



FIREARM LICENSING:

Section 16A – Application of firearm licences for professional hunting purposes:

1. In terms of Section 16A of the principal Firearms Control Act, a Professional Hunter in **possession of a valid Professional Hunters' Licence/Permit issued by Nature Conservation**, can **apply for all, or some, of his firearm licences** to be used by the professional hunter for his or her **private use and professional hunting purposes**, where it is safe to use the firearm and for a lawful purpose. This is NOT ONLY applicable to where the person owns more than four firearms, but does give the person the opportunity to apply for firearm licences for more than four firearms.
2. **PHASA realises the importance of our members having the necessary “tools of trade”. PHASA members can therefore apply for “Professional Hunter Status” in terms of the Firearms Control Act from PHASA at no cost at all.**
The application form is available from the **PHASA office** and must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's current Professional Hunter's Licence/Permit issued by a Nature Conservation Authority and a copy of the ID.
3. Once a member has been awarded “Professional Hunter Status” from PHASA, **the individual will be able to motivate his/her application for a firearm licence to be used for professional hunter purposes.** Page 2 of the SAPS-271 form, (Application for licence to possess a firearm”) allows for Section 16A, whereby an applicant can apply for a licence to possess a firearm for professional hunting. **Please see separate information below pertaining to the motivation for of firearm licence applications, as well as PHASA's endorsement of the calibre to be suitable for the intended purpose.**
4. The Act **defines a professional hunter** as any person who supervises, escorts, offers to, or agrees to supervise or escort a client, for reward in connection with the hunting of a wild or exotic animal and who is authorised to do so in terms of any applicable provincial law.
5. **Applications for firearm licences for business purposes, in other words the handing or renting out of firearms, still need to be done under Section 20 of the Act.**
6. **A person in possession of a firearm licence issues in terms of Section 16A, may only allow another person to use his/her firearm, under his/her direct supervision.**

Tips on how to write a motivation when applying for a firearm licence:

A couple of years ago already, the SAPS/Hunters' Consultative Forum of which PHASA is a member, have compiled a model frame work for a successful firearm licence motivation, which has been accepted by the SAPS (CFR). The following is a summary:

Describing the need:

Clearly indicate for what purpose the firearm is required, e.g. the type of game that will be hunted and in which terrain. Indicate if the firearm will be used for solely professional hunting purposes or also for personal use.



List the technical attributes of the weapon - action, calibre, length of barrel - and explain the suitability thereof. The type of ammunition that will be used i.e. bullet weights, velocity and how that would be useful with the type of game and the typical hunting conditions and distances, should also be mentioned.

Explanation of why current firearms are not suitable:

This is particularly important when applying for more than one rifle of the same calibre.

Indicate where the weapon concerned will fit in with your current collection of firearms and explain why the other firearms do not fulfil the need, especially in terms of ballistic requirements. Mention the required weapon's specific or special requirements and the use thereof

Hunting CV:

Outline your experience as a hunter and professional hunter and list your qualifications, e.g. professional hunter, official measurer, training courses, etc.

Support from your Hunting Association:

Attach a letter confirming your **PHASA** membership and association participation as well as qualifications and positions held. Approach PHASA for an "Endorsement" (see below), supporting the suitability of the firearm for the intended purpose.

Supporting documentation:

Attach supporting documentation in aid of all of the above, but definitely:

- "Professional Hunters' Status" Certificate in terms of the Firearms Control Act, issued to you by PHASA;
- PHASA membership letter;
- Professional Hunters' Licence/Permit;
- Hunting photos, trophy certificates, hunting licenses, removal permits, training certificates, testimonials from hunting outfitters, game farmers, etc.

Endorsements

On 2 September 2005, members of the Hunters Forum of which PHASA is a member-association, handed a document to the Minister of Safety and Security, "Guidelines on Application and Consideration of a licence to possess a firearm for hunting purposes." PHASA is a member of the forum.

In line with the document, Accredited Hunting Associations can issue and endorsement to a member to the effect that the firearm is suitable for the purposes.

In order for PHASA to endorse the firearm to be suitable, a PHASA member must supply PHASA with a copy of his/her motivation for licensing the firearm. PHASA can then, based on the suitability of the firearm, issue an endorsement. **Please include the serial number and all details of the firearm on the motivation letter.**

It is very important to note that PHASA will not review or rewrite the motivation on the member's behalf and are under no obligation to issue endorsements. Every application will be reviewed before a decision will be taken regarding the issuing of such an endorsement



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and members need to allow PHASA with enough time to issue the endorsement. It cannot be done overnight.

The SAPS (CFR) has made it very clear at a meeting held before that they will request an endorsement from an association for all “restricted firearms”. Should the applicant fail to provide the endorsement, the application will be refused.

Contact PHASA for any further questions.

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