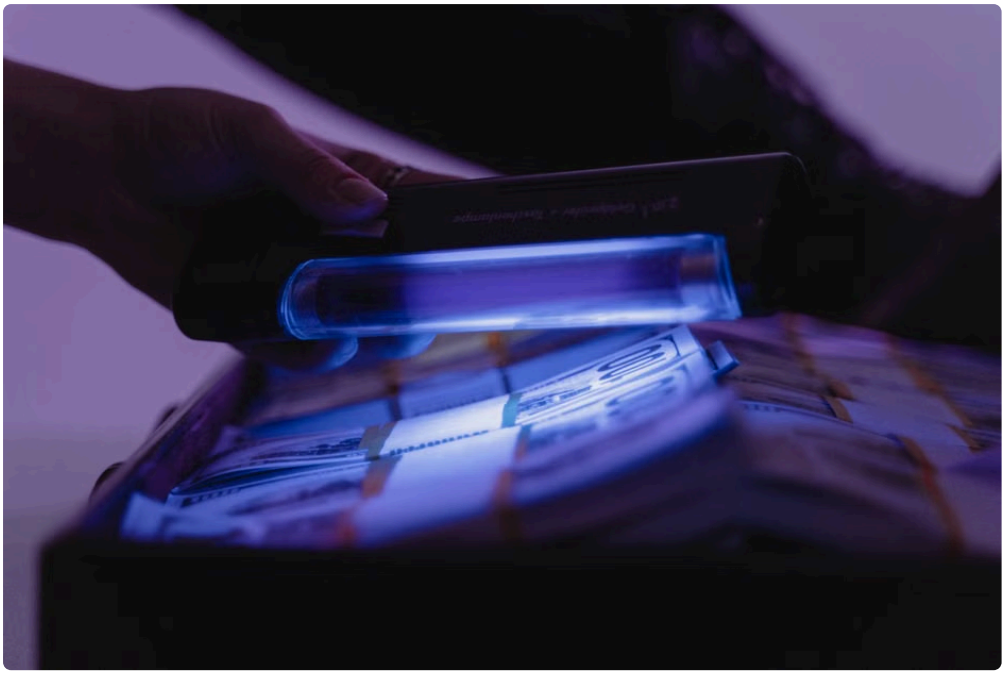
A casino's website can look polished, advertise big bonuses and display official-looking badges without proving that it is legally allowed to operate. To check whether an online casino is actually licensed, verify its operator and license directly with the regulator—not just with the casino itself. Then confirm that the license covers the website you plan to use and that the regulator has authority where you live.

Online casino licensing is an important starting point for judging trust. A valid license can mean the operator must follow rules for matters such as player funds, game fairness, complaints and responsible gambling. But licensing is not a universal guarantee: regulators differ in their standards and enforcement, and a license issued in one country may not authorize a casino to serve customers in another.

This guide explains how to check a license, what to look for in a regulator's records, and how independent certification from organizations such as eCOGRA can add evidence beyond a casino's own claims.



Start with the license details on the casino's website

You know what's funny? look for the casino's legal information, often found in the footer, "about" section or terms and conditions. Record the name of the company that operates the site, the stated regulator, and any license or registration number. Note the exact website address, too. A casino brand may use different domains in different markets, and a license may apply only to particular sites or services.

Do not treat a logo, certificate image or line of text as proof. These can be copied, outdated or presented without context. The details are useful because they give you something to check independently.

Collect these details

- **Operator's legal name:** The company responsible for running the casino, which may differ from its brand name.
- **License number or reference:** A regulator's record should be traceable using the number, company name or both.
- **Regulator and jurisdiction:** Find out which authority issued the license and where it is based.
- **Website domain:** Check the precise URL you intend to use, including the domain ending.

- **License status:** Look for whether the authorization is current, suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted.

If the casino provides no identifiable operator, regulator or license details, treat that as a serious warning sign. Do not assume that a license belongs to the site simply because the same brand name appears in a regulator's records.

Verify the license with the regulator

Go to the regulator's official website by finding it independently, rather than relying on a link supplied by the casino. Use its public register, licensee directory or equivalent tool to search for the operator. If you cannot find a search tool, consult the regulator's official guidance or contact it through details published on its own website.

1. **Search for the legal operator.** Match the company name and, where available, the license number. Brand names can be shared or used by multiple companies.
2. **Check the status.** Confirm that the license is active on the day you check. A past approval, a pending application or a license belonging to a former operator is not the same as a current license.
3. **Confirm the activity is covered.** A company may hold permission for some gambling products but not others. Check that its authorization covers online casino gambling.
4. **Match the website.** Look for the casino's domain in the regulator's record or approved-domain information. If the record names a different site, ask the operator and regulator for clarification.
5. **Review restrictions and notices.** Check for regulatory actions, warnings, suspensions or conditions that could affect the operator or the service.

For example, the **UK Gambling Commission** provides a public register that consumers can use to look up gambling businesses and their regulatory status. The **Malta Gaming Authority** also publishes information about its licensees and regulatory actions. These are examples of authorities with public-facing records; they do not mean that every casino with a license from either regulator can legally serve every player everywhere.

When details do not match, pause before depositing. Contact the regulator using its official channels, and ask the casino to explain the discrepancy in writing. A legitimate operator should be able to identify its legal entity and explain which license covers the site you are visiting.

