

Firearm license application process



STEP 1: THE SKILLS CERTIFICATE

First of all, you must contact a properly registered and accredited person or company for training and finally take the theoretical exam and practical shooting assessment. A list of accredited service providers is available on the SAPS' website at

www.saps.gov.za/services/flash/main_firearms.php.

As soon as the assessment has been completed successfully and the candidate passed, the skills certificate will be issued and handed to the candidate.



STEP 2: THE COMPETENCY CERTIFICATE

Once the skills certificate has been obtained, you can apply for a competency certificate at the nearest police station that has jurisdiction over your residential address. The application form as well as a list of documents that must accompany the form, is available at **www.saps.gov.za/services/flash/firearms/faq_applying_for_new_licence.php**. It is advisable to visit the police station yourself to get the necessary forms, list of documents and information regarding the amount payable. After submitting the application, you need to wait patiently as it may take several months for approval. You will receive an SMS message as confirmation of receipt of the application as well as a reference number. This reference number and your identity number can be used to check the progress of the application at **www.saps.gov.za/services/firearm_status_enquiry.php**. Remember to keep the proof of payment safe.



STEP 3: A WIDE CHOICE

While you wait for the competency certificate, you can investigate a safe and firearm that appeals to you. The options are legion and gun shops often offer the opportunity to shoot a firearm before you buy it. Now is also the time to talk to other people about your options and consult the internet for more information. Install the safe you have purchased in your home in the prescribed manner. Also, talk to the firearms store for further guidance and consult your proficiency certificate training material for insight.



STEP 4: THE LICENCE APPLICATION

As soon as you receive the SMS confirming the successful consideration of the competency certificate, you can approach the police station to get a copy of the certificate. With the certificate in hand, you can purchase the firearm you identified in the previous step. The arms dealers will provide the necessary forms which is partially filled out by them. Take these forms, together with the list of required documents, to the police station to submit your application. The list of required documents is also available at www.saps.gov.za/services/flash/firearms/faq_applying_for_new_licence.php. Because the motivation to be included in the application can be technical, it is advisable to consult an expert to help you with writing it. The police can also come and do a safe inspection to ensure that everything is installed according to the requirements.



STEP 5: BENEFIT FROM YOUR PERSISTENCE

Once you receive the SMS that your licence has been approved, you can enquire about your licence card at the police station. You can also apply for a temporary permit in the meantime as proof of approval of your firearms licence. This option was confirmed by the SAPS due to the long waiting time for the printing of firearms licence cards. Once you receive the licence, you can collect your firearm. Congratulations! As a responsible citizen, you have now taken an essential step to protect yourself and your family.

STEP 6: EMPOWER YOURSELF AND PRACTISE

Owning a firearm, comes with great responsibility. Become involved with your local neighbourhood watch, attend shooting days and attend lectures on the use of a firearm and firearms legislation. Regularly analyse different scenarios and regularly practise on the shooting range. Also attend a practical shooting course. Contact AfriForum for support with this. Now is the time to take action. Nothing comes from nothing.



