



Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Chemnitz

INFORMATION SHEET

Weapon dealer's licence –

Examination to verify specialised knowledge

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Note:

This information sheet has been prepared with care. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy and therefore accept no liability associated with the use of this information sheet.
References and links provided do not constitute a recommendation by the chamber.

I. General

Anyone who wishes to trade in firearms or ammunition either commercially or independently as part of a business enterprise requires a licence from the relevant authority.

In the Free State of Saxony, the rural districts and independent cities are responsible for enforcing the Weapons Act as lower-level weaponry authorities. A list of the relevant authorities in Saxony is provided below.

To be granted a weapon dealer's licence, the applicant must fulfil certain requirements. These are:

- Personal reliability
- Personal aptitude
- Specialised knowledge

§ 5 of the Weapons Act (*WaffG*) provides examples as to factors that would deem a person not to have the necessary reliability, and § 6 the necessary personal aptitude.

Candidates will normally have to demonstrate their specialised knowledge by passing an examination (§ 22 para. 1 sentence 1 *WaffG*) before the relevant authority. In the Free State of Saxony, the agency authorised to carry out these examinations is the State Directorate of Saxony (*Landesdirektion Sachsen*). The directors of the examination board have authorised the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (*IHK*) Chemnitz to carry out examinations to verify specialised knowledge for the firearms and ammunition trade on its behalf (§ 3 para. 1 of the Ordinance of the Saxon State Government on the Implementation of the Weapons Act [*DVOWaffG*]).

However, persons who have already been granted a permit to manufacture firearms, or are listed on the trade register as gunsmiths (§ 22 para. 2 *WaffG*) are exempted from the requirement to demonstrate their specialised knowledge (by means of a successfully completed examination).

A weapon dealer's licence can be limited to certain types of firearms and/or ammunition that do and/or do not require a permit. The annex to § 15 para. 2 no. 2 of the General Ordinance on the Weapons Act (*AWaffV*) lists the following types of firearms and ammunition:

1. Firearms and equivalent devices

- 1.1 Rifles and shotguns, including Flobert guns and Zimmerstutzen rifles
- 1.2 Pistols and revolvers for shooting cartridge ammunition; silencers
- 1.3 Guns for firing blanks, irritant firearms and signalling guns pursuant to annex 1 section 1 subsection 1 nos. 2.6 to 2.8 of the Weapons Act
- 1.4 Signalling guns with a blank or cartridge chamber of more than 12.5 mm in diameter
- 1.5 Compressed-air, spring-operated and compressed-gas weapons
- 1.6 Firearms manufactured prior to 1 January 1871
- 1.7 Firearms and equivalent devices which do not fall within the scope of 1.1 to 1.5

2. Ammunition

- 2.1 Ammunition for firing from rifles and shotguns (1.1)
- 2.2 Ammunition for firing from pistols and revolvers (1.2)
- 2.3 Ammunition for firing from guns for firing blanks, irritant firearms and signalling guns (1.3)
- 2.4 Ammunition for firing from signalling guns with a cartridge chamber of more than 12.5 mm in diameter (1.4)
- 2.5 Ammunition for firing from guns manufactured prior to 1 January 1871 and from equivalent devices (1.6 and 1.7)

II. Registering for the examination

You will normally have to apply to take the examination. Your local weaponry authority will send a copy of your application for a weapon dealer's licence to the IHK. The IHK Chemnitz is responsible for approving candidates in the Free State of Saxony. You can also register for the examination by contacting the IHK directly. The relevant application form is provided at www.chemnitz.ihk24.de (OID: 16055).

III. Examination fee

The following fees normally apply for the examination:

1. All firearms, whether subject to permits or not, and the associated ammunition (annex to § 15, para. 2 no. 2 AWaffV) – €300
2. Firearms and ammunition subject to permits pursuant to 1.1 or 1.2 and 2.1 or 2.2 of the annex to § 15, para. 2 no. 2 AWaffV – €200
3. Firearms and ammunition not subject to permits pursuant to 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.3 and 2.4 of the annex to § 15, para. 2 no. 2 AWaffV – €200
4. Firearms and equivalent devices and ammunition that do not fall under points 1 to 3 – €150

Under the terms of the business and examination regulations, the fee for the examination is to be paid before the examination begins. If you miss your examination without being excused, you will still have to pay the fee.

IV. Scope of specialised knowledge

The specialised knowledge verified in the examination, pursuant to § 15 and § 16 AWaffV, comprises:

- the regulations applying to the firearms and ammunition trade, the acquisition and carrying of firearms and the essential aspects of other statutory weapons and proof testing regulations
- the types, design and handling of firearms in common use, if a licence application has been submitted for trading with firearms
- the handling of the ammunition in common use and its manner of use in the appurtenant firearms, if a licence application has been submitted for trading with ammunition
- In the examination, the applicant is to provide evidence of an adequate knowledge of all types of firearms and ammunition, if a comprehensive weapon dealer's licence has been applied for. If a trading licence application for only certain types of weapons or ammunition specified in annex I section I subsections 1 and 3 of the Weapons Act has been applied for, the scope of the examination will cover this only.

The examination board comprises a chairperson and two assessors. The examination is held in private and comprises theoretical and practical components. It is an oral examination and will last between 30 and 60 minutes.

