
PRIVATE SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES ACT, 2005

Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs help explain the new Private Security and Investigative Services Act. They are a guide only. If you have a question the FAQs have not answered, please contact:

[Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at:
416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 (toll-free)

or

visit us at
777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C8
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

The Act

1. *Why did you replace the Private Investigators and Security Guards Act?*

The private security industry has grown dramatically over the past 40 years, from 4,000 licensed private investigators and security guards in 1966, to over 32,000 today. There are about 600 licensed agencies in the province providing private investigation and security guard services.

The new legislation and regulations will ensure that practitioners are qualified to provide protective services. By regulating things like uniforms and equipment use, we will ensure that the private security industry serves us all well.

Licences

NOTE: If you are an in-house security guard not previously licensed, you have until August 23, 2008, to get your licence.

1. Do I need a security guard licence?

You may need a licence if you are paid to do work that consists mainly of protecting persons or property. This includes bodyguards, bouncers and loss prevention personnel.

Examples

1. You will need a licence if your main responsibility in a bar or restaurant, for instance, is controlling entrances and patrolling the property to ensure the safety and security of the establishment and its occupants.
2. You will not need a licence if you are a hotel, motel or inn manager who may inspect common areas during your shift. Those checks are not the main activity of a manager in this setting. Overseeing the entire operation of the facility, as well as ensuring guest comfort, would typically be your main activity or responsibility.
3. You will not need a licence if you are a store clerk who may be required to open or lock up at the end of the business day. This is not your main activity. Selling and stocking merchandise would be considered your main activities.

2. Are there different classes of licences now?

Right now, there is only one class of licence.

We expect when the training and testing [regulation](#) becomes law, we will set up different classes of licences that will be available depending on the type of training you have completed.

3. *I hold a valid licence under the previous legislation. Is that licence still valid?*

Yes. Security guard and private investigator licences issued under the previous act will continue to be valid until they reach their expiry date.

4. *Do I need a private investigator's licence?*

You may need a private investigator's licence if you are mainly employed and paid for any of the following activities:

1. Conducting investigations in order to provide information;
2. Conducting investigations into the character or actions of a person;
3. Conducting investigations into an individual's business or occupation; or,
4. Conducting investigations into the whereabouts of persons or property.

5. *What are the minimum requirements to hold a security guard/private investigator licence now?*

To be eligible for a licence, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be eligible to work in Canada
- Have no convictions for a [prescribed offence](#) for which you have not been given a pardon.

6. *Are there any age restrictions for getting a licence?*

You must be at least 18 years old. There is no maximum age. There is no longer a mandatory retirement age in Ontario.

7. Who is responsible for obtaining my licence – my employer or me?

You are.

This important change means that you are free to change employers or obtain additional employment with another security firm without having to be re-licensed.

It is also your responsibility to renew your licence every year.

8. If I'm licensed and my employer doesn't allow me to work outside of the company, can I take my complaint to the Registrar?

No. This is not part of the act.

Employers may ask employees before they are hired to agree to not work for another security company as a condition of employment.

9. How much does a licence cost and for how long is it valid?

The cost of a licence is:

Security Guard/Private Investigator	\$80
Dual Individual Licence	\$160
Agency Licence Fees	\$700
Dual Agency Licence	\$1400

All licences are valid for one year from the date of issue.

10. Why have the fees increased?

We set the price in 1996 and did not increase them again until 2006. During those 10 years, the fee for processing applications and issuing licences did not keep up with the actual cost of providing these services.

11. How do I get a licence application?

There are two ways you can get an application form and instructions:

- You can pick up a copy of the information from the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch or
- You can [download the information](#) from this website.

We will only accept photographs that are of passport quality.

12. Can I still apply for a licence if I have a criminal record?

The new act now lists the offences that prevent anyone from getting a licence if a pardon has not been granted. These are known as prescribed offences.

Depending on your record, you may no longer be eligible to hold a licence.

13. What is a prescribed offence?

A prescribed offence is a serious offence listed in the regulation. A person convicted of a prescribed offence is not allowed to hold a licence. Examples include, fraud, luring of a child, aggravated assault. For a complete list of all prescribed offences, please see the [Clean Criminal Record regulation](#).

