



# MARYLAND STATE POLICE



Maryland Department of State Police / Licensing Division  
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## ADVISORY

LD-HQL-24-001

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### Proof of Training Certificate Required

The Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) Licensing Division is consistently reviewing policy and procedures to enhance our customers' and allied partners' experience with our systems while striving to improve and maintain thorough and efficient investigation and processing of Handgun Qualification License (HQL) applications.

The MDSP Licensing Division has taken notice that Qualified Handgun Instructors (QHI) are not providing a certificate of satisfactory completion to students who complete a required firearms safety training course. This certificate of satisfactory completion is vital to the MDSP Licensing Division in order to confirm that the HQL applicant has successfully completed the required firearms safety training course with an approved QHI. The submission of the certificate of satisfactory completion is required by Public Safety Article §5-117.1(g): An applicant for a handgun qualification license shall submit to the Secretary:

(3)(i) proof of satisfactory completion of:

1. a firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary; or
2. a course of instruction in competency and safety in the handling of firearms prescribed by the Department of Natural Resources under § 10-301.1 of the Natural Resources Article

Effective December 1, 2024, all HQL applicants that are not training exempt, will be required to submit a copy of their certificate of satisfactory completion of a firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary or a course of instruction in competency and safety in the handling of firearms prescribed by the Department of Natural Resources under § 10-301.1 of the Natural Resources Article. HQL applications submitted without the required training certificate will be rejected for failing to provide the minimum requirements for application submission.

The above referenced statutes and can be viewed at the MD General Assembly's website: [MGALEG - Statutes](#)

Additional information can be found on the MDSP Licensing Division website at: [Maryland State Police Licensing Division](#). Specific questions can be emailed to: [msp.hql@maryland.gov](mailto:msp.hql@maryland.gov).

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