

Important Notice

Department of Justice (DOJ) Certified Instructor Advisory Upcoming Changes to the DOJ Handgun Safety Certificate Program

Who is affected? Firearms Dealers, DOJ Certified Instructors, and Comparable Entities.

What is the Impact to Dealers and Certified Instructors? Effective January 1, 2015, the existing Handgun Safety Certificate (HSC) Program will be changed to the Firearm Safety Certificate (FSC) Program. Holders of current HSCs may continue to use their certificate to purchase handguns only after December 31, 2014. However, effective January 1, 2015, an FSC will be required to purchase long-guns. Once obtained by a purchaser, an FSC can be used to purchase/acquire all lawful firearm types.

DOJ plans to utilize an internet based process to make FSC materials available, including the firearm safety certificates, test materials, and study guide, to all DOJ Certified Instructors. In addition, any materials that require a fee will be billed through the internet based process. In the coming months, DOJ will be forwarding information regarding the new process.

A revised study guide and audio/visual materials will be made available for printing and/or streaming/downloading on the BOF public website. Dealers will still be required to tag firearms with the DOJ firearms warning labels, which will be ordered through BOF; however, orders for the warning tags will be made via email. A revised study guide, tests, user manual, and audio/visual materials to include long gun safety information, safe demonstration graphics, and narrative will be made available to DOJ Certified Instructors by January 1, 2015. In addition, BOF is working on regulations to accompany FSC program implementation.

What is the Impact to Comparable Entities? Essentially, Comparable Entities whose course materials do not already include DOJ approved long gun safety and safe demonstration information will be required to update their materials and submit an affidavit to BOF confirming their course materials have been updated. BOF is working on developing long gun safety and safe demonstration information Comparable Entities can incorporate into their existing courses as needed for DOJ approval.

What do I need to do now? At this point, there is nothing firearms dealers, DOJ Certified Instructors, or Comparable Entities need to do except monitor their mail, email, and DES notices for forthcoming DOJ information and materials on this subject.