Covid-19, Retailers and the Private Security Industry

Retailers face many new challenges in the post Covid-19 environment including in the area of security. The management of queues outside retail premises will be a feature of our shopping experience for some time to come. It is important to note that retail staff who manage these queues, where these staff also carry out other retail functions, do not require a licence from the PSA. However, retailers who do not use their own retail staff to manage queues must use PSA licensed security guards. The PSA will prosecute retailers and service providers using unlicensed persons in this role.

A number of access control and CCTV products have been launched to manage and control access to shops and other premises. The installation, maintenance and servicing of these products may only be undertaken by the relevant PSA licensed provider. PSA inspectors will be visiting retail outlets to check compliance with this requirement.

Provision of Training Courses to Resume

The PSA have advised training providers that normal training activities can resume from the 1 August 2020.

All training facilities must adhere strictly to public health guidelines around physical distancing and mass gathering restrictions. All participants are urged to take personal responsibility for protecting themselves and others and comply with all public health guidelines. It is important that all necessary requirements requested of them while participating in courses are adhered to in order to continue to suppress the spread of the Covid virus.

Some training providers may include elements of remote training where this has been approved by the PSA in advance. Applicants for courses should refer to our website for a list of approved training providers.

Event Security Update

The licensing of employees in the Event Security sector has been deferred until the 1st March 2021. Licensing had been originally scheduled to take place in March of this year. Further details on licensing will issue in early 2021.

For up to date public health information and advice please visit the HSE website;

https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/

PSA Contact Details

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Enforcement Focus

After a number of months desk bound because of Covid-19 restrictions, our inspectors are now back out undertaking investigations and other inspection work. In the first six months of 2020, the PSA has commenced 307 enforcement cases to ensure compliance with the licensing regulations.

Details of employee licences revoked during the first 6 months of 2020 are set out in the table below.

2020 Employee License Revocations				
License	Expiry Date	County	Revocation date	Sector
EM148605/20	14/10/2020	Dublin	15/01/2020	SGS
EM168353/22	06/11/2022	Dublin	23/01/2020	SGS
EM163134/22	06/07/2022	Dublin	21/01/2020	SGS
EM160282/22	09/01/2022	Westmeath	05/03/2020	SGS
EM143820/21	17/10/2021	Dublin	02/04/2020	SGS
EM160726/22	06/04/2022	Dublin	21/04/2020	DSP
EM171048/23	01/02/2023	Dublin	09/04/2020	SGS
EM151815/21	12/04/2021	Dublin	21/04/2020	SGS and DSP
EM147551/20	14/10/2020	Westmeath	28/05/2020	SGS and DSP
EM158397/22	21/01/2022	Dublin	08/06/2020	SGS and DSP
EM144078/20	03/06/2020	Waterford	12/06/2020	SGS and DSP
EM173541/23	13/04/2023	Dublin	23/06/2020	SGS and DSP
EM149661/21	24/01/2021	Dublin	14/02/2020	Cash In Transit
EM170416/23	28/01/2023	Dublin	02/04/2020	Cash In Transit

Our compliance and inspection team can be contacted at;
enforcement@psa.gov.ie

2019 Statistics

Private Security Industry Statistics - 2019			
Sector	**Individuals**	**Contractors**	**Turnover (€)**
Door Supervisor (Event Security)	n/a	38	3,468,000
Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises)	13,759	48	18,408,000
Locksmith	n/a	220	21,285,000
Private Investigator	n/a	108	13,851,000
Security Guard (Monitoring)*	583	34	47,489,000
Security Guard (CCTV Monitoring)	n/a	29	12,386,000
Security Guard (Event Security)	n/a	47	5,021,000
Security Guard (Static)	26,921	184	361,354,000
Electronic Security Sector**	n/a	1,017	232,553,000
Cash In Transit	1,292	4	66,217,000
Total ***	**42,555**	**1,729**	**782,032,000**
Figures based on Private Security Authority Licence Holder Information			

The figure for individuals includes Alarm Monitoring and CCTV Monitoring as one licence covers both categories.

*** Electronic Security Sector includes Installers of Access Control, CCTV and Intruder Alarm Systems.*

****The number of licences issued is greater than the number of licensed individuals and contractors as some licence holders have licences in multiple sectors.*