You will be told the result of your examination immediately, and if you pass, you will be awarded your certificate on the same day. The licensing authority will be informed of the result in writing and will also receive a copy of your certificate.

V. Preparing for the examination

Careful preparation for the examination is recommended, but the scope of the preparations required will depend on your own level of knowledge. There is no obligation to attend a preparatory training course;

however, the IHK can provide a list of the training courses available on request.

The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (*DIHK*) provides a brochure to help candidates prepare for the examination. This brochure entitled “**Guide to weapons trading – questions and answers for the specialist knowledge examination**” (*Leitfaden Waffenhandel – Fragen und Antworten für die Fachkundeprüfung*) is available in German only, and can be purchased through the IHK. The sales price is €16.50 including VAT, plus €1.45 shipping costs.

It contains an overview of the possible scope and level of difficulty of the examination. However, the information is provided solely as guidance

to help candidates answer the questions asked as part of the examination. Whether the questions listed in the brochure will actually be asked during the examination is at the board's discretion. The list of questions is non-binding.

Legal basis:

- §§ 21 and 22 of the Weapons Act (*WaffG*)
- §§ 15 and 16 of the General Ordinance on the Weapons Act (*AWaffV*); annex to § 15 para. 2 no. 2 (Types of weapons and ammunition)
- Ordinance of the Saxon State Government on the Implementation of the Weapons Act (*DVOWaffG*)
- Business and examination regulations of the *Landesdirektion Sachsen*
- General Administrative Regulation for the Weapons Act (*WaffVwV*) of 5 March 2012

Authorities responsible for enforcing weapons law

I. Chemnitz administrative district (*Regierungsbezirk Chemnitz*):

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|---|---|
| Erzgebirge district Erzgebirge district office (<i>Landratsamt</i> <i>Erzgebirgskreis</i>) Steinweg 4 | Tel.: +49 3733 831-5172 Fax: +49 3733 831-5105 |
| District of Central Saxony (<i>Landkreis Mittelsachsen</i>) District Office of Central Saxony | Tel.: +49 3731 799-3652 Fax: +49 3731 799-3688 |
| District of Vogtland (<i>Landkreis Vogtlandkreis</i>) Vogtland district office (<i>Landratsamt</i>) | Tel.: +49 3741 392 -0 Fax: +49 3741 13066 |
| District of Zwickau (<i>Landkreis Zwickau</i>) Zwickau district office (<i>Landratsamt Zwickau</i>) Office of public order (<i>Ordnungsamt</i>) Police | Tel.: +49 375 4402-24111 Fax: +49 375 4402-24109 |
| Independent city of Chemnitz Community centre (<i>Bürgerhaus</i>) Am Wall Düsseldorf Platz 1 | Tel.: +49 371 488-3201 Fax: +49 371 488-3299 |

II. Dresden administrative district (*Regierungsbezirk Dresden*)

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|---|---|
| State capital Dresden Theaterstraße 13 01067 Dresden | Tel.: +49 351 4885934 Fax: +49 351 4885923 |
| Bautzen district (<i>Landkreis Bautzen</i>) Macherstraße 55 01917 Kamenz | Tel.: +49 3591 525132114 Fax: +49 3591 525131100 |
| District office of the Saxon Swiss Osterzgebirge (<i>Landratsamt</i>) | Tel.: +49 3501 5154210/-4212 |

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| Schloßhof 2/4 01796 Pirna | Fax: +49 3501 5151199 |
| Meißen district (<i>Landkreis Meißen</i>) Teichertring 8 01662 Meißen | Tel.: +49 3521 7251448 Fax: +49 3521 7251400 |
| Görlitz district (<i>Landkreis Görlitz</i>) Area formally known as the Löbau-Zittau district (<i>Landkreis Löbau-Zittau</i>), City of Görlitz Görlitz district (<i>Landkreis Görlitz</i>) Office of public order (<i>Ordnungsamt</i>) Hochwaldstraße 29 02763 Zittau Area formally known as the Lower Silesian Oberlaus district | Tel.: +49 3583 722545 Fax: +49 3583 54032545 Tel.: +49 3588 285653 Fax: +49 3588 285665 |

III. Leipzig administrative district (*Regierungsbezirk Leipzig*)

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| City of Leipzig Office of public order (<i>Ordnungsamt</i>) Safety authority | Tel.: 0341 1238959 Fax: 0341 1238955 Email: ordnungsamt@leipzig.de |
| District of North Saxony (<i>Landkreis Nordsachsen</i>) Department of public order (<i>Ordnungsdezernat</i>) Department of general and special public order law (<i>Sachgebiet Allgemeines und besonderes Ordnungsrecht</i>) Südring 17, 04860 Torgau Richard- Wagner- Straße 7a, 04509 Delitzsch | Telephone + 49 3421 758- 5383 or +49 3421 758- 5384 Fax +49 3421 758 -85 5383 or +49 3421 758- 85 5384 Tel.: +49 34202 988-5334 or +49 34202 988-5335 Fax: +49 34202 988-5310 or +49 34202 988-5311 |
| Leipzig district (<i>Landkreis Leipzig</i>) Office of public order (<i>Ordnungsamt</i>) | Tel.: +49 03437 98417-21 or +49 3437 98417-20 Fax +49 3437 9849917-21 or +49 3437 984 9917-20 |