

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HQL AND THE MD CARRY?

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HQL (Handgun Qualification License)- is the license needed in Maryland if you want to **buy, sell or take possession** of a handgun. *** IF YOU ALREADY POSSESS A MD WEAR AND CARRY LICENSE - *YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE FINGERPRINTED* FOR HQL, BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO APPLY WITH MSP.**

Exceptions to possession of the HQL License:

- A Licensed Firearms Manufacturer.
- Active law enforcement officer or a person retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States (Federal Law Enforcement), the State, or a local law enforcement agency of the State. (MD LEO only)
- Active or retired member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard and possesses a valid military identification card. (Dealer selling weapon will do this on the MSP site w a 77R form)
- A person purchasing, renting or receiving an antique, curio or relic as defined in federal law.
- Maryland licensed firearms dealers. (Sole Proprietors)

Required to have the HQL, but exempt from the training component:

- Someone who completed a firearms safety-training course approved by the Secretary of the Department of Maryland State Police.
- Has completed a course of instruction in the competency and safety of firearms as prescribed under Natural Resources Article, §10-301.1, Annotated Code of Maryland
- Is currently a qualified handgun instructor.
- Is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States or National Guard. (has a DD214)
- Is an employee of an armored car company who has a handgun permit issued by MSP.
- Lawfully owns a regulated firearm, you do not have to complete the training to apply.

MD CARRY/CCW (The Maryland Wear and Carry) - is the HGP license needed to **WEAR AND CONCEAL CARRY** a handgun in Maryland. ***IF YOU ALREADY HAVE THE HQL- *YOU STILL NEED TO BE FINGERPRINTED* AND APPLY FOR THE MD CARRY WITH MSP. YOU *CANNOT* USE THE FINGERPRINT TRACKING NUMBER FOR BOTH MSP APPLICATIONS.**

Who needs to take the training?-Every original application and renewal application submitted after October 1, 2013, unless exempt.

Exempted from training:

- You are an **active** law enforcement officer with a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State or any local law enforcement agency in the State.
 - You are a **retired** law enforcement officer with a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State or any local law enforcement agency in the State.
 - You are an **active, retired, or honorably discharged member** of the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard.
 - You are a **Qualified Handgun Instructor** registered with the Maryland State Police.
 - You have successfully completed a firearms training course given by a **Qualified Handgun Instructor**. (The on-line firearm safety course is no longer accepted).
- *IF YOU ARE A VETERAN WITH A DD214, YOU DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ANY HQL/CARRY TRAINING CLASSES- BUT YOU NEED TO APPLY WITH MSP AND GET FINGERPRINTED. *THESE ARE TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE MSP APPLICATIONS***

If you want to apply for **both** MSP (HQL and Carry) licenses at the same time, you *must* have separate fingerprinting and tracking numbers. The HQL and Carry are different fingerprint codes and two separate applications, the TCN/PCN number for one *cannot* be used for the other. Please make sure you are doing the correct MSP application for your fingerprinting.