



LICENCE TO SELL SUPPLY, POSSESS OR ADMINISTER AN S4 OR S8 DRUG

Prescription drugs for the purpose of this Section are Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 poisons. Possession of these drugs without authority is an offence for which the penalty is a fine up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for 2 years. Normally these drugs are only supplied or administered as prescribed by a medical practitioner, dentist or veterinary surgeon.

Schedule 4 poisons have the words **PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE** or **PRESCRIPTION ANIMAL REMEDY** at the top of the label. Schedule 8 poisons have the words **CONTROLLED DRUG** at the top of the label. These drugs are sold by pharmacists or veterinary surgeons, however, medical practitioners may sell them where it is part of the ordinary course of their profession (eg a medical practitioner in a remote area where there is no pharmacist). Licences are not issued for other retailers to sell these poisons.

Special regulations apply to the sale and storage of Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 poisons.

Section 31 of the Act prohibits any person possessing a drug of dependence (Schedule 8 poison) or any equipment for preparing or administering a drug of dependence unless licensed by SA Health.

The licensing requirement does not apply to a registered medical practitioner, a registered dentist, a registered veterinary surgeon, a registered pharmacist on premises registered under the *Health Practitioner National Law (South Australia) Act 2010*, or a nurse acting in the ordinary course of their profession, or to a person for whom the drug or equipment has lawfully been prescribed or supplied.

Before issuing a licence SA Health may make any enquiries necessary to establish the bona fides of the applicant(s) and to ascertain if they are fit to hold a licence.

Licence types:

Imprest: An "imprest system" means the method by which medicines are supplied from the pharmacy department of a hospital, or by an authorised seller of poisons, to a licensed health service or the wards, theatres, departments or clinics thereof, either in containers of the original manufacturer, or repacked containers in order to establish and maintain a stock of medicines at a pre-determined level for use in such places. Imprest licences will only be granted to facilities where patients stay for greater than one day of treatment and include conditions stipulating services to be provided by a pharmacist.

Emergency stock: Facilities which hold an emergency stock of medicines require a licence to possess and administer or possess a Prescription Drug and/or Controlled Drug. Such licences do not require the services of a pharmacist as stipulated on an imprest licence.

Supply of medicines: Facilities which hold an imprest or emergency stock of medicines and are required to supply medicines not dispensed by a pharmacist require a licence to possess, supply and administer a Prescription Drug and/or Controlled Drug. Applicants must specify the circumstances and controls relevant to such supply.

Please include the following with your application:

(except those applicants incorporated under the Health Care Act 2008)

- A copy of the current certificate(s) of registration of your company and/or trading names including the names and addresses of the company directors; **OR**

- The names of the persons running the business where there is no company name but there is a trading name, and a copy of the current certificate(s) of registration of trading names; **OR**
- The names of the persons running the business where there is no company name or trading name.

Term of Licence and Expiry Date

Applicants have the option of applying and paying for a licence that will expire either 1 year or 3 years from the date of issue. The licence will therefore expire on the day before the 1 or 3 year anniversary of the date of issue. Thereafter, if renewed, the licensee will have the option of renewing the licence for a 1 year or 3 year period.

Licence Fees: 1/7/2025 to 30/6/2026

Current fees for a Licence to Possess a Schedule 4 or Schedule 8 Drug for Administration are noted below:

Licence term	1 year	3 years
Fee (\$) for Schedule 4 Medicines	120.00	360.00
Fee (\$) for Schedule 8 Medicines	120.00	360.00
Fee (\$) for both Schedule 4 and 8 Medicines	163.00	489.00

Licence Conditions

After assessing an application SA Health may issue the licence subject to such conditions as it considers are appropriate to the situation for which it will apply. Conditions on licences may include but are not limited to:

- specifying who may have access to the poisons;
- storage;
- administering the drugs; and
- security

(CSA 18, 31, 55; PO18, 21, 22, 36, 44)

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