

LEOSA (Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act) Handgun Qualification Procedures for the Seattle Police Department Firearms Training Center

What is LEOSA qualification?

As per the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 and RCW 36.28A.090 the following information is provided for your understanding as of June 10, 2010. The LEOSA qualification is an annual process allowing eligible retired “law enforcement officers” to participate in a handgun qualification to carry a handgun in any of the States legally. This act also allows retired ‘law enforcement officers” to legally carry a qualified handgun across state boundaries. Please be aware that the LEOSA qualification is not valid for air or some other modes of travel. Specific firearms rules pertaining to that travel will be spelled out by the carrier or agency governing the activity. It is better to plan ahead and ask rather than just showing up and being embarrassed or inconvenienced. It is the bearer’s responsibility to know the firearms carry laws and restrictions beforehand. Keep in mind that LEOSA

Do I meet the criteria to participate in a LEOSA qualification?

In order to be “a **qualified retired law enforcement officer**” (RLEO) under the LEOSA, a person must meet the following criteria:

1. Be retired in good standing from service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer for reasons other than mental instability;
2. Prior to retirement, was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law;
3. Prior to retirement, had the statutory powers of arrest;
4. Prior to retirement, was either
 - (1) regularly employed as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 15 years or more; or
 - (2) retired from service after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by the agency;
5. Has a non-forfeitable right to benefits under the retirement plan of the agency;
6. Not be prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms;
7. **Be carrying identification that meets specified criteria (see below).**
8. If you are a retired “Law Enforcement Officer” (LEO) working under a “special” or “extended authority” commission from your department for police related duties such as security or traffic control etc., you are not required to shoot a LEOSA qual. Your annual duty qualification that your agency has you shoot satisfies the requirement under LEOSA as an active duty Law Enforcement Officer (LEO).

What identification do I need to have in order to qualify under LEOSA?

In order to qualify as “identification” under the LEOSA, a credential that is carried by a *retired* law enforcement officer must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A photographic identification issued by the agency from which the law enforcement officer retired that indicates the retired law enforcement officer has, not less recently than one year prior, been tested or otherwise found by the agency to meet the standards established by the agency for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry a firearm; OR

2. A photographic identification issued by the agency from which the law enforcement officer retired, indicating that they are a “Retired Law Enforcement Officer”;

AND

A “certification issued by the State in which the individual resides that indicates that the individual has, not less than one year [prior] . . . been tested or otherwise found by the State to meet the standards established by the State for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.”

Who do I contact at the Seattle Police Department to start the qualification process?

“Retired Law Enforcement Officers” by definition may contact the **Seattle Police Department Human Resources Unit at (206)684-5464**. Please inform the staff member answering the phone that you are calling about the processing for the “**Retired Law Enforcement Officer-LEOSA handgun qualifications.**”

The Human Resources representative will review with you all information or questions not answered in this information sheet. LEOSA qualifications **require at least a 7 day pre-registration** through the Human Resources office in order to participate due to the limited number of spots available each month. It is a good idea to book your spot early each year.

What are the costs involved?

Retired Law Enforcement Officers (RLEO) will be required to pay a fee for their LEOSA qualification as determined by the Seattle Police Department and the RCW. Currently the fee schedule set by state law is equal to that paid for a concealed weapons permit. A SPD Human Resources representative will direct how payment for your qualification can be made.

Additionally RLEO’s will be required to provide their own “factory loaded” ammunition subject to inspection and approval by range staff prior to the qualification. **Ammunition, firearms or holsters found not to conform to established safe range standards will not be allowed on the ranges for qualification use.** The RLEO will need to make arrangements to return to the afternoon shoot should they fail their initial shoot if there are available spots or the following month if they shoot in the afternoon. In addition range staff will also inspect handguns and holsters making sure they are safe and operational for use on Seattle Police Department ranges. It is recommended

RLEO's carry compatible ammunition to that used by Seattle Police personnel for on-duty use once they have successfully qualified and have left the range (listed below).

When and where are the LEOSA Qualifications held?

The LEOSA handgun qualifications will be held monthly (see Special Qualification schedule below) during our Special Handgun Qualification shoots at the Seattle Police Department Firearms Training Center located at 11030 East Marginal Way S. located in Tukwila, Washington (directions and map attached below). Two qualification lines of 6-9 retired officers will be held on the Special Qualification days. The first line will be at 1000 hours and the second line will be held at 1400 hours. If you are in doubt of your ability to pass the qualification on the first attempt it is advisable to qualify on 1000hrs. line so that you can possibly shoot on the second line at 1400hrs space permitting.

LEOSA Qualification Schedule (2010)

Month	Date	Times	Month	Date	Times
June	16	1000 & 1400	December	8	1000 & 1400
July	14	1000 & 1400			
August	11	1000 & 1400			
September	22	1000 & 1400			
October	6	1000 & 1400			
November	3	1000 & 1400			

What are the firing stages and times for the LEOSA qualification?

