

SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIEDIENS



SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

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Reference	: 27/5/1
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**DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER
VISIBLE POLICING
HEAD OFFICE****All Provincial Commissioners
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE****DIRECTIVE FOR HANDLING OF THE VALIDITY OF FIREARM LICENCES,
COMPETENCY CERTIFICATES AS WELL AS THE FIREARM AMNESTY DURING THE
PERIOD OF LOCKDOWN IN TERMS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002**

1. In terms of section 16 of the Disaster Management Regulations as published in Government Gazette No. 11098 dated 29 April 2020, every person is confined to his or her place of residence and may only leave their place of residence to perform an essential or permitted service, as allowed in Alert Level 4.
2. Accordingly Part O(2) of Table 1 to the Regulations, Licencing is permitted. In pursuance of the Lockdown Regulations, Designated Firearm Officers (DFOs) are expected to receive and process competency certificate and firearm licence renewal applications.
3. It should be noted that that at Level 5 of the lockdown period, licensing was not listed as one of the essential services and as a result receiving and processing of applications as stipulated in paragraph 2 above was halted.
4. Section 24 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 provides that a licence holder who wishes to renew the licence must do so at least 90 days before the date of expiry of the licence. This period was most likely affected by the announcement of lockdown to the extent that some licence holders could not submit their applications on time as stipulated in the Act.
5. To this end the National Commissioner has given an assurance that applications for renewals of firearm licences and/or competency certificates which were affected during the lockdown will still be accepted provided that the licence/competency has not expired.

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6. Firearm licences for which validity period has expired cannot be renewed and a new application may be accepted and processed under the Amnesty 2019/2020 period as declared by the Minister on 27 October 2020.
7. It is appreciated that the period of Amnesty could not be fully utilised by firearm owners as a result of the lockdown. To this end, the Minister is contemplating approaching Parliament for the extension of the Amnesty period which is still in place until 31 May 2020.
8. No member of the community should be turned away at any Police Station in the process of submitting firearm related applications and/or Firearm Amnesty.
9. The contents of this directive must be brought to the attention of all station commanders and designated firearm officers for their compliance.


LIEUTENANT GENERAL
DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER: VISIBLE POLICING
MD SEMPE (SOEG)
Date: 20200507