



OC Spray and ASR Approvals

Private Security Firms – What you need to know

Background/Purpose

On 3 May 2024, the *Weapons Control Act 2001* (WCA) and the *Weapons Control Regulations 2001* (WCR) will be amended for prohibited weapon approvals to be issued to security, training and disposal providers and their employees to possess, carry and use Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray and Aerosol Subject Restraints (ASRs), subject to certain conditions.

Some facts for Private Security Firms

- The Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU) will be accepting applications for these approvals from 3 May 2024
- Private Security Firms can submit an application to purchase and possess OC Spray and ASRs for the purpose of supplying the OC Spray and ASRs to their employees who carry out crowd controller duties at a licensed premises, or part of a licensed premises, where only takeaway alcohol is sold
- Private Security Firms can only supply OC Spray and ASRs to employees who hold their own approval to carry, possess and use OC Spray and ASR.
- Each employee approval will be linked to their employer's approval
- Private Security Firms must obtain a Purchase Authority from FPRU prior to purchasing OC Spray or ASR
- All OC Spray canisters purchased should, where available, contain UV dye
- OC Spray must not exceed a strength of 0.4%MC, with a size of either MK-4 or MK-6
- Storage must be inspected by FPRU prior to issuing any approval. Storage will be subject to strict conditions
- An Asset/Inventory Management System must be in place to record and track the movement of OC Spray and ASR and these records must be made available to police when requested
- Private security employees will be required to wear Body Worn Cameras (BWC) while carrying OC Spray or ASR and will be required to activate their BWC during any incident that may involve OC Spray or ASRs presentation or deployment
- All BWC footage of any use of force incident involving OC Spray or ASR must be retained for a period of 2 years from the date of the incident

OC Spray and ASR Weapons Approvals

Fact Sheet for Private Security Firms

- Any weapons held under an approval must be made available for inspection by police upon request
- Security Firms must permit police to inspect the storage facilities at any reasonable time
- All employees wishing to make an application must have a current advanced CPR first aid qualification as well as have attended an approved training and safety course
- Private security firms will also be required to provide holsters to their employees for the carriage of OC Spray and/or ASRs
- Application forms are available on the Northern Territory Police website, under Firearms and Weapons Information

What you can do to prepare

- Acquire and install an Asset/Inventory Management System (if one is not already in place)
- Ensure adequate storage facilities are available for inspection
- Ensure an ability to adequately and securely store BWC files
- Ensure employees have attained the correct first aid qualification covering the following units
 - HLTAID009 – provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - HLTAID010 – provide basic emergency life support
 - HLTAID011 – provide first aid
 - HLTAID014 – provide advanced first aid
- Make enquiries with an approved training provider for booking training and safety courses for employees:
 - The nationally accredited course “Defend Using Spray” (CPPSEC3126) has been approved for use as a training course for the *Weapons Control Act 2001*. The course can be delivered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) in the Northern Territory or interstate.
 - There is one other approved course in the Northern Territory delivered by Eagle Training Services
- Training courses must have been completed within 6 months prior to lodging an application for an OC Spray Approval
- Annual completion of an accredited training course is required prior to any application to renew an OC spray approval

Applicable conditions and requirements are subject to change. For all further enquiries, please contact the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit on (08) 8999 5511 (NTG Switchboard).