

Props Department Firearms Qualifications For Permittee / Membership Status

Please circle one

Firearms Department members work within the Props Department and provide guidance and supervision in the handling of firearms and firearms-related props. Under direction of the Propmaster and Firearms Safety Coordinator, members work directly with cast and crew and are expected to provide a positive role. Model of firearms safety.

General Qualifications

In order to be successful in the Firearms Department, we suggest you possess one or more of the following qualifications. Please check off each qualification and provide details as required.

- Two years experience in a motion picture, television or theatre props department
- Two years experience in the handling of firearms in an instructional capacity
- Equivalent education, experience or special skills

The applicant must also possess all of the following: (Attach proof)

- Completion of a Set Etiquette course (Contact Film Training Manitoba at 989-9669 for dates)
- Current WHMIS instruction/ training (Contact Film Training Manitoba at 989-9669 for dates)
- Completion of the CFSC Firearms Safety Course
- Completion of the CRFSC Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course
- Valid Firearms Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) for non-restricted and restricted firearms- if applying to the Firearms Department as **Weapons Handler**

OR:

- Must be eligible to apply for a Firearms Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) – if applying to the Firearms Department as Props Crew

Training

To apply as a permittee, all applicants must have completed both the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC)

To upgrade within the department, members must have completed the IATSE “Firearms Safety” online training course (available free to members through IATSE Training Trust Fund.)

Permittee Status

To apply for permittee status in the Firearms Department, the applicant must meet the General Qualifications, plus one of the following:

- A letter of recommendation from an IATSE Local 856 Propmaster
- A letter of recommendation from an IATSE Local 856 Weapons Handler
- A letter of recommendation from an IATSE Local 856 Firearms Safety Coordinator

Permittees may apply to enter as either **Weapons Handler** or **Props Crew**. Permittees without a valid PAL enter as Props Crew and work under direct supervision of a Weapons Handler or Firearms Safety Coordinator. Permittees with a valid PAL for non-restricted and restricted firearms enter as Weapons Handler and work under direct or indirect supervision of a Firearms Safety Coordinator.

Membership

In order to be considered for membership, the applicant must work a minimum of 60 days as a permittee in the Firearms Department under a Local 856 Agreement and meet all general Qualifications. As a requirement for membership, the applicant must have worked on two IATSE Local 856 productions, and supply 2 letters of reference from 2 different IATSE Local 856 Propmasters or Firearm Safety Coordinators.

Upgrades within the Firearms Department

To upgrade within the Firearms Department from Props Crew to Firearms Handler, the applicant must be a full member and meet the General Qualifications, plus all of the following:

- A valid firearms Possession and Acquisition License for restricted firearms
- Completion of the "Firearms Safety" online training course from IATSE Training Trust Fund
- Completion of a practical Firearms Safety in Film Production course (FTM Firearms Safety in Film Production, Three-day Firearms Safety for Actors) or equivalent.

To upgrade within the Firearms Department from Firearms Handler to Firearms Safety Coordinator, the applicant must be a full member, plus meet all the following required qualifications:

- 60 days experience as a Firearms Handler
- A valid firearms Possession and Acquisition License for restricted firearms
- A letter of recommendation from an IATSE 856 Firearms Safety Coordinator
- A letter of recommendation from an IATSE 856 Propmaster
- At least two years experience in handling real firearms
- At least two years experience in an instructional or teaching capacity
- Completion of the IATSE "Firearms Safety" online training course from the IATSE Training Trust Fund
- Proof of assisting in teaching a practical Firearms Safety in Film Production course

Membership Positions

Props Crew

Props Crew within the Firearms Department assist in the handling of firearms under the direct supervision of licensed Firearms Handlers or a Firearms Safety Coordinator. They may assist in the supervision, safety checking, and maintenance of firearms or the loading of magazines on large productions that require multiple assistants on set. In addition, they should be prepared to conduct safety briefings for actors and to assist the Props Department in the handling of replica firearms when needed.

Firearms Handler

Firearms Handlers work under the direction of a Firearms Safety Coordinator. They must possess a valid Firearms License and must be able to safely handle firearms on film sets without direct supervision. They must possess a high regard for safety and the ability to make others feel comfortable. Firearms Handlers must be familiar with firearms regulations and must be prepared to comply with legal and safety requirements, even when pressured to deviate from them for production reasons.

Firearms Safety Coordinator

The Firearms Safety Coordinator is in overall charge of firearms handling on and off the film set. They will directly or indirectly supervise others in the handling of firearms and will be training and briefing actors and other Firearms Department members in the safe and authentic handling of firearms. They must possess a high regard for safety and the ability to make others feel comfortable. The Firearms Safety Coordinator must be totally familiar with all firearms regulations and must be prepared to comply with all legal requirements. They must be prepared to treat safety as a priority over anything else, even at the expense of their position.