14. Why did the ministry come up with this list of offences?

The ministry consulted with stakeholders prior to creating the new legislation and its regulations. We felt that individuals who have a serious conviction, for which they have not received a pardon, should not hold a licence. We did this to provide greater protection for the public and to enhance the professionalism of the industry.

15. How do I get a pardon?

The federal government grants pardons. For information about getting a pardon contact Service Canada by:

- Calling their General Inquiry line at 1-800-874-2652 or

- Visiting the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca and clicking on “Legal Assistance”

16. If the registrar does not grant me a licence because I have been convicted of one of the prescribed offences and haven't received a pardon, can I appeal that decision?

No. This is a mandatory requirement and cannot be appealed.

However, if you are denied a licence for other reasons, you may appeal a registrar's decision to the [Licence Appeal Tribunal](#) (LAT) within 21 days of receiving the registrar's decision.

17. Do I have to undergo a criminal records check every year?

Yes. A criminal records check is part of the standard yearly application process.

18. What will happen if I am convicted of a prescribed offence after I receive my new licence?

The act says you cannot hold a licence if you've been convicted of a prescribed offence and have not been pardoned. If that is the situation you are in, you will have to return your licence to the registrar of the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch within five (5) business days of your conviction.

19. Can the registrar place conditions on my licence?

Yes.

20. Can the registrar suspend my licence?

Yes. If the registrar believes that it would be in the public interest to suspend a licence immediately, he/she has the authority to do that. After conducting an investigation, the registrar will notify you in writing of his/her decision and you will have an opportunity to be heard.

21. Can I have my licence revoked if I violate this act or any of its regulations?

Yes.

22. Can I appeal the decision of the registrar to revoke my licence?

You can only appeal a revocation if the registrar based the decision on discretionary grounds and not related to a mandatory requirement. If you are appealing a decision, you will deal with the [Licence Appeal Tribunal](#).

23. If I appeal the decision of the registrar to revoke my licence, am I still allowed to work while I wait for an appeal hearing?

No.

24. How do I appeal to the Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT)?

These are the steps you must follow before you can appeal to the LAT:

- Request a hearing before the registrar
- Attend the hearing
- Receive the registrar's written decision

After you have done these three things, and if you are not satisfied with the decision of the registrar, you can appeal to the [Licence Appeal Tribunal](#).

For information on how to file an appeal of a registrar's decision, go to the Licence Appeal Tribunal's web site at www.lat.gov.on.ca, or call (416) 314-4260 or 1-800-255-2214.

25. If my licence was revoked, how long will I have to wait before I can reapply for a licence?

There is no specific amount of time that you have to wait. If you reapply, you will have to prove that you have addressed the reason(s) that led to your licence being revoked.

26. What penalties do I face if I violate any section of the act or its regulations?

You might lose your licence.

You could also face the following penalties:

Individual security guards/private investigators/business directors, partners and officers

- Fine of up to \$25,000, imprisonment of up to one year, or both

Licensed businesses

- Fine of up to \$250,000

If you have other questions about licensing and/or registration, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Exemptions

NOTE: Most exemptions for in-house security guards have been removed. This includes security guards working in the hospitality, retail, commercial, manufacturing, entertainment and other sectors.

If you operate a business that employs its own in-house security guards, you have until August 23, 2008, to register. Your security personnel have until August 23, 2008, to get their individual licences.

1. Who does this act not apply to?

- Practicing barristers or solicitors;
- People who receive remuneration for work that consists mainly of searching for and providing information on:
 - The financial credit rating of individuals,
 - The qualifications and suitability of people applying for insurance and indemnity bonds, or
 - The qualifications and suitability of people as employees or prospective employees;
- People who are acting as peace officers;
- Insurance adjusters and their employees licensed under the Insurance Act while acting within the regular scope of their employment;
- Insurance companies and their employees licensed under the Insurance Act while acting within the regular scope of their employment;
- People living outside Ontario who are licensed employees of a private investigation agency licensed or registered in a jurisdiction outside Ontario, but elsewhere in Canada who:
 - On behalf of a person living outside Ontario, make an investigation or inquiry partly outside Ontario and partly within Ontario, and
 - Come into Ontario solely for the purpose of that investigation or inquiry;

- People who are paid for work that consists mainly of providing advice about security requirements but who are not selling the services of private investigators or security guards;
- People who are paid for work that consists mainly of providing an armoured vehicle service;
- Locksmiths; or
- Any class of people exempted by the [regulations](#).

