

Welcome to the March 2012 edition of PSAWatch, the ezine of the Private Security Authority. In this issue we look at plans for the roll out of licensing to the CCTV and Access Control sectors. If you have a suggestion for inclusion in future issues please let us know.

## Licensing of CCTV and Access Control

The 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 has been set as the critical date for the licensing of CCTV and Access Control. This is the date from which all those installing and maintaining CCTV and Access Control systems will require a licence.

The Authority is currently finalising the legal framework required for the licensing of both sectors and it is expected that applications will be accepted from May onwards. Licensed Intruder Alarm Installers will be able to add the CCTV and Access Control sectors to their existing licence at no additional cost provided they don't move into a higher licence turnover band and meet the licensing requirements.

In addition, existing licence holders will be able to synchronise the scheduling of their certification audit for the new sectors with their existing intruder alarm audit. Where the EN 50131 compliance audit is not scheduled until after the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012, the Authority will issue a licence on foot of a letter from the Certification Body confirming that the contractor has registered for CCTV/Access Control. The scheduled EN 50131 audit can then encompass a compliance audit in respect of CCTV and Access Control. This arrangement will help to minimise compliance costs for licence holders.

Speaking on the extension of licensing to the new sectors, the Authority's CEO, Ms. Geraldine Larkin said, *"The extension of licensing to CCTV and Access Control is a major milestone for the Authority and marks the completion of licensing for contractors in the electronic security sector. The licensing of these new sectors has been in development for several years and has involved consultation with all the industry stakeholders. As a result we now have a licensing system that serves the needs of regulation and the industry."*

Further details on licensing of both sectors will be published on our website and emailed to contractors in April.

## Future of IS228

I.S. 228:1997 is the standard used by the Authority for the licensing of Alarm Monitoring Centres. The standard is scheduled to be replaced by a new European standard, EN 50518 in 2014. For the moment, I.S. 228 remains the standard required by the Authority and contractors should continue to ensure compliance with this standard.

During 2013, the Authority will announce a timeline for the changeover from I.S. 228 to EN 50518.

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## Criminality Guidelines Replaced By New Fit And Proper Assessment

The Authority has replaced its previous guidelines on criminality with new guidelines on fit and proper assessments. The new guidelines apply to all new applications received after the 19th March 2012 and in the case of licence holders, to all matters not previously disclosed to or considered by the Authority. The guidelines apply to both contractors and individuals.

The following are the headings under which the *fit and proper* assessment will be applied:

- criminal convictions and cases pending a court hearing,
- person subject to an investigation by An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, Criminal Assets Bureau or any other Government Body or Agency with the authority to carry out investigations,
- person subject to an investigation by a relevant authority in another Member State of the European Union in circumstances where the person seeks to provide a security in the State in accordance with Part 7 of the Act,
- compliance with the various Companies Acts and any other statutory provisions of being a body corporate,
- compliance with Revenue and Social Welfare provisions,
- compliance with the Joint Labour Committee Employment Regulation Legislation,
- compliance with the Private Security Services Acts, licensing regulations and any standards or qualifications relating to licensing,
- any previous Private Security Services Licence held, applications made for a licence or investigations conducted by the Authority's Enforcement Division,
- any actions, suspensions or revocations issued by the Authority,
- compliance with the provisions of any Regulatory Body or subject to a current investigation by such a body,
- any matter where in the view of the Authority the issuing of a licence would pose a risk to the safety and welfare of the public,
- any other such matter which the Authority deems relevant to the issuance of a licence.

The new guidelines reflect our experience over the past 5 years and take in to account the provisions of section 22(3) of the Private Security Services Acts which provides that the Authority “*shall refuse to grant a licence if satisfied that the applicants is not a fit and proper person to provide a security service.*” and section 26(1)(b) which states “*the Authority may at any time suspend a licence for a specified period or revoke it, if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the licensee is no longer a fit and proper person to provide a security service.*”

The Act does not specify what is meant by “*fit and proper*” and the new guidelines are aimed at providing the Authority, licensees and applicants with a clear understanding of the criteria used under the fit and proper assessment.

[View The New Guidelines On The Fit & Proper Assessment](#)  
(Click Here)

## Public Consultation On Future Standard

The Authority has commenced the process of identifying the requirements of a future standard for Security Guard, Door Supervisor and Event licensing. The requirements have been set out in our document “*A Standard For PSA Licensing*” and the Authority has now commenced a period of public consultation on the document.

The aim is to make the standard relevant to the post licensing environment that we operate in and to set out the requirements that will govern licensing over the next decade. The document is a comprehensive standard for licensing and builds on the current I.S. 999 standard while at the same time acknowledging the lessons learned from licensing.

The Authority would welcome submissions from interested parties and hopes the industry will take the opportunity to engage in the development of this important document.

You can access the document through this link “[A Standard For PSA Licensing](#)”. The closing date for submissions is the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

## County Meath Publican Prosecuted

On 20 January 2012, the publican Noel Leavy was found guilty of employing unlicensed door supervisors at his licensed premises in The Square, Oldcastle, Co Meath. Mr Leavy was convicted of breaching the Private Security Services Acts, 2004 and 2011 and fines and costs totalling €2,300 were imposed on him by Judge Patrick McMahon.

The prosecution followed a visit to the New Naper Arms Hotel by the Authority’s inspectors in April 2011. The inspectors found two unlicensed doormen working at the hotel and this was the second occasion that unlicensed doormen had been found at the premises.

## Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our ezine and its contents. You can contact us at [info@psa.gov.ie](mailto:info@psa.gov.ie). If you wish to unsubscribe or a colleague wishes to have their name added to our distribution list please let us know at [info@psa.gov.ie](mailto:info@psa.gov.ie).

Thank You

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