



The Private Security Authority

An tÚdarás Slándála Príobháidí

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The Private Security Authority starts licensing on 3 October 2005

Information update for businesses/organisations employing private security guarding or door security services.

What is the Private Security Authority?

The Private Security Authority (PSA), which was established pursuant to the Private Security Services Act, 2004, is the statutory body with responsibility for regulating and licensing the Irish private security industry. The Authority was established in October 2004.

How will the new legislation affect my business?

For users of private security services, Section 38 of the Act makes it **an offence to employ an unlicensed security contractor or employee**. If you contravene Section 38 of the Act you will be liable to incur a fine of up to €3,000 and/or imprisonment. The unlicensed private security provider will incur similarly harsh penalties.

Will separate licences be required for companies and employees?

Yes. The Private Security Authority will issue two categories of licences:

- **Private Security Service Contractors Licence**
(applies to companies, partnerships and sole traders providing security services)
- **Private Security Service Employee Licence**

Each licence will identify the sector(s) of the private security industry in which the licensee is authorised to operate and will be valid for two years. See the **Licensing Update (PSA2)** leaflet for information on Private Security Industry Sectors.

I run a non-security business but employ my own (in-house) security personnel.

Will I require a licence?

No, but your security personnel will require a Private Security Employee Licence(s). See separate **Licensing Update (PSA2)** leaflet for further information.

When will these regulations take effect?

The PSA will start licensing Private Security Contractors providing door security and security guarding services from 3 October 2005.

However, in order to allow a sufficient lead-in time for prospective licence holders to meet the various standards and requirements, the date from which it will be an offence to operate without a licence has not yet been determined. It is anticipated that this date will be in the second quarter of 2006. This will be the date from which it will be an offence to employ unlicensed door security or security guarding contractors or employees. The date will be publicised well in advance as part of our publicity campaign which will commence in July.

So what should I do now?

If you employ private security contractors or personnel or if your contract for private security services is due for renewal you should inform the service provider that licensing is on the way.

The service provider should contact the Private Security Authority and start putting in place the standards and/or training requirements which will be required in support of licence applications.

How can I get more information?

Log on to our website www.psa.gov.ie for up to date information or telephone the PSA at 062-31588.

