

**BSIS Firearms Permit – General Information**  
**July 16, 2018**

**1. What does it mean to “associate” a BSIS firearms permit to a qualifying license?**

It means the bureau has linked in its licensing database the person’s BSIS firearms permit to a qualifying license (i.e. license, certificate or registration) held by the person.

**2. Why does the firearms permit need to be associated to a qualifying license?**

A BSIS Firearms Permit authorizes the holder to legally work with an exposed firearm. However, the person is only permitted to work armed while performing the duties for the license(s) held that the bureau’s records reflect are associated with the firearms permit, and only when the firearms permit and applicable qualifying license are both in current and clear status (e.g., not expired or suspended).

**NOTE:** Working armed in the capacity of a qualifying license or registration NOT associated with the firearms permit is against the law, and may result in the issuance of a \$1,000.00 fine and suspension of the firearms permit.

**3. How do I know what BSIS license type(s) is associated with my BSIS firearms permit?**

Check your firearms permit on the Department of Consumer Affairs’ License Search site: <https://search.dca.ca.gov>. The search results list all qualifying licenses associated with the permit. Additionally, if you received an initial firearms permit or a renewed firearms permit after November 2017, your firearms permit card lists only the qualifying license(s) the bureau’s records reflect as being officially associated with the permit.

Background: Given the prior BSIS Firearms Permit listed all qualifying licenses that potentially could be associated with it, the new assessment requirement for a BSIS security guard registrant seeking to associate a BSIS firearms permit with their registration meant the permit had to be revised to list only the specific associated licenses. No immediate action is required if you hold the older version of the BSIS Firearms Permit. You will receive the new one at the time of renewal or if you submit a request for a replacement firearms permit. The request form can be found on the bureau’s website at [http://www.bsis.ca.gov/forms\\_pubs/index.shtml](http://www.bsis.ca.gov/forms_pubs/index.shtml).

Below is an example of the new BSIS Firearms Permit which reflect the permit being associated with a BSIS security guard registration.

**NEW PERMIT – FRONT SIDE**

**Bureau of Security and Investigative Services**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**dca** P.O. Box 989002  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9002  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 1 (800) 952-5210 [bsis.ca.gov](http://www.bsis.ca.gov)

**PERMIT FOR EXPOSED FIREARM**

Permit No. FQ123456 Expiration 05/31/2020

Permit is valid only when holder is performing the duties of one of the following qualifying license type(s): G

Calibers: .45; 40; 9MM

JOHN DOE  
12345 FIRST ST  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95798-9002

Receipt No. 123456  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW PERMIT – REVERSE SIDE**

INFORMATION ON HOW TO RENEW THIS PERMIT, ADD A CALIBER, OR REPORT A CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS CAN BE FOUND ON THE BUREAU’S WEBSITE AT [BSIS.CA.GOV](http://BSIS.CA.GOV).

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:**  
PERMIT IS VALID ONLY WHEN ALL FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:  
- PERMIT IS **CURRENT** ON BSIS WEBSITE  
- PERMIT HOLDER IS PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF A QUALIFYING LICENSE TYPE LISTED ON THE FRONT  
- HOLDER PROVIDES PROOF OF POSSESSING THE QUALIFYING LICENSE IN **CURRENT** STATUS  
- HOLDER POSSESSES VALID PICTURE IDENTIFICATION  
- HOLDER IS USING A CALIBER OF WEAPON LISTED ON THE FRONT