

State of California ~ Department of Justice

OFFICE of the ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Handgun Safety Certificate Program

Effective January 1, 2003, the Basic Firearms Safety Certificate Program was replaced with the Handgun Safety Certificate Program. These new statutes affect the general public in two principal ways. First, unless exempt, individuals must possess a Handgun Safety Certificate (HSC) prior to purchasing or acquiring a handgun. Second, unless exempt, individuals must perform a safe handling demonstration prior to taking delivery of a handgun from a licensed dealer.

HSCs are acquired by taking and passing a written test on handgun safety, generally at participating firearms dealerships and private firearms training facilities. A [Handgun Safety Certificate Study Guide, pdf](#) to help individuals prepare for the Handgun Safety Certificate Test is available for purchase at firearms dealerships at \$.50 each. There is also a Handgun Safety Certificate Video available for purchase at firearms dealerships or from DOJ Certified Instructors at \$5.00 each.

The handgun safety demonstration protocols and DOJ Certified Instructor standards have been established and implemented by DOJ. An explanation of the handgun safety demonstration can be found starting on page 45 of the [Handgun Safety Certificate Study Guide \(revised January 2012\), pdf](#).

For additional information regarding the Handgun Safety Certificate Program. Please choose from the following:

[Entities Recognized by DOJ as Providing Comparable Handgun Safety Training to Those Entities Specified by Penal Code section 31635, subdivision \(b\)](#)

[Handgun Safety Certificate Forms and Publications](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Entities Recognized by DOJ as Providing Comparable Handgun Safety Training to Those Entities Specified by Penal Code section 31635, subdivision (b)

Penal Code section 31635, subdivision (b) authorizes the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to recognize entities which provide firearms safety training comparable to the entities specified within that subdivision. Individuals possessing a Certificate of Completion from any of the entities so recognized by DOJ may apply for DOJ Certified Instructor certification.

The entities recognized by DOJ as providing firearms safety training comparable to the entities specified by Penal Code section 31635, subdivision (b) are:

2nd Amendment Sports, Bakersfield, (661) 323-4512

Baptist Security Training, Vacaville, www.BaptistSecurityTraining.com

Black Wolf Training, William Heyder, Oceanside, (760) 402-0619

Bullet Recovery Systems, Plymouth, (530) 308-4747

BullsEyeTactical Firearms Training, Castella, (530) 235-0721

California Firearms Safety School, Brisbane & Cotati (415) 816-2786

Center Mass Shooting Range, Vacaville, (707) 386-2689

Defensive Accuracy, Lodi, (408) 687-3791

Dobbs Firearm Training, Suisun City, (888) 486-0250

Double Tap Training, Granada Hills, (818) 363-1777

El Cajon Gun Exchange, El Cajon, (619) 579-5152

Firearms Training Associates, Yorba Linda, (714) 701-9918

Geof Peabody, Placerville, (530) 642-1892

The Grant Boys, Costa Mesa, (949) 645-3400

The Gun School, Danny R. Wells, Tulare, Kings, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, (888) 274-6436

Gun World, Burbank, (818) 238-9071

Gunrunner, Merced, (209) 723-3006

Hammer Stryke Self-Reliance Training, Inc (209) 614-1718, www.hammerstryke.com

Herb Bauer Sporting Goods, Inc., Fresno, (559) 435-8600

Hillside Range (209) 827-0270

HSC Instructor Training Course, William Tidwell, Alameda or Mariposa Counties, (510) 552-4742 or (209) 878-3056

I Can Defend, Peter Schultz, Ramona, (760) 789-0987

Jackson Arms Shooting Range, Edmund Normandy, (415) 207-1760

Martin B. Retting Inc., Alex Reyes, Culver City, (310) 837-2412

Mike Lee Solutions (707) 834-5602, www.mikeleesolutions-web.sharepoint.com

On Target Firearms Instruction, Modesto, (209) 575-2308

Peter Koch Associates, Gary Morgan, Placerville, Sacramento, (530) 642-1400

Peter Koch Associates, Matt Curry, Sonoma County, (707) 544-9600

Peter Koch Associates, Ziyad Showket, Marin County, (415) 457-6900

Powers Security Training, Bakersfield, (661) 871-7273

Premier Tactical Training, Fresno, (559) 779-7742

Pro-Right, Valley Springs, (209) 786-2922

The Range, Grass Valley, (530) 273-4440

Realtime Tactical Solutions (916) 804-2104

Responsible Firearms Education, Mojave, (661) 810-3025

Riverside Magnum Range, Riverside, (909) 731-7031

Safe Gun Handling Course, Mike Green, Elk Grove, (916) 714-4867

Safety Firearm Training, John Holder, Ukiah, (707) 489-3380

Seale Enterprises, Chris Seale, Olivehurst, (530) 632-4101

Shoot Safe Learning, Torrance, (310) 464-0855

Southern Shooting Supply, Tehachapi, (661) 823-1223

Total Commitment Firearms Training (408) 226-9190, www.totalcommitmentfirearmstraining.com

USA Firearms Training, Santee, (619) 919-2652

Valley Gun, Inc., Bakersfield, (661) 352-9468

Westcoast Firearms Training, Eureka, (707) 601-1030