

Regulatory change in the security industry

How it affects you



www.bsia.co.uk



■ Is the Security Industry Authority being abolished?

In short, no, the Security Industry Authority is not being abolished.

Following the Public Bodies Review in 2010, which aimed to increase the transparency and accountability of all public services and ensure that the Government operates in a more efficient and business-like way, it was announced that the SIA was to be abolished.

However, the BSIA acted quickly to respond to this announcement, and following the draft of a letter to the Home Secretary, the Government's message was softened to one of reform rather than abolition.

conformance with the relevant British Standards.

Proposals include that the terms and conditions of business regulation will require a business to ensure a licence application process is carried out for its employees that confirms an employee's identity, address history, qualifications, and right to work in the UK. The only checks on individuals that will continue to be the SIA's responsibility will be those in relation to criminality.

■ When are the changes happening?

The aim is to have the necessary legislation in place to begin the transition by the end of 2013.

It is expected that business regulation will commence in April 2014.

If this is the case, all businesses should adhere to the new regime by April 2015, and failure to do so will become a criminal offence.

The Home Office and the SIA are working together to ensure that everything is in place to meet this deadline. All dates are subject to Government approval. Individuals operating in designated areas of the private security industry will still need to hold an SIA licence. The SIA will continue to publish an online register of licence holders.

■ If companies are to be regulated under the new regime, does this mean that individuals will no longer be required to be CRB checked and listed on a central register?

Companies will be regulated under the new regime, but individuals will still be required to be placed on a register of security operatives and will carry an ID card that will confirm their

■ What's changing?

From 2013 onwards, there will be a gradual change in the way private security companies operating in the UK are licensed and regulated.

These changes will be implemented over time, and will change the requirements and responsibilities of both security companies and their customers, under the law.

The proposals are that the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will regulate businesses operating in designated areas of the private security industry. It will be a criminal offence for a business to provide a security service unless the business is approved to do so by the SIA. The SIA will publish an online register of regulated businesses.

This regime would provide greater transparency and accountability and, it is assumed, would maintain the costs of business regulation and individual licensing at around their current levels.

■ Who will control the new regulatory body?

The SIA will continue to regulate the industry. Changes to the status of the SIA and enhancing its powers will require legislation, which is not in place yet.

■ Is compulsory licensing ending?

No, however, the requirements are changing to reflect a greater emphasis on business compliance.

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■ What is business regulation?

Business regulation will identify those organisations that have undergone the relevant checks and due diligence required under the proposed regime, and can demonstrate that they meet the regulation criteria and comply with certain terms and conditions, which will include

accreditation on the register. This will include the requirement for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to be completed.

■ What will I need to do?

It is expected that there will be an obligation on purchasers of security services to undertake checks of their security providers to ensure that they are licensed under the proposed legislation.

Action will not need to be taken until April 2014 (see page 2)

■ How will this affect my existing security arrangements?

It is expected that all currently ACS-compliant companies will automatically qualify for a business licence under the new regime. Therefore, there should be little impact on the service you currently receive.

However, as mentioned previously, it is expected that there will be an obligation on purchasers of security services to undertake checks of their security providers to ensure that they are licensed under the proposed legislation.



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■ Will in-house security now be licensable?

The inclusion of in-house security – that is, security personnel employed directly by the end-user, rather than via a contract with a security company – into the new regulatory regime is not currently in consideration.

All indications are that the Security Industry Authority will exclude in-house security personnel from the current round of legislation, however, it may be considered again in future.

■ Will the new licensing arrangements lead to the end of the ACS scheme?

Changes to the existing Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS) can only be made through primary legislation and as yet, there is no current legislative timetable to establish this primary legislation.

However, it is intended that the private security industry will take responsibility for the quality elements of the current scheme, details of which have yet to be finalised.

■ How much will the changes cost me?

It is currently envisaged that the financial burden on industry will not increase, and as such, we expect the cost of business licensing and individual registration to remain at similar levels over the coming years.

■ What should I look for in a security provider?

Regardless of the scope of an organisation's security strategy, choosing a reputable supplier is crucial to ensuring its success.



Choosing your security products or services from a member of the BSIA is your assurance of professionalism and quality. The BSIA's rigorous membership criteria mean that when you choose a BSIA member, you can have confidence that you are entrusting the security of your organisation into safe hands.

The BSIA is the only trade association that requires its members to be independently inspected to the quality standard ISO 9001:2000 with a UKAS accredited certification body. This provides independent assurance that a company is run professionally and also covers relevant British and European standards and/or BSIA codes of practice.

For more details on the benefits of choosing a BSIA member, [download our short PDF guide](#).

■ How do I find a reputable security provider?

BSIA members meet strict quality criteria and as such, the Association's website is a great place to start when considering your next security investment. To locate a supplier in your area, visit our online Company Finder tool.

* All information is correct as of February 2013

■ Acronyms explained

ACS Approved Contractor Scheme

A quality scheme administered by the SIA, which aims to denote quality security companies that have achieved certain quality criteria.

The objective of the SIA's Approved Contractor scheme is to raise performance standards and to assist the private security industry in developing new opportunities. The scheme is voluntary and was developed in consultation with representatives from across the industry; it only covers those parts of the industry that are regulated by the SIA and the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (as amended).

For more information about the ACS and its criteria, [visit this website](#).



BSIA British Security Industry Association

The British Security Industry Association is the trade association for the professional security industry in the UK. Our members are responsible for more than 70% of UK security products and services (by turnover) including the manufacture, distribution and installation of electronic and physical security equipment and the provision of security guarding and consultancy services.

For more information about the BSIA, [visit the Association's website](#).



DBS Disclosure and Barring Service

The new name for the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), which was formed by merging the CRB with the Independent Safeguarding Authority in 2012. The DBS enables organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make safer recruitment decisions by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially that involve children or vulnerable adults.

There are different criteria for DBS checks in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

For more information about the DBS, [visit the organisation's website](#).



SIA Security Industry Authority

The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry. It is an independent body reporting to the Home Secretary, under the terms of the **Private Security Industry Act 2001**. Its mission is to regulate the private security industry effectively; to reduce criminality, raise standards and recognise quality service. The Authority's remit covers the United Kingdom.

For more information about the SIA, [visit the Authority's website](#).

■ Useful links

SIA Future of Regulation Factsheet, [click here](#).

SIA information on regulation and industry change, [click here](#).

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