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## Lethal Weapons Training

### Act 235

#### Important facts about the Lethal Weapons Training Act

Where should questions concerning the Act be directed?

All questions concerning the Act should be directed to:

Lethal Weapons Certification  
Pennsylvania State Police  
8002 Bretz Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9748  
Telephone: (717) 346-7762  
[www.lethalweapons.state.pa.us](http://www.lethalweapons.state.pa.us)

Who must be certified?

Any person who is privately employed and required as a condition of employment to carry a lethal weapon must be certified. Examples of private employees are: security guards, armored truck guards, alarm response guards, night watchmen and private investigators.

Governmental employees, such as police officers, are not required to have lethal weapon certification to perform their duties as a government employee. If a government employee has a second job (moonlighting) in which he or she is privately employed and must carry a lethal weapon, he or she must be certified even if the second job is located within the jurisdiction of his government employer.

What is a lethal weapon?

Any weapon calculated to produce death or serious bodily harm is considered a lethal weapon. The most common examples are: pistols, revolvers, batons, nightsticks, rifles and shotguns. A blackjack is

Who administers the Act and establishes the standards?

The Pennsylvania State Police administers the Act and provides applications at all installations except turnpike and interstate stations. Also, applications are available online at [www.lethalweapons.state.pa.us](http://www.lethalweapons.state.pa.us).

What is the purpose of lethal weapons certification?

Lethal weapons certification is evidence that the person to whom it is issued has complied with the Lethal Weapons Training Act. It is not a license to carry a firearm. Licenses to carry a firearm are issued by local authorities.

What are the requirements for certification?

- A. The applicant must be at least 18 years old and submit the required application.
- B. The applicant must pass a psychological evaluation, which is valid for 6 months.
- C. The applicant must pass a physical evaluation which is valid for 6 months and includes, but is not limited, to:
  1. Neurological condition – The applicant must be free from any debilitating condition, such as tremors, lack of coordination, convulsions, fainting episodes and similar conditions.
  2. Cardiovascular condition – The applicant must be able to withstand significant cardiovascular stress.

If all required documents are received in a timely fashion (at approximately the same time) approval for training is issued in approximately 2 months.

How long is this required course?

The basic training initial certification course is 40 hours and the certification renewal course is 8 hours.

How long is the certification card valid?

The certification card is valid for 5 years, unless revoked or invalidated.

How does an applicant locate a school for training?

After an application is processed, and an approval letter to attend a school has been granted, applicants will be provided a list of all certified schools. NOTE: Students will not be permitted to attend the course without submitting this approval letter from the Pennsylvania State Police upon reporting to class.



A certification card must be renewed before it expires, as expired cards cannot be renewed. If the card expires, the applicant must go through the entire initial application process again, including the 40-hour training program.

What is the procedure for renewal?

To renew a certification, a renewal application must be completed and forwarded to the address on the form along with a \$30 fee. Approval for training will be sent with a list of schools offering the training.

When the 8-hour renewal course is completed, and the grades for the renewal course are transmitted to the State Police by the certified training school, applicants will receive a new certification card.