



Mexico: Casino Gambling

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MEXICO

Casino gambling, which is governed by preempted federal legislation, was prohibited up until 1985.¹ The Decree of December 29, 1984,² repealed articles 257, 258 and 259 of the Mexican Federal Criminal Code³ and decriminalized games of chance, betting, lotteries, the distribution and sale of foreign lotteries, casinos, raffles and related activities which were previously banned.

The 1947 Federal Law of Games of Chance and Raffles did not prohibit betting on sporting events. However, a license is needed for such activities. To obtain a license in the Federal District, one must comply with the requirements established by a 1981 regulation.⁴

A perusal of the sources in the Law Library collection revealed that up until 1987, no casino had been established in Mexico.⁵ Further inquiry was made to the Mexican Consulate, and they responded that no casinos are currently in operation in Mexico.

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¹ Ley Federal de Juegos y Sorteos, *Diario Oficial* (D.O) Dec. 31, 1947.

² D.O. Jan. 14, 1985.

³ F. Gonzales de la Vega, *El Código Penal Comentado*, 8th ed. (Editorial Porrúa, 1987).

⁴ Reglamento General para Establecimientos Mercantiles y Espectáculos Públicos en el Distrito Federal, D.O. Jan. 26, 1981.

⁵ *Supra* note 3, at 370.