

Security Alarm Licences - Consultation Document -

Security Programs and Police Technology Division (SPPTD) is developing regulations for the new *Security Services Act* (SSA), which will replace the current *Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act* and its regulations.

“Security alarm” is defined in the SSA as any “assembly of electronic equipment and devices intended to protect property.” This definition captures traditional security alarm systems and their interconnecting parts, as well as CCTV, video surveillance and electronic access control systems.

Once the SSA comes into effect, installers of these types of systems who were previously unregulated will require security business and worker licences. The BC Safety Authority (BCSA) is responsible for ensuring that those individuals performing electrical work in BC are qualified to do so. Applicants who have the necessary qualifications and pass a written exam are issued a Field Safety Representative Certificate of Qualification (FSR) authorizing them to accept the responsibility for installing, maintaining, operating and repairing electrical products.

An FSR Class SA, Security Alarms Installer, allows an individual to install and repair all types of security alarm systems. Applicants for an FSR Class SA must possess a Security Alarm Installer Trade Certificate of Qualification.

The BCSA considers CCTV, video surveillance and electronic access control systems as “low energy” systems. The BCSA does not require installers of these low energy systems to possess the Security Alarm Installer Trade Certificate of Qualification.

In recognition of the different trade qualification requirements, SPPTD would like to consult with the security alarm industry regarding the proposed types of licences under the new *Security Services Act*. In particular, the purpose of this consultation paper is to solicit your feedback on the following questions:

1. Should a new type of security alarm licence be created for installers of low energy systems, such as CCTV, video surveillance and electronic access control systems?
2. If yes, should particular qualifications be required of applicants for this type of licence?
3. Should SPPTD allow locksmiths to sell and install electronic access control systems?

If you have any questions or want to provide feedback on this consultation document, please e-mail SPDSSA@gov.bc.ca by November 18, 2007.