SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

[0005]

Embodiments of the present invention seek to enhance the security management of casino items given identification information.

SOLUTION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

[0005a]

According to an aspect, there is provided a casino system in a casino at which casino items with RFID tags that store identification information are used, the casino system being located at a casino item handling location, the casino system comprising a storage device configured to store a list of the registered identification information; a reading device configured to read the identification information from the RFID tags of the casino items; and a verification device configured to check the identification information read from the casino item by the reading device against the identification information stored in the storage device, the storage device, the reading device, and the verification device are integrated into a single unit.

[0006]

One type of casino system is a casino system in a casino that uses a casino item to which an RFID tag storing identification information is attached, and is equipped with a registration device that registers the identification information of the casino item that can be used in the casino, and a storage device that stores a list of the identification information registered by the registration device. The registration device performs an invalidation process to invalidate the registration of the identification information of the casino item when the casino item whose identification information is stored in the storage device as usable casino item meet the specified conditions.

[0007]

With this configuration, the registration of casino item that meet the predetermined conditions for invalidating the registration can be invalidated, and the invalidation process can be performed for casino item that were once registered but later became in a state where they should not be registered. The invalidation process includes deleting the item from the list of the storage device, storing the information that the item is invalid in the list of the storage device, and further includes storing the information that the item is suspicious,

needs attention, or is a candidate for invalidation in the list of the storage device.

[0008]

In the casino system described above, the system is further equipped with a reader that reads the identification information from the RFID tag of the casino item to be registered. The identification information of the casino item that is determined to be genuine can be registered as the identification information of the usable casino

CLAIMS:

1. A casino system in a casino at which casino items with RFID tags that store identification information are used, the casino system being located at a casino item handling location, the casino system comprising:

a storage device configured to store a list of the registered identification information;

a reading device configured to read the identification information from the RFID tags of the casino items; and

a verification device configured to check the identification information read from the casino items by the reading device against the identification information stored in the storage device,

wherein the storage device, the reading device, and the verification device are integrated into a single unit.

2. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an optical counting device integrated into the single unit and configured to optically count the number of the casino items, wherein

the verification device is configured to inspect the casino items by comparing the number of the RFID tags read by the reading device with the number of the RFID tags counted by the optical counting device.

3. The casino system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a display device integrated into the single unit and configured to display a result of reading by the reading device and/or a result of verification by the verification device, wherein

the reading device includes an antenna and a reader, and

the storage device, the antenna, the reader, the verification device, the display device, and the optical counting device are integrally configured.

4. The casino system according to claim 1, comprising:

a holding mechanism configured to hold a predetermined number of the casino items for which the RFID tags are read by the reading

device, wherein

the verification device is configured to inspect the casino items by comparing the number of the RFID tags read by the reading device with the predetermined number.

5. The casino system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a display device integrated into the single unit and configured to display a result of reading by the reading device and/or a result of verification by the verification device, wherein

the reading device includes an antenna and a reader, and

the storage device, the antenna, the reader, the verification device, the display device, and the holding mechanism are integrally configured.

6. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein each RFID tag is configured to store information that can identify a value of the respective casino item,

the verification device is configured to compare the number of the RFID tags read by the reading device with an actual number of the casino items,

the casino system further comprises a display device configured to display the value of each of the plurality of casino items read by the reading device or a total value of the plurality of casino items read by the reading device, as a result of the reading by the reading device, and/or display a result of comparison between the number of RFID tags and the actual number of the casino items, as a result of verification by the verification device.

7. The casino system according to claim 3 or 5, wherein the integrally configured casino system is powered by a battery.

8. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising a central system to which a plurality of the casino systems are communicatively connected, wherein

the central system is configured to update the list stored in the storage device of each of the plurality of the casino systems.

9. The casino system according to claim 8, wherein the central system is configured to update the list on a regular basis or at a timing that satisfies a predetermined condition.

10. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising a central system to which a plurality of the casino systems are communicatively connected, wherein

the central system comprises:

a central storage device configured to store a list of the registered identification information, and

a central verification device configured to check the identification information read from the casino items and transmitted from the casino system against the identification information stored in the central storage device.

11. The casino system according to claim 10, wherein the verification device is normally configured to compare the identification information read by the reading device with the identification information read immediately before by the reading device, and when there is a difference between the two, verify the identification information read by the reading device with the identification information stored in the central memory device.

12. The casino system according to claim 10, wherein the verification device is configured to, when the identification information read by the reading device includes new identification information that is not included in the identification information read by the reading device immediately before, verify the new identification information read by the reading device with the identification information stored in the central memory device.

13. The casino system according to claim 10, wherein the verification device is normally configured to compare the identification information read by the reading device with the identification information read immediately before by the reading

device, and under predetermined conditions, check the identification information read by the reading device against the identification information of the casino items stored in the central memory device.

14. The casino system according to claim 10, wherein the identification information includes tag identification information assigned by the manufacturer who manufactured the RFID tag and item identification information assigned by the manufacturer who manufactured the casino item to which the RFID tag is attached.

15. The casino system according to claim 14, wherein the verification device is normally configured to compare the item identification information read from the casino items by the reading device with the item identification information read immediately before by the reading device, and at a predetermined timing and/or under a predetermined condition, check the tag identification information read from the casino items by the reading device against the tag identification information of the casino items stored in the storage device.

16. The casino system according to any of claims 1 to 15, wherein the casino items can be used by a player in a casino to bet in a game and can be redeemed for cash.

17. A casino item with an RFID tag storing identification information, used in a casino system according to any of claims 1 to 16.