



Responsible and Accountable
Firearm Ownership

Accredited as a Hunting and as Sport-Shooting Association with SAPS (CFR)

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Newsletter

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RENEWAL OF COMPETENCY AND OF LICENCES

Dear Member

RENEWAL OF COMPETENCY

In discussions at the Hunters-SAPS Consultative Forum since the beginning of the year it became progressively clear that the issue of the need to renew competency certificates only after the expiry of a person's longest "outstanding" firearm licence was not the correctly implemented by SAPS at the time.

We still (and again) advise, as we did in early January 2011 (despite the SAPS directive), that our members should renew their white credit type competency certificates 90 days before expiry date of said certificate, irrespective of what your DFO indicates to the contrary.

If your competency has expired and your renewal thereof is outstanding for longer than 90 days before expiry, don't be too upset. SAPS is on record at the Hunters-SAPS Consultative Forum as stating that they will not act upon any person applying for renewal of an expired competency certificate due to the chaos the SAPS directive of 7 January 2011 created in this regard. All of us are aware of people who have been turned away by their DFOs when they wanted to renew their competency certificates with words to the effect; "*...you don't need to apply now, only when your longest outstanding licence expires...*".

So, in the space on the form for renewal of competency (form SAPS 517g) where they ask why you did not submit your renewal application in time you state that the member in the SAPS office turned you away last time when you wanted to submit your renewals application, and said that it was not necessary just yet. You further state that you have been informed by your Association (NSA) that you have to renew your credit card type competency certificate as it has an expiry date printed on it.

For renewal of competency you will need two declarations by friends or people you know with reference to your character to be attached to your application. Also attach copies of your training certificates (Knowledge of the Act, Rifles, Handguns & Shotguns – or whatever your particular training entailed). Declarations should make special reference to non-aggression, low or moderate alcohol use, exceptional firearm safety and responsibility, and to responsibility of person in every day and in family life.

Please make sure that you renew your competency certificate as soon as possible if it has expired, or submit your application for it's renewal in time, if it is still going to expire.

Members who have been issued with the A4 type of competency certificate which does not have an expiry date on it, need not be too worried as their situation is not quite clear at this stage. It is not certain whether SAPS regards the A4 competency to lapse at the date of expiry of the person's longest "outstanding" firearm licence, and or if it will expire at all (as there is no expiry date on the certificate). There are rumours that want us to believe that competency expires in ten years irrespective of the fact that no expiry date has been printed on the A4 competency certificate (we reiterate – that remains rumour and not fact). We shall keep you posted as we hear from the CFR in this regard as it remains critical to us all to understand how they intend to manage the process around the A4 competency certificates in future.

RENEWAL OF LICENCES

It has come to our attention that members' applications for renewals of sports-shooting firearms have been turned down due to a lack of proof that they have participated in sports-shooting (due to them indicating at original application that they will use the firearm for sports-shooting). Don't get caught in this manner. Shoot two rounds at your shooting range per annum at minimum and post the targets to the office where we shall keep them on record for you. When you need an official document stating participation you ask us and we shall furnish you with an official record you have been building up over time.

CFR & LICENCES

The message from the CFR is that its business as usual, despite the "*Brigadiers having been suspended*". As you are aware there is a high ranking officer (Lt Col +) in charge of the different geographical sections the CFR has divided its workload into. These people are responsible and will ascertain that the process continues as relatively smoothly as it has over the past 18 to 24 months.

Please remain vigilant

Protect yourselves against criminals and vandals

And shoot a round at your closest shooting range – its always fun – remember to post the targets !!

Kind regards

Herman Els