



Health and Safety Bulletin No. 23

Attempted use of falsified licences

Date: 13 October 2025

Background

WorkSafe Dangerous Goods Safety has identified attempts to use falsified shotfiring licences and high risk work licences (HRWL) to gain employment in other states.

A shotfiring licence is required to use blasting explosives and is issued under the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007. Stringent training and security requirements must be satisfied to obtain a shotfiring licence.

Holders of a relevant explosives licence (for example, explosives storage licence) or test permit may authorise designated individuals to have unsupervised access to their explosives. The licence holder must ensure the individual has a security clearance and is suitably trained to handle any explosive they will have unsupervised access to. It is important licence holders take appropriate measures to verify the validity of explosives licences, including shotfiring licences, claimed to be held by an individual.

An HRWL is required when carrying out certain high risk work including operating cranes, boilers, forklifts, hoists, reach stackers, reciprocating steam engines, rigging, scaffolding and turbines. An HRWL is issued under the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022. Specific training must be completed and competency demonstrated to obtain an HRWL.

A person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must not direct or allow a worker to carry out high risk work for which an HRWL is required unless the PCBU sees written evidence that the worker has the relevant HRWL.

Detection of a false licence

Detecting a false licence requires attention to detail and may be difficult for those who are unfamiliar with the appearance of a valid licence. The following issues may be indication of a false licence and should prompt further enquiries with the issuing authority:

- written information on the card appears in a different font to other card details, especially the candidate's name
- the card appears to show both crisp and blurry information, for example blurry text with a clear photo
- the font type is different on the front and back of the card
- the front and back of the card show notably different amounts of 'wear and tear'
- the card shows evidence of being scanned and modified
- associated document(s) purporting to demonstrate the units of training, competency, qualifications, etc. obtained by a candidate appears, or is found to be, falsified.

Assessment of licences, certificates and other records

Relevant licence holders and PCBUs should ensure they carefully assess the validity of licences, qualifications, supporting documentation and training competency certificates submitted by individuals in relation to legislated requirements. Licence documents should not be relied on as a form of identification. PBCUs should ensure they assess an individual's primary identification against their licence documents.

It is common practice to require certified copies of licences, and training and competency documents and certificates. It is common for documents to be certified by a person who is authorised as a witness for statutory declarations under Schedule 2 of the *Oaths, Affidavits and Statutory Declarations Act 2005*.

A certified copy only indicates the certifier has seen the purported qualification, not that they have verified its authenticity. For this reason, a certified copy might not expose fraud.

To check the validity of a dangerous goods licence, email dangerousgoods@lgirs.wa.gov.au with the licence number, full legal name and date of birth of the licence holder.

You can verify a HRWL by entering the licence number in the [Online Licence Search](#).

Recommendations

WorkSafe recommends:

- assessing exposure to the possibility of fraudulent qualifications or supporting documents
- developing a system of work for checking documents submitted, particularly during the recruitment process before workers are employed, including requesting and checking original documents rather than photocopies or scans, and utilising the online tools to verify qualifications.

References and further information

Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

WorkSafe

- [Health and Safety Bulletin No. 5: Fraudulent qualifications in the WA mining industry](#)

Department of Justice

- [Information Fact Sheet 3: Certifying copies of documents](#)