

Germany Increases Slots Stake Limits From €1 To Max €5

Slots stake limits increased in staged approach from €1 cap

Operators face new reporting and monitoring requirements

Industry hopes it will make the licensed market more competitive

Germany has made a change to online slots stake limits this month in what the industry hopes will make the regulated market more attractive to players.

As of July 1, slots stake limits were changed in a staged approach, with a rise from the original €1 cap up to €3 for players aged 21 and older, and over €3 but up to €5 maximum under certain conditions.

Vixio GamblingCompliance understands that the stake limit rise is currently framed as a one-year experiment to evaluate the impact on player behaviour, with the current licence amendment running until December 31, 2027.

Germany's gambling regulator, the GGL, has told Vixio that details of the new slots stake limits will be added to the FAQs section of its website this week.

However, Vixio has also learned that operators have already received a licence amendment notification.

Monitoring Requirements

The change for players aged 21 and older requires no extra monitoring. However, the increase up to €5 is dependent on the operator running a 90-day qualification period for the player where they show no signs of problem gambling.

Phillip Beumer, salary partner with Munich-based law firm Hambach & Hambach, said the upper stake limit also includes ongoing monitoring against a defined set of harm markers such as self-exclusion history, repeated use of the 24-hour 'panic button' and extended or late-night sessions.

"Three or more markers within a 90-day window triggers a mandatory individual case review but not an automatic cut in the player's limits," he explained.

Beumer told Vixio that most licensed operators already run this type of monitoring for the increased monthly cross-operator deposit limits and the criteria is identical to that.

The change also brings in new reporting requirements for operators.

Firms need to submit monitoring results to the GGL each quarter, covering players on the increased limit and separately for those flagged by the harm markers with details of the appropriate measures taken. Beumer explained that this sits alongside the operator's existing duty to apply for player exclusion in the central blocking database if addiction risk is identified and confirmed.

Competitive Advantage

The increase in stake limits has been a welcome change for the industry to make licensed slots more competitive.

Beumer is optimistic about the change: "The even bigger impact is the clear signal that the German regulator will not shy away from adjusting regulation that is not working. They have the power and tools to make the licensed market competitive."

An interesting point highlighted by Beumer is that unlike the deposit-limit increase, operators can advertise the increased stake limits. He added that this matters "if the goal is channelling demand back into the regulated market".

Sebastian Blohm, vice-president of public policy, licensing and corporate communications for operator ZEAL Network, said the new slots limits are a "step in the right direction". He said the industry will have to monitor how much impact it will have on the ratio of the legal and illegal market.

Blohm told Vixio that from a regulatory viewpoint, the change "reduces the gap to illegal operators, which have no stake limits". However, he acknowledges that the differences are still vast.

While Beumer agreed that it is a positive move in an effort to make the licensed market more competitive over unlicensed offerings, he noted that “it only works if the increase is matched by sensible regulation and not treated as a one-off gesture”.

Ongoing Threat

The threat of the black market has been an ongoing and growing concern in Germany. Just last week, the GGL released its 2025 annual report detailing its latest enforcement work against the unlicensed market. The report stated that as of December 31, 2025, 254 illegal online operators had withdrawn their offerings from the market, while 370 advertisers had stopped promoting illegal brands.

A total of 1,843 illegal websites were made unreachable from Germany using prohibition orders or network blocks, while 178 illegal websites had payment blocking initiated by service providers.

While it is too early to tell how the impact could be felt in relation to the black market threat, the feeling is that the increase in slots stake limits is a move in the right direction.

“Market studies and even German courts have repeatedly pointed to unattractive product limits as a real driver of the black market. By closing that gap, the regulator can remove one of the strongest reasons a player leaves the licensed offering,” said Beumer.

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