SEQUENCE	DISTANCE	DESCRIPTION	SHOTS	TIME
1	3 Yards	Draw and fire 4rds. (2 Body, 2 Head). Un-timed reload.	4	7 seconds
2	5 Yards	Draw and fire 3rds using strong-hand only. Un-timed reload.	3	5 seconds
3	5 Yards	From a Ready position, fire 3rds using support-hand only. Un-timed reload.	3	7 seconds
4	7 Yards	From a Ready position, fire 5rds. Un-timed reload.	5	9 seconds
5	10 Yards	From a Ready position, fire 5rds. Un-timed reload.	5	12 seconds
6	15 Yards	From a Ready position, fire 5rds. Un-timed reload.	5	12 seconds

Total shots	25
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What type of holster do I need for the LEOSA qualification?

Any belt or waist band holster that is worn on the strong handed side of the RLEO.

Retention straps, snaps, or locks are not a requirement for RLEO's for the qualification. **Ankle, shoulder, fanny pack, and cross-draw holsters are not permitted for the qualification.** RLEO's coming to the range with a holster not conforming to range standards for LEOSA qualifications as determined by the range master or his designee will not be granted access to the ranges for qualifications.

The LEOSA qualification does not restrict the use of the RLEO's personal choice or type of holster once they have successfully qualified and left the range.

Clothing pockets are not acceptable at anytime on the ranges.

Is there specific ammunition needed for qualification?

Yes, as stated above RLEO's will be required to provide their own "factory loaded" ammunition subject to inspection and approval by range staff prior to the qualification. Most common acceptable law enforcement rounds and calibers will be allowed for qualification on Seattle Police Department ranges. The most common calibers for law enforcement are .380, 9mm, .38S&W, 357MAG, .40 S&W, and .45ACP. Calibers outside of these will require approval from the range master or their designee. Explosive, armor piercing, tracer, and any other such non-standard law enforcement ammunition is prohibited on all Seattle Police ranges and as such will not be allowed for LEOSA qualifications.

What do I do if I fail my qualification?

You will be granted **two attempts** to pass your LEOSA qualification per fee paid. You should plan on shooting your qualification early (1000hrs) this will possibly allow for a second qualification if needed at the 1400 hours line if there is room, otherwise you will have to return the following month. This will require notification to SPD Human Resources for line reservation for the following month. If you fail a second time you will not be allowed to qualify until the following month after you have made arrangements with SPD Human Resources and paid the qualification fee for another two attempts.

IMPORTANT: If at any time a line officer deems you to be unsafe in your ability to handle a firearm you will be pulled from the firing line and directed to the Range Master or a designee for a safety consultation. You may be asked to leave SPD property and not return. Documentation of this fact will be produced by the line officer and reviewed by the Range Master and forwarded to Human Resources for permanent ineligibility to qualify for LEOSA at SPD facilities based on the specific documentation.

Does my LEOSA qualification allow me to carry any gun and can I qualify with more than one gun?

The law at this point is vague as to whether your successful LEOSA qualification extends to other handguns you may own. When you come to the range to qualify the particulars of the handgun you shoot at the time will be entered into the record and forwarded to Human Resources. Using any other handgun may violate the terms of your LEOSA qualification.

You may only qualify with **one** gun annually at the Seattle Police Department. Due to the fact that we are only offering limited spots for retired officers to qualify.

After I complete my qualification how long is it good for and what documents do I need for proof?

LEOSA qualifications are good for **12 months** from the date of qualification. After successfully completing your qualification you will get a document listing your successful completion of the qualification and the particulars of the firearm used. There will also be information listing the certifying officer and agency information. Should you be stopped and challenged by any authority as to the veracity of your LEOSA right to carry you should present the provided document and direct inquiries to the Seattle Police Department Human Resources Unit for validity and verification of current status.

The Seattle Police Department assumes no responsibility or liability on your behalf for not knowing or following firearms laws and regulations or grants any law enforcement authority as a result of your LEOSA qualification at the SPD firearms range.

What ammunition is recommended for normal carry in my handgun?

Any top quality personal protection ammunition manufactured by a brand name mainstream manufacturer is recommended. Currently the Seattle Police Department authorizes Speer Gold Dot Duty Ammunition in the following calibers and weights.

38 SP+ P 125 Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point
.357 Speer Gold Dot 125 Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point
9 mm Speer Gold Dot 124+P Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point
9 mm Speer Gold Dot 148 Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point
.40 Cal, Speer Gold Dot 180 Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point
.357 Cal Speer Gold Dot 125 Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point
.45 ACP Speer Gold Dot 230 Gr., Gold Dot Hollow Point

The above ammunition information is for reference purposes only.

Any questions not answered?

Please contact the Seattle Police Department Human Resources representative at (206)684-5464 or the Seattle Police Department Firearms Training Unit at 206-684-7474. Thank you.

Directions

Coming from the South:

Head north on I-5

Slight **right** at **WA-599 N** (signs for **Tukwila/W Marginal Way**)

Take the **Tukwila International Blvd N** exit

Merge onto **Tukwila International Blvd**

Turn **right** at **S 112th St**

Take the 1st **left** onto **E Marginal Way S**

Go about 200ft.

Look for the Seattle Police Athletic Association Firing Range sign on the right.

Coming from the North:

Take exit **158** for **Boeing Access Rd** toward **E Marginal Way**

Turn **right** at **S Boeing Access Rd**

Turn **left** at **E Marginal Way S**

Head south .3 mi on E. Marginal Way S.

Look for the Seattle Police Athletic Association Firing Range sign on the left.