INFORMATION NOTE ON LOCKSMITHS

(1) Definition of Locksmith

A locksmith is defined as a person who in the course of a business, trade or profession provides a security service:

- installing,
- opening,
- maintaining,
- repairing, or
- servicing

security equipment that:

a) consists of mechanical, electronic or other locking devices designed constructed or adapted to prevent unauthorised access to or within premises where such equipment is situated
b) consists of mechanical electronic or other locking devices designed constructed or adapted to prevent unauthorised access to motor vehicles

It also includes a person who, in connection with the provision of the services referred to above:

- originates, duplicates or provides, by copy or code, restricted keys[1], safe keys[2] or motor vehicle transponder keys (this includes where the provision of such keys is the sole locksmith activity)
- gives advice relating to the installation of such equipment or advice relating to the protection of such devices from damage or interference

(2) Who is licensable

Contractors providing security services as a locksmith will require a licence from the Private Security Authority. Contractors include sole traders, partnerships and companies.

(3) What is not licensable?

The following do not require a licence:

a) The installation of locks or locking mechanisms that constitute a component of an access control system (see Information Note on Access Control - PSA 21 for definition of access control for licensing purposes).
b) Qualified carpenter who installs a mechanical locking device as part of the installation of a door provided that the door does not proceed access to safes or strong rooms
c) Any work on locking mechanisms in doors and windows by a person whose sole or main occupation is the installation of windows and doors, provided:
   - the work is undertaken by the person who installed the door or window and is carried out within the manufacturer's warranty period or warranty period agreed and documented by the customer and the person at the time of the installation, and
   - in the case of a door installation, the door does not provide access to safes or strong rooms.

continued overleaf

[1] A key or a lock whose sale and /or distribution is limited by the lock manufacturer in order to reduce unauthorized key proliferation or a key that is cut by reference to a specific code obtained from a key registration card or similar (including patented keys and coded motor vehicle keys). Coded keys excludes locker keys and postbox keys.

[2] A key which conforms to EN 1300 Class A, B or C used to lock or unlock a certified safe, strong room or secure storage unit safe, strong room or secure storage Unit

d) Any work on locking mechanisms in safes by a safe supplier or installer[3], provided:
   - the work is undertaken by a safe supplier or installer who installed the safe and the work is carried out within the manufacturer's warranty period or the warranty period agreed and documented by the supplier or installer and the customer at the time of the installation.

e) A person who solely supplies locking devices whether on its own or as part of a fitting but does not install or open or maintain or repair or service or originate keys or other opening devices for such locking devices

f) Person who copies keys for locking devices using a machine where the keys are duplicated from an existing key that is not a safe, strong room or otherwise restricted key.

g) Person who copies coded keys which do not require a key registration card or similar to obtain a code and which are used for locking post boxes, lockers and other devices.

h) Person who is recognised by a motor vehicle manufacturer or distributor as a person authorised to service motor vehicles and their locking mechanisms

i) Person who as part of the installation of uPVC doors or windows installs, repairs or replaces a lock on a uPVC door or window.

The standard for locksmiths, PSA55:2022, can be found on our website under the Standards Required for Licensing option.

(4) Applying for a licence.

It is a requirement that organisations possess the competence to provide a locksmith service (a minimum of 3 continuous years with a PSA licensed locksmith within the last 7 years and the completion of a practical skills demonstration are required), potential applicants will firstly need to send an email to *contractors@psa-gov.ie* stating whether they are a Sole Trader (or a Director of a company) and wish to be considered under Clause 3.1.3 of PSA 55:2022 to apply for a locksmith licence.

The email must include Name, Business Name/Company Name, address details and outline the relevant locksmith experience. The Authority will revert to organisations with a decision and outline the next steps.

Application packs and further information are available from our website. You must lodge a valid application with the PSA if you wish to provide a locksmith service.

Contractors providing Locksmith services without a licence will be breaking the law.

Any person employing the services of an unlicensed locksmith will be breaking the law and may face up to €3,000 fine and/or five year term of imprisonment. A person in this context includes individuals and business.

[3] A safe supplier or installer means a person supplying or installing a certified safe (certified to European Standards EN 1143 or EN 1143-2 at Resistance Grade 0 or above, EN 14450 Resistance Grades S1 or S2 or having a cash rating greater than €2,000 or an ATM safe.