

# Are you breaking the law? - A Guide to Security for Retailers

Security forms an important part of any business, but in retail it is of critical importance. However, keeping up with the services available, never mind the legislative requirements can be cumbersome for end users and not always at the forefront of your mind as a retailer. The legislative landscape and your responsibilities have been continuously changing over recent years. If you haven't been keeping up with these changes you could be breaking the law.

We have outlined your legislative responsibilities for each area of security that you as a retailer are likely to be using making it as easy as possible for you to be certain that you are compliant.



## Electronic Security

You are hopefully aware of the fact that the installer of your alarm system needs to hold a valid license from the Private Security Authority (PSA). What you may not be aware of is that as of the 1st October 2012, you are now required to also ensure that the company who maintains your alarm system has a valid license. If you contracted someone a couple of years ago to maintain your system who didn't have a license and told you it wouldn't be a problem as it wasn't required, this is no longer the case. Any contractor who installs or maintains alarm systems must hold a license.

CCTV is of critical importance in a retail environment, but if there is an incident this will only be of benefit to you if it has been installed well and based on a professional risk assessment. Any contractor who installs or maintains your CCTV systems must now have a valid license. This was not the case before the 1st October 2012, so if you had your systems installed a couple of years ago it is likely that you may be using the same contractor for maintenance. It would be well worth checking with them to be certain that they now have a license from the PSA. The same is true for your access control systems. Installers and maintainers of access control systems now require a license from the PSA. Before the 1st October 2012, this was not the case.



## Monitoring Services

This might be something that the installer of your electronic security systems took care of for you. However, it is worth checking who the supplier is and ensuring that they hold a license

from the PSA. However, this license does not include the monitoring of CCTV which the PSA hope to license in 2014.



## Cash-in-Transit

You have always had a responsibility to check that the company transporting cash for you has a license. What you may not be aware of is that the individuals moving that cash did not require a license from the PSA. From the 1st May 2013 all individuals involved directly in cash-in-transit operations must hold a license.

This is great news for you as a retailer. We all know the risks involved in the movement of cash. You can now be certain that all of the individuals who you entrust with your cash have gone through the licensing process, they will have been Garda vetted and deemed appropriate to be working in the industry.



## Security Staff

Nothing new has happened in this area in terms of legislative changes, but if you are only

employing security staff for the first time you should check that not only the contractor you employ holds a license, but that the individuals assigned to your business also hold a valid license from the PSA. Event Security staff will require a license in the near future and this could become relevant if you hold events in your store.

## Future Changes

The legislative landscape in the area of private security has been changing in recent years and this will continue to be the case as we move forward. A consultative process has already begun for the licensing of locksmiths and for providers and installers of safes. It is good to be aware of this as they will require a license in the future. At this stage the date at which licensing will commence is uncertain. Other security providers that may require a license in the future include security consultants and private investigators.



## Avoid Prosecution

With this constantly changing legislative landscape you should always check what the licensing requirements are for your security service provider and if in doubt contact us in the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) [www.isia.ie](http://www.isia.ie) or telephone 01 4847206.