# Submission on Private Security Industry Regulation Act, 2001 (Act No 56. Of 2001) Draft Amendment to the Private Security Industry Regulations, 2002

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| **For the attention of:** | The Director |
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## Overall comments

Overall, I support these new changes because they will help fix 4 big problems in South Africa’s private security industry:

1. **Armed bodyguards making people feel scared:** Some bodyguards carry military rifles in public places like restaurants, malls, schools, and churches, which makes people feel unsafe.
2. **Bad security companies causing crime:** Some companies:

* Give weapons and ammunition to criminals
* Force businesses to hire them (this is called "extortion")
* Get involved in political and taxi violence and killings

1. **Guards losing or selling guns to criminals:** Security companies report about 5 guns missing every day (police lose 2 guns daily). This happens in two ways:

* **By accident:** Criminals attack guards to steal their guns
* **On purpose:** Guards or companies sell guns and bullets to criminals. Studies show that many gang leaders in Western Cape work with security companies to get ammunition legally

1. **Security companies acting like police without proper training:** Some security companies try to do police work, even though this is illegal and they don't have the right training, equipment, or supervision.

## Detailed comments

In particular I support the following new rules for private security companies and guards:

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| **Theme** | **Summary** | **Clause number** |
| **Guns in public** | Guards must use proper holsters when carrying guns in public | 13A.1.p |
| Limits on what kinds of guns security companies can use (e.g. bodyguards cannot use military rifles) | 13A.10-13 |
| No guns allowed in public places like taxi ranks, malls, churches, restaurants, schools, and hospitals to prevent shootouts | 13A.1.q |
| **Training and fitness** | Guards must successfully complete security training as well as training in how to safely handle a firearm | 13A.1.m |
| Guards must attend:   * hands-on training once every year (paid by company) * a yearly meeting about laws and proper gun use (paid by company) | 13A.8.g,h |
| Guards must:   * not be drunk or on drugs * be mentally stable and the company must be sure the guard will not use the gun illegally | 13A.1.n,o |
| **Safe gun storage** | Guards must return guns and bullets after work | 13A.8.c |
| All guns and bullets must be stored safely as required by law | 13A.20 |
| Guards must take steps to prevent guns from being lost, stolen, or used by others | 13A.21.c |
| **Record-keeping** | Security companies must keep:   * A firearms register of all guns they own * An issuing register recording which guns and ammunition are issued to guards * A discharge register with information for every time a gun is fired, including the date, time, place, and details of damage, injury, or death * An assessment register with all training records | 13A.25.a,b  13A.26  13A.27 |
| **Informing the Authority** | Security companies must tell the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority within:   * 30 days of getting a gun licence * 10 days if a gun causes death, injury, or damage * 14 days if guns are lost, stolen, sold, or destroyed | 13A.7  13A.8.l  13A.15 |

## Requests for more changes

I call for the following additional changes to be made

**Training and fitness:**

* Increase the minimum age for armed guards to 25 years old to protect young people
* Anyone found guilty of drunk driving should never be allowed to work as an armed guard, because this shows they can't be trusted with guns

**Better oversight:**

* Make the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority – the organisation responsible for making sure the private security industry in South Africa follows the law – stronger so they can enforce the law, including new rules
* Require the Authority to report to parliament every six months
* Make the Authority answer to parliament and the Auditor-General

## Conclusion

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts on these new rules. Please tell me when and where public meetings will be held across South Africa.