Private Investigators

People are exempt from having to be licensed as private investigators if they are conducting an investigation authorized by another federal or provincial act.

2. Can I apply for an exemption?

No. There is no exemption request mechanism available. If you think you may be exempt from the requirements of the act and its regulations and are not sure, please contact the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch for more information.

If you have other questions about licensing and/or registration, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Code of Conduct

1. Why is there a Code of Conduct? What does it mean?

The [Code of Conduct](#) outlines standards for the industry so that businesses and individuals know how to perform their duties in a professional, honest and respectful way. Discrimination and racism will not be tolerated, nor will negligence or unlawful conduct under the code.

If you have other questions about licensing and/or registration, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Public Complaints

1. How can I report a complaint about a security guard or private investigator?

You can file a complaint with a licensee's employer or with the registrar of the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch.

To file a complaint with the registrar, you must

Complete the written [complaint form](#) which is available on this website.

Sign the form and submit it to the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch within 90 days of the incident/occurrence. If you want to file after 90 days, you will need the consent of the registrar.

For more information, you can contact:

[Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#)

777 Bay Street, 3rd floor

Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8

416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454

2. What types of complaints can I take to the registrar?

You can file a complaint with the registrar about violations of the Code of Conduct, the act or its regulations.

3. Can I make a complaint against a company?

Yes. If you want to file a complaint against a licensed business, you would need to file the complaint with the registrar.

4. Can I ask a security guard or private investigator to identify themselves?

Yes. All licence holders must carry their licences at all times. Uniformed security guards must also wear their identification on their clothing. This can be a licence number or name.

5. Are they obligated to show me their licence if I ask for it?

All uniformed security guards have to show their licence when someone asks to see it. Non-uniformed security guards and private investigators working undercover do not have to show their licence unless they are informing someone that he/she is suspected of committing a crime.

6. What action can the registrar take as a result of a complaint?

If the registrar finds that a complaint has merit and has been made in good faith, the registrar can:

- Launch an investigation into the complaint;
- Refer Code of Conduct complaints to an independent facilitator.
- Suspend a licence;
- Attach special conditions to a licence;
- Revoke a licence.

If you have other questions about licensing and/or registration, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Registered Businesses

1. What businesses need to register?

Any business that directly employs its own in-house security personnel, but is not in the business of selling security services, will have to register with the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch. This could include, but is not limited to retail stores, hotels, hospitals.

Businesses that use security staff from a licensed security business do not need to register.

The deadline for registration is August 23, 2008.

2. Will a business need to register, and get a licence?

No. It is one or the other.

3. How long is a registration valid?

One year.

4. What does a registration cost?

\$80 per year.

5. What documents will my business need to provide in order to become registered?

To register your business, you'll need to give the registrar of the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch:

A list of all employees who work as security guards or private investigators,

The name, address and telephone number of a representative of the business.

You will need to update this information every year.

You can get a [form](#) from this website or by contacting the branch.

6. As an employer, can I contact the branch to find out the status of an individual's licence?

Yes. Employers and potential employers can call the branch to find out if a person holds a valid licence. We are currently looking at a web-based solution for these inquiries to make this easier for employers. When we have a system in place, we will update our website.

If you have other questions about licensing and/or registration, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Licensed Businesses

1. Which agencies will require a licence?

Any business that actually sells the services of security guards and/or private investigators to others will require a licence.

2. As an employer, am I still responsible for getting licences for my employees?

No. Security guards and private investigators are responsible for getting their own licences and for renewing them on a yearly basis. Employers are, however, responsible for ensuring that their employees are licensed at all times.

