

**ASIS International**  
**Position Paper on State Laws Permitting Guns on Workplace Premises**

Oklahoma has enacted, and other states are considering, laws that limit the right of employers to keep guns off their property. Specifically, these laws prohibit employers from establishing, maintaining or enforcing any policy or rule that prohibits a person who is not a convicted felon from transporting or storing a concealed handgun in a locked vehicle in any parking lot, parking garage, or other assigned parking area. These laws have the active support of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

ASIS International, the largest association of security professionals in the world, is opposed to such laws. Even beyond the right of property owners to decide whether weapons may be brought onto their premises, ASIS believes that employers have a right—in fact an obligation—to provide for a safe and secure workplace. They are required to do so by federal law.

Beyond bedrock issues of property and employer rights, workplace violence is a major concern for every security professional. In fact, surveys repeatedly show that workplace violence is their number one concern. Allowing employees and visitors to bring loaded, concealed weapons through security and up to the door of an office building or plant is a recipe for disaster. Guards finding such weapons as part of a search for entry to a facility would be required to let them and the bearer into the facility's parking areas.

It is bad enough that an aggrieved employee or visitor—whether a customer, supplier, deliverer, or the relative or acquaintance of an employee—could not be challenged until taking the weapon out of the vehicle. In the wake of an altercation inside a workplace, a person bent on revenge would not even have to leave the premises to access a firearm; it would be waiting in the car. There would be no “cooling off” period and little chance for the employer to call for help from security personnel or law enforcement.

This also is a Homeland Security issue. Laws allowing employees and visitors to bring weapons onto a site—including nuclear and chemical plants, refineries, power stations, transportation facilities and the like—are completely counter to the critical infrastructure protection efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement and corporate security. They offer potential terrorists the means to bring their tools right to the target.

ASIS is not an organization of anti-gun activists. Its members are responsible for protection of life and property in workplaces across America. Most have served in law enforcement or the military services and likely are supporters of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. But they understand better than anyone what an ill-advised policy it is that allows the bringing of weapons onto workplace premises. ASIS will work to encourage the Chief Security Officers of America's corporations to organize and speak out in opposition to these laws, and to urge states to reject them.

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