

AMOA White Paper – Safety of Currency-Activated Equipment in COVID-19 Environment

This document was prepared to address the safety of operating currency-activated games and machines during the COVID-19 pandemic. We seek to better inform legislators and health officials across the country on the AMOA and the safety of the business it conducts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who We Are

The Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA) is a (501-c6) national trade organization serving companies and individuals engaged in the operation, sales, marketing, distribution, and manufacturing of currency-operated equipment.

Our 1,000 member companies are primarily small business owners who have less than twenty-five employees. Our member companies employ over 10,000 people across the nation.

Our Members Products and Business Overview

AMOA member product consists of jukeboxes, pinball machines, pool tables, electronic soft tip dart boards, foosball, photo booths, video games, redemption as well as other attractions activated by the insertion of credit/debit cards, mobile payment or other means of payment such as currency. In addition to games, many of our members operate ATM's, an essential service.

AMOA members operate equipment in a variety of locations such as restaurants/bars, amusement arcades, family entertainment centers, movie theaters, bowling centers, theme parks, convenience stores, malls, and trampoline parks just to name a few.

In many cases, restaurant / bar operators rely solely on our member companies to ensure their music and other key equipment is operating properly in their venues. Additionally, a significant source of operating profit may come from machines in these venues.

AMOA operators buy, place and service the equipment in these locations and there is typically a revenue share with the location owner. The equipment operated by AMOA members produces literally tens of thousands of small transactions each day in venues across the country.

Cleaning and Sanitizing of High Touch Point Surfaces on Machines

AMOA members operate a variety of games in small business locations. High touch point surfaces on these games may include buttons, joysticks, control boards, track balls, touchscreens, keypads or other surfaces such as game balls and devices for game play.

AMOA has established COVID-19 specific best practice cleaning and sanitizing guidelines for AMOA members to follow on high touch point surfaces on currency-activated games and machines. These best practices follow the CDC guidance on electronics when disinfecting facilities.

AMOA Members and their location partners execute the cleaning and sanitizing of these high touch point areas multiple times a day.

In addition, AMOA Members and their locations are providing hand-sanitizing stations or sanitizing wipe stations next to games so patrons can wipe down high touch point surfaces and disinfect hands after each play. Sanitizing products offered at the sanitizing stations follow CDC guidance.

As an industry constantly focused on state-of-the-art technology, we continue to monitor the availability of emerging new disinfectants available for use and approved by the CDC and EPA that would further enhance the safety of our customers.

Social Distancing of Machines

AMOA Members are working with venues to ensure social distancing within high density areas in their locations. Examples of this include turning off every other machine to support physical distancing of players or re-arranging game placement within the location to discourage the gathering of patrons in a single area.

In addition, physical distancing can easily be exercised around billiard tables and players are provided with individual safety sanitizing kits to disinfect hands and pool cues between use.

Reinforcing Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is an important part of the U.S. response to COVID-19. AMOA Members and locations are further supporting this important message from the CDC with the use of safety stickers and safety posters created by AMOA. Safety posters can be posted near games and throughout the location. Safety stickers can be used on games reinforcing safe use of machines.

Payment Methods at Point-of-Play

AMOA Member machines are most often activated with a credit/debit card, or in some locations, a card stored with game play credits. The ability for customers to use these cards supports the preferred method of payment to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Some devices, such as jukeboxes, are activated by a mobile app on a patron's phone never requiring a customer to touch the machine to play music in the venue.