3. As an employer, can I contact the branch to find out the status of an individual's licence?

Yes. Employers and potential employers can call the branch to find out if a person holds a valid licence. We are currently looking at a web-based solution for these inquiries to make this easier for employers but have not finalized a plan yet. When we have a system in place, we will update our website.

4. If someone loses a job due to criminal activity, how can another employer find out that information before hiring that person?

It is no different than before. If charges are pending against an individual licensee, the branch would not know unless someone in the field tells us. Our annual checks do not pick up charges - only convictions. Until a conviction is officially recorded, we wouldn't know.

5. As an employer, how can I make sure my security guards are rested and fit for duty if they are now allowed to work for more than one company?

Employers must adequately supervise their employees to ensure that they are fit for duty. Many security guards today have two or even three jobs so they can pay their bills. There is no difference between someone working back-to-back shifts for two different security companies and someone working a shift for a security company followed by a shift driving a cab. This is happening today and will likely continue in the future.

6. If a security guard is hurt on the job with company A and then reports for work with company B injured, which company deals with Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)?

The [WSIB](#) will decide which company will be involved. They have the authority to investigate claims and make those determinations.

7. I'm a security consultant. Do I need a licence?

If you are paid for work that consists mainly of providing advice about security requirements but are not selling or recommending the services of private investigators or security guards, you will not need a licence.

Example: If you are in the business of educating customers about various types or levels of security systems, then you do not need a licence.

8. How will the new act change the way I conduct business?

The new act creates new requirements for licensed security businesses.

Requirements as of August 23, 2007:

A [Code of Conduct](#) that establishes standards for professional demeanour and holds licensees accountable for their behaviour

A facilitated process to address public complaints against licensees based on alleged non-compliance with the code of conduct

Standards dictating the use of [equipment](#) and [animals](#)

New eligibility requirements ([Clean Criminal Record](#))

New provisions for [submitting](#) and [retaining](#) information

Requirements as of August 23, 2008:

[Minimum insurance requirements](#)

Requirements as of November 30, 2008:

[Training and testing](#)

Requirements as of August 23, 2009:

The appearance of security guard [uniforms](#)

The appearance of marked security [vehicles](#)

9. How does a security business get a licence to sell security guard or private investigator services for the first time?

The registrar will issue a licence after a business has completed the [application process](#), which includes:

- A criminal background, credit and reference checks of the owners, officers, directors and/or partners;
- A review of business plans;
- Inspection of business premises, and
- An interview by the registrar or deputy registrar with the applicant.

Businesses will receive a licence only if they meet the requirements of the act and pass the registrar's interview.

10. Do I have to apply for a new licence when the new act is proclaimed?

Your business licence issued under the previous act will continue to be valid until it reaches its expiry date. At that time you will have to renew your licence under the new act.

11. Can a licensed business have its licence revoked if it contravenes the act or any of its regulations?

Yes. The Private Security and Investigative Services Branch has inspectors and investigators on staff that are responsible for enforcing the act and its regulations.

12. If the registrar revokes a business licence, can that business appeal the decision?

Yes. Businesses can appeal a revocation by the registrar to the Licence Appeal Tribunal.

For information about how to file an appeal, go to the Licence Appeal Tribunal's website at www.lat.gov.on.ca, or call (416) 314-4260 or 1-800-255-2214.

13. Have the fines for licensed businesses changed with the new act?

Yes. Licensed businesses face fines of up to \$250,000.

In addition to the fines, the directors, partners and officers of an agency can also face imprisonment of up to one year and/or a fine of up to \$25,000.

14. What documents and information do licensed businesses have to provide to the registrar under the new act and regulations?

There are a number of documents that businesses will need to file with the registrar. For a complete list, please refer to the [regulation](#).

15. I have a licensed business and I see that I am now required to maintain a number of new records. Why?

In fact, there are fewer records now under the new regulation than under previous guidelines.

In addition, the type of record is now more specific to the core business of a security business. Some examples are use of force reports, training certificates for employees and equipment logs. This ensures greater accountability to customers and the public.

