing, verify the operator and exact website in the regulator's own records, then confirm that the license applies where you live. Do not confuse a foreign license with local authorization, or an independent

testing badge with regulatory approval. The distinction between a licensed vs unlicensed casino can be significant, but even a valid license is only the beginning of due diligence.

Look for verifiable records, clear terms, a credible complaint process and evidence that any testing claims are current and specific. If you cannot independently confirm the casino's authorization, the safer choice is not to deposit.