A license does not mean the same thing everywhere

Jurisdiction quality and enforcement differ. Regulators set different rules, supervise businesses in different ways and may have different powers to investigate complaints or penalize operators. Some publish detailed registers and enforcement decisions; others provide less information or may be harder for consumers to contact. A license is evidence of oversight, but the strength of that evidence depends partly on the authority behind it and the scope of its supervision.

There is also an important difference between a company being licensed somewhere and a casino being authorized to serve you. Gambling laws are often territorial. A license issued in one jurisdiction may not satisfy the rules in another, and the laws that apply can depend on where you are physically located. Check your local regulator's guidance or other official government information before gambling.

Use the following questions to assess a regulator and the license it issued:

- Does the regulator maintain a public register that identifies licensees and their status?
- Can you find information about its rules, complaint processes and enforcement decisions?
- Does the license cover the specific casino product and domain you are checking?

- Does the regulator have authority over the market where you are located?
- Can you contact the regulator if the operator does not resolve a dispute?

These checks are more useful than judging a license by how familiar its name sounds. A well-known regulator can still have rules that do not apply to your location or to a particular website. Conversely, the absence of a familiar logo does not by itself establish that a site is illegal. Verify the facts and consider the rules where you live.



Licensed vs. unlicensed casino: why the difference matters

A regulated online casino is generally expected to meet the requirements of the authority that licenses it. Depending on the jurisdiction, those requirements may address identity checks, advertising, responsible gambling, handling of complaints, game fairness, anti-money-laundering controls and the protection of customer funds. The exact protections—and the routes available to a player who has a problem—vary.

An unlicensed casino may lack meaningful independent oversight. If it withholds a withdrawal, closes an account or disputes a balance, you may have fewer practical options for seeking help. A site can also claim to be licensed while using another company's details or displaying an expired or misleading credential.

Still, "licensed" is not a blanket quality rating. Regulators do not necessarily guarantee that every game will produce a win, that every dispute will be resolved in a player's favor, or that a business will never fail. Read the terms, understand withdrawal conditions and set limits regardless of the license. Avoid gambling with money you cannot afford to lose.

What you see What to check Why it matters A regulator's logo in the website footer Search the regulator's official register for the operator and domain A logo alone can be copied or used without showing that the site is covered A license number Confirm that the number matches the operator and is current A number may be inaccurate, expired or associated with another business An independent testing badge Check the certifier's own site for the casino, games or certificate Certification can support specific claims but does not replace a gambling license A license from another country Check whether the license authorizes service where you are located Cross-border permissions and local gambling rules differ

What independent certification can—and cannot—prove

Regulatory licensing and independent certification are different forms of evidence. A regulator authorizes and oversees gambling businesses under its rules. A testing or certification organization assesses specified parts of a product or operation against defined standards. Certification can provide useful evidence beyond a casino's own claims, but it is not a substitute for confirming the operator's license.

eCOGRA is an independent testing and certification organization associated with online gambling. Its work can include testing games and random number session reminders gambling generators, reviewing return-to-player information and assessing aspects of an operator's controls or processes. The precise scope depends on the service, certificate and testing arrangement. A badge should not be interpreted as proof that every game, payment, promotion or customer interaction has been independently approved.

How to check an eCOGRA claim

- Visit eCOGRA's official website independently and look for its directory, certificate information or other verification tools.
- Check whether the casino or software provider is named, and whether the certificate applies to the casino, a particular game or a specific service.
- Look for a date or scope statement. A past test may not describe the current version of a game or the casino's present operation.
- Be cautious if the casino shows a badge but you cannot confirm the claim through the certifier's own information.

Game testing can help establish that a game's random number generator and published mathematics have been assessed under a testing process. It does not predict the result of your next spin, eliminate the house edge or guarantee that a player will receive a particular return over a short session. Likewise, a certification relating to game fairness does not establish that a casino is licensed in your jurisdiction or that a withdrawal dispute will be resolved.

Warning signs that deserve a closer look

One questionable detail does not always prove fraud, but several should prompt you to stop and investigate. Be especially cautious if the casino: ...but anyway.

- Does not name the legal company operating the site.
- Lists a license number that cannot be found or belongs to a different company.
- Displays a regulator's logo but no verifiable license details.
- Claims a license covers a domain that is absent from the regulator's records.
- Uses vague wording such as "internationally licensed" without naming the regulator.
- Pressures you to deposit quickly or asks for additional payments to release a withdrawal.
- Provides contact details that differ from those listed by the regulator.

A practical check before you deposit

Before creating an account or sending money, make a short verification record: save the casino's legal operator name, the license number, the regulator's register entry, the domain covered and the date you checked. Confirm that the license is active and that the casino may serve customers in your location. Then check any testing or certification claims with the organization that supposedly issued them.

If the register is unclear, the domain does not match, or the operator's explanation raises more questions, do not deposit until you have resolved the issue. You can also contact your local gambling regulator or consumer-protection authority for guidance. In a licensed market, a regulator may provide a formal complaint route; follow the instructions on its official site and keep records of your communications with the casino.

The bottom line

To check whether an online casino is actually licensed, verify the operator, license status and website domain in the regulator's own records. Then confirm that the authorization covers online casino gambling and is relevant where you live. Assess the regulator's oversight and enforcement rather than treating all licenses as equivalent.

Independent certification from eCOGRA or another testing organization can add evidence about specific games or controls, but it does not replace a license or guarantee a safe outcome. The strongest approach combines official-register checks, careful review of the casino's terms and independent verification of any badges. If you cannot establish who runs the site and which authority oversees it, choose not to deposit.