16. *Is insurance coverage optional under this new act?*

No. A minimum of \$2 million [general liability insurance](#) is now required for all licensed security businesses. The deadline for getting this required coverage is August 23, 2008.

17. *Why was the insurance sector not part of the advisory committee?*

The minister wanted an advisory committee made up of security sector representatives and consumers so that the discussions and outcomes could be specific to this sector.

If you have other questions about licensing and/or registration, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Vehicles

1. What markings do security vehicles now have to have?

Markings on security vehicles are not mandatory. However, if a business chooses to mark its vehicles, the [regulation](#) outlines the requirements that **must** be followed.

The word “security” must be prominently displayed in a contrasting colour to the vehicle and on both sides of it.

Lettering must be not less than 10 centimetres high on the sides of the vehicle and not less than 8 centimetres high on the front and back of the vehicle.

Vehicles must not use red, blue, gold or yellow stripes or any combination of these except as part of the licensee’s crest or logo.

*The word “security” or “sécurité” may also appear in or as part of the licensee’s crest or logo.

The following words **must not** appear on private security vehicles:

- Detective or détective
- Private Investigator or détective privé
- Police
- Officer or agent de police
- Law enforcement or exécution de la loi.

2. It could be really expensive to change the markings on all company vehicles. Does the ministry have a plan to assist businesses with the costs of complying?

Yes. The ministry will permit a phase-in period so businesses don’t have to change their vehicle markings until August 23, 2009.

If you have other questions about the vehicles regulation, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Equipment

1. Are security guards and private investigators allowed to use batons and handcuffs under the new act?

Security guards and private investigators are permitted to use handcuffs and batons. Batons can be used for defensive purposes only.

The [regulation](#) prohibits the use of cable ties or strip ties.

2. What kind of training will security guards need so they can use this equipment?

Security guards will have to take the required training established by the ministry in order to use handcuffs and carry batons. The ministry is now developing training materials that will be available by the fall of 2007. The training and testing regulation will not become law until November 30, 2008.

Please visit our website or <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca> or call the Private Security and Investigative Services Branch at 416-212-1650 or

1-866-767-7454 for any updated information on this regulation.

3. Can security guards carry firearms?

In limited circumstances they may, but only if they are licensed under the Firearms Act. The federal government is responsible for firearm permits, licensing and registration. In Ontario, the [Chief Firearms Officer](#) administers the Firearms Act on behalf of federal authorities.

4. What types of equipment are security guards not allowed to carry?

They cannot carry or use any firearms and weapons that are restricted or prohibited under [SOR 98-462 of the Criminal Code](#) of Canada.

If you have other questions about the equipment regulation, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Animals

1. The act has a regulation on the use of dogs. What can dogs be used for?

The ministry recognizes the growing usefulness of and demand for dogs in the security industry. As a result, we developed a regulation that takes both the industry's needs and the care and control requirements of the animals into account.

The regulation does permit the use of dogs for patrolling purposes but only under certain conditions (e.g. must be under the care and control of a handler.) Dogs can also be used for tracking (e.g. missing persons) and detection purposes (e.g. drugs, explosives).

Dog handlers must keep their dog on a lead at all times.

Security guards cannot use dogs for crowd control.

2. Will special training be required to use a dog?

Yes. Dog handlers will need special training. The ministry is developing the training and testing materials so the training and testing regulation will not come into force until November 30, 2008.

3. Will licensed businesses be able to provide "drop and guard" services? (Dogs being left alone to protect/patrol property)

No.

4. What about companies that are in the business of selling "drop and guard" services? Are they permitted to continue conducting business?

The act can only regulate businesses that sell the services of security guards and/or private investigators to others. Anything beyond this falls outside of the scope of the legislation.

5. Will the ministry monitor companies for proper treatment of dogs?

The regulation requires all licensees who use dogs to have policies and procedures in place to properly train and care for them. They must also maintain up-to-date records that document these requirements. As in all instances of animal cruelty, should you witness any abuse you should contact your local animal control authority, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or your local police.

