

24 February 2011

New licensing rules for security firms

All security firms in Queensland are required to be members of an approved industry association under new licensing arrangements taking effect from today (24 February 2011).

Executive Director of Queensland's Fair Trading Operations Brian Bauer said the new mandatory licensing arrangements were intended to strengthen the industry and improve standards by giving industry associations a role in ensuring security firms were operating within the law.

"The changes to the legislation to support mandatory industry association membership are a result of extensive consultation with the private security service industry and stakeholders following a review in 2006 of the *Security Providers Act 1993*," Mr Bauer said.

"Membership of an approved industry association was one of a number of measures highlighted in the review as a means of improving integrity and standards in the private security industry.

"Mandatory membership of an approved industry association is now a requirement for all security firms if they want to continue to offer security provider services in Queensland," he said.

"The Office of Fair Trading has been tasked with approving appropriate industry associations which must have a code of conduct in place and are required to undertake compliance audits of their member firms at least once every three years.

"They are also required to offer members genuine and accessible services that are relevant to security firms, such as professional development training and information, and advice about legal obligations," he said.

"From today, all new applicants for a security firm licence will need to demonstrate they have a current membership with an approved association before their licence is granted. Existing security firms will be required to become members of an approved association within 60 days.

"Any firm that does not comply with the new legislation by failing to maintain their membership with an approved association will risk having their licence cancelled."

For a list of approved associations or for more information on security providers, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au

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