

FROM: Office of Fair Trading

Mandatory fingerprinting

With recent amendments to the *Security Providers Act 1993*, all security providers in Queensland will be required to be fingerprinted as part of the licensing process.

Why security providers will be fingerprinted

This new requirement brings Queensland into line with other Australian states and territories, which already require security providers to be fingerprinted. It is part of a nationally consistent approach to security industry regulation and will provide an extra layer of protection for consumers, the public and security firms.

Given the vital work performed by security providers in enhancing public safety and protecting critical infrastructure, it is important your suitability is rigorously checked.

The amended legislation provides for better identification of applicants for security provider licences, and more thorough ongoing probity checks, helping to prevent criminal elements from entering or remaining in the security industry. Using fingerprints on top of the current 100 point identity check will also help to overcome the perpetration of identity fraud.

Start date and process

If you are a current licensee, you will need to provide your fingerprints when you next renew your licence, on or after 1 August 2011. When your licence comes due for renewal, and you are required to have your fingerprints taken, the process will be detailed in the renewal letter that you receive from us, about two months before your licence expires.

Beginning on 3 May 2011, new applicants will need to provide their fingerprints as part of the application process.

Please note: The previously announced implementation dates were delayed two months.

Cost

The cost of fingerprinting is being subsidised by the Queensland Government, but will still cost applicants approximately \$100.

It is important to note, while you remain licensed you will only need to be fingerprinted **once**, even if you apply for an additional security licence.

Mutual recognition

You will still be required to have your fingerprints taken in Queensland, even if you are applying through mutual recognition and you have already had your fingerprints taken during the security licensing process of another state or territory.

This is to confirm your identity and match your fingerprints with the 100 points of identity that you supply during your licence application.

Fingerprinted for other purposes

You will still be required to have your fingerprints taken for your security licence, even if you have had your fingerprints taken for another purpose (for example, a gaming licence).

This is to confirm your identity and so we can match your fingerprints with the 100 points of identity that you supplied during your licence application.

Refusal to be fingerprinted

If you refuse to have your fingerprints taken, your application or renewal will not be considered.

This will mean you can no longer work in the security industry.

Security firm licence holders and executive officers

If your name is included on the application form, you are required to have your fingerprints taken.

For firms, this includes directors, secretaries, executive officers and associated persons.

Storage and destruction of fingerprints

Your fingerprints will be taken by the Queensland Police Service, and stored on the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System which is accessed by police services to solve crimes.

Your fingerprints will only be kept for the period of time for which you are a licensed security provider. If your licence expires, is cancelled, refused, surrendered or withdrawn, your fingerprints will be destroyed in the presence of a Justice of the Peace. If, at a later date, you re-apply for a licence, you will need to be fingerprinted and pay the fee again.

Where fingerprinting will occur

There are currently 14 Police stations across Queensland earmarked for security provider fingerprinting, and arrangements are being made for applicants in rural and remote locations.

At the time you lodge your application, you will be given a list of Police stations to choose from. You will then be able to contact the station directly to make a suitable appointment time. Once your fingerprints have been taken, the Queensland Police Service will advise us so that processing of your licence application or renewal can continue.