6. Does the regulation ban breeds of dogs?

No. The regulation does not go beyond any current provincial legislation that addresses banned breeds [Dog Owners Liability Act](#).

If you have other questions about the animal regulation, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Uniforms

1. Is there a regulation about uniforms?

Yes. The act includes a [regulation on uniforms](#) so people will be able to differentiate security guards from police officers. Uniforms also enhance the overall professionalism of security guards.

Security uniforms **must** include:

A company crest on the chest of the outer garment
The term “SECURITY”, “SÉCURITÉ”, “SECURITY GUARD” or “AGENT DE SÉCURITÉ” “permanently attached on the chest of the outer garment in block letters in a contrasting colour at least 1.5 cm high. The terms must be attached between 2 and 3 cms below the name, logo or crest of the licensee that employs the security guard if the name, logo or crest appears elsewhere on the uniform in addition to the chest of the outermost garment.

The term “SECURITY” or “SÉCURITÉ” on the back of the outermost garment, no less than 10 cm high (blazers, sweaters and collared shirts excepted). “SECURITY” or “SÉCURITÉ” must be in upper case letters and be in a contrasting colour.

An ID tag (with name or licence number) on the outer garment.

Security uniforms **must not** include:

Black or navy blue collared uniform shirts

Rank chevrons

Trouser stripes (except reflective safety stripes)

Police-style forage caps

2. Can my employees wear a crest on their sleeves?

Yes. If an agency chooses to place a crest or patch on the sleeves of their uniforms, the terms “SECURITY”, “SÉCURITÉ”, “SECURITY GUARD” or “AGENT DE SÉCURITÉ” must be permanently attached on the same sleeve, 2cm below the crest, in block letters, not less than 1.5 centimetres high and in a contrasting colour.

3. Is everyone in the security business expected to wear a uniform?

No. Private investigators, loss prevention personnel and bodyguards are not required to wear a uniform given that their work is generally undercover.

4. It could be really expensive to change uniforms. Does the ministry have a plan to assist businesses with the costs of complying?

Yes. The ministry will permit a phase-in period so businesses don't have to change their uniforms until August 23, 2009.

5. What assurances do businesses have that employees will return their uniforms when they change employers?

Licensed businesses are responsible for controlling their uniforms.

If you have other questions about the uniforms regulation, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.

Training and Testing

NOTE: The ministry is developing the training and testing materials. Once developed, they will have to undergo a period of validation. As a result, the [regulation on training and testing](#) will not come into force until November 30, 2008. However, training materials will be available by Fall 2007.

1. My employer trained me several years ago. Is this training considered equivalent or do I have to take my training all over again?

Training equivalencies will be granted to persons based on their work experience as a security practitioner in Ontario. Exemptions will be extended to people with relevant work experience or people working in related security fields (i.e. police officer, military police, and in-house security).

Work experience means having worked full-time as a security practitioner for at least six continuous months in the three years prior to the training regulation coming into force. Or having worked part-time a minimum of 20 hours a week for 12 consecutive months during the last three years.

2. Can I just take the test if I have already been trained?

Yes, providing you are exempt from the training requirement (see question #1 above) you will be able to take the test without taking additional training.

3. Who is responsible for arranging my required training, my employer or me?

Under the new act, you will be responsible for arranging your training. However, the ministry will not prevent employers from taking an active role to assist individuals in meeting their training requirements.

4. Who pays for the required training?

Training costs will be the responsibility of licensees. The ministry will not pay for training.

5. Under the new act, will there be different classes of licences in the future?

At this time, there is only one class of licence although the ministry is developing a new classification system. When complete, the required training for each class of licence will also be available.

6. Will the ministry recognize out-of-province training?

Exemptions for training will be granted to licensed security guards and private investigators from other Canadian provinces and territories providing they meet the same criteria set for Ontario guards and private investigators who are eligible for an exemption from the training requirements.

If you have other questions about the training and testing regulation, please call the [Private Security and Investigative Services Branch](#) at 416-212-1650 or 1-866-767-7454 or visit the branch at 777 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto Ontario M5G 2C8.