

Manitoba News Release

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NEW TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR SECURITY GUARDS WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY: CHOMIAK

Mandatory, standardized training and licensing for all security guards will increase safety for both the public and security personnel, Attorney General Dave Chomiak announced today.

The amended Private Investigators and Security Guards Act comes into effect Jan. 8 and introduces minimum training requirements for all licensed security guards including in-house security guards.

In-house security staff must now meet the same licensing requirements that exist for security guards employed by a security company.

"The improved level of training will boost the knowledge and skills of all security guards and will lead to higher levels of service and safety for the public," Chomiak said. "These changes are the culmination of hard work by industry representatives who provided direction on the new training standards."

Chomiak noted the changes make Manitoba the first province to regulate in-house security staff.

Security guards covered by existing legislation are hired by the company they work for and provide security services at various locations and businesses, as arranged by their employer. In-house security personnel work exclusively for their own employer.

The legislative changes require that licence applicants must submit a criminal record check, child abuse registry check and proof of having completed the security guard training program. Employers of in-house security staff must be registered and licensed employers of private investigators and security guards must now have adequate liability insurance.

The made-in-Manitoba security guard training program is based on a nationally-recognized Canadian General Standards Board security guard training program. The training standards were developed by the Security Industry Standards Advisory Committee, a group of industry representatives brought together by the province to consult on training issues.

The committee's work included extensive consultations with employers of in-house security guards, trainers, police services and interested stakeholders from across Manitoba.

The training program covers such topics as the legal authority for security guards, dealing with the public, professionalism and personal safety. Security guards who can show they have been employed in the security industry for 3,000 hours in the two years before applying for

a license, will not have to complete the training and will not have to write an exam. Individuals who do not have this level of work experience but can prove they have previous related employment history as a security guard may be granted an exemption from the training but must pass an exam.

As recommended by the advisory committee, training standards for door staff at Manitoba lounges and nightclubs were implemented by the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission in co-operation with industry.