

# FIREARMS REGISTRY



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## INFORMATION ON OBTAINING A FIREARMS LICENCE IN NSW

It is an offence in NSW for a person to possess or use a firearm without the authority of a licence or permit.

This fact sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a firearms licence in NSW.

### How do I apply for a firearms licence?

You can apply for a firearms licence online via the [NSW Police Force Community Portal](#).

To complete your online licence application, you will need:

- \* A MyServiceNSW Account
- \* Proof of identity documents (e.g. Driver licence and Medicare card)
- \* One of the following:
  - \* A firearms safety training certificate, or
  - \* Your previously held firearms licence number, or
  - \* Your current interstate firearms licence number
- \* Supporting documents for your Genuine Reason
- \* If you are applying for a firearms licence over and above a category A firearms licence, you will need to provide evidence of a 'special need'. Select a reason from the options provided which most closely describes your special need to possess or use the selected firearm category
- \* A current credit card (Visa or Mastercard) for payment, if applicable

### Genuine Reason

To make an application for a firearms licence you must be able to prove a genuine reason for possessing and using a firearm.

Note: Personal protection or the protection of another person does not constitute a genuine reason for possession and use of a firearm. Additionally, the protection of property does not constitute a genuine reason for possession and use of a firearm, other than for the genuine reason of Business Security Industry.

### What are the genuine reasons for obtaining a firearms licence?

There are eight genuine reasons for obtaining a firearms licence:

**Sport/Target Shooting** - target shooting activities as a club member on an approved target shooting range.

**Recreational Hunting/Vermin Control** - hunting and vermin control on rural land where the person is the owner/occupier or has permission to shoot from an owner/occupier or a government agency.

**Primary Production** - the business of Primary Production.

**Vertebrate Pest Animal Control** - Contract shooters or officers of prescribed government agencies needing to suppress vertebrate pest animals or primary producers participating in an authorised eradication campaign.

**Business or Employment** - Security business, security guards, commercial fisherman, or other businesses who can demonstrate a genuine need for a firearms licence.

#### Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the Firearms Act 1996 and the associated Regulation, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

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**Rural Occupation** - a person employed or engaged in a rural occupation and who requires the use of firearms.

**Animal Welfare** - RSPCA or Animal Welfare League employees, veterinary practitioners, employees of the Department of Lands or Local Land Services, or an owner, transporter, drover or other handler of animals which require the use of firearms.

**Firearms Collection** - a person who is a member of an approved collectors' society or collectors' club wishing to collect firearms. The firearms must have a genuine historic, thematic, financial or commemorative value.

### Is there a restriction on the category of licence for which I can apply?

Any person wishing to make application for a licence over and above a category A firearms licence must provide evidence of a special need. Select a reason from the options provided in the online form which most closely describes your special need to possess or use the selected firearm category.

### Firearms Safety Training

With your online application you must provide one of the following:

- \* Details of your previously held NSW firearms licence under the *Firearms Act 1996* (the Act) for the same category of licence for which you are now applying, or
- \* Details of your currently issued interstate firearms licence for the same category of licence for which you are now applying, or
- \* Upload a copy of the certificate you obtained when you successfully completed the firearms safety training course

For training providers contact:

- \* Firearms Safety Training Council - Phone: 02 9486 3077, or
- \* Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) - Phone: 1300 746 683, or
- \* Department of Primary Industries Game Licensing Unit - Phone: 02 63913750, or
- \* Your nearest firearms club

### How long does it take to issue my licence?

There is a legislated mandatory 28 day waiting period on all new applications; however, some applications may take longer to process. The Firearms Registry fully reviews all new licence applicants to ensure they satisfy their licensing requirement. This may take some time as public safety is the Firearms Registry's priority.

Make sure that all the requested information is attached to your application, as incomplete applications will delay the application process.

### How much will my firearms licence cost?

◆ A personal firearms licence is issued for 2 or 5 years.

- \* 2 year licence = \$100
- \* 5 year licence = \$200

◆ Probationary Pistol Licence = \$100 for one year

◆ Provisional Pistol (Business/Employment) Licence = \$250 for one year

Payment is made by credit card at the time of completing your online application.

## Fee Exemptions

Fee exemptions will be automatically applied during the online application process to:

- \* Primary producers with the sole genuine reason of primary production
- \* Pensioners applying for a Category A, B or H firearms licence who hold a Centrelink pension concession card, Disability Support Pension card, or a Department of Veterans' Affairs card (including concession and health care cards)

Documents supporting your claim to a primary producer or pensioner fee exemption must be attached to your online application.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, please refer to the '[Fee Schedule](#)' on the Firearms Registry website.

## Licence Holder Obligations and Responsibilities

All firearms licence holders must comply with the general legislative requirements of the Act and the *Firearms Regulation 2017* (the Regulation).

In addition to these general legislative requirements, there are specific legislative requirements applicable to each licence category and genuine reason.

All applicants and licence holders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with both the general legislative requirements and the specific authority and conditions applicable to the genuine reason and category of the firearms licence concerned.

A copy of the general legislative requirements applicable to all licence holders can be viewed on the [Legislative Requirements and Authority and Conditions](#) page of the Firearms Registry website. For information specific to your genuine reason, see the Act and the Regulation.

## Safe Keeping and Storage of Firearms

All persons who possess a firearm in NSW must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that a firearm in their possession is kept safe, is not lost or stolen, and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person—section 39 of the Act.

In addition to this general requirement for the safe keeping of firearms, there are specific requirements for the safe keeping, storage and transportation of firearms. This includes new requirements introduced in 2017.

The safe keeping and storage requirements for each type and category of licence are found on the [Safe Storage](#) page on our website.

## What would prevent me from being issued a firearms licence in NSW?

There are certain requirements to be met if you wish to hold a firearms licence in NSW. You must:

- \* Be a NSW resident (or about to become a NSW resident)
- \* Be 18 years of age or over
- \* Complete a firearms safety training course for longarms or handguns
- \* Confirm that you are able to meet the safe storage requirements for the category of licence concerned
- \* Be a fit and proper person and be able to be trusted with possession of firearms without presenting a danger to public safety

## Personal History Checks

Personal history checks are conducted on all applicants to ensure that provisions within the legislation, including provisions with respect to public safety, are met.

Certain criminal history may prevent a person from obtaining a firearms licence in NSW. A licence cannot be issued if a person (in NSW or elsewhere):

- \* Is subject to an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) or makes application for a firearms licence within a 10 year period from the expiry of an AVO (unless the AVO has been revoked)
- \* Is subject to an Injunction Order issued by the Family Law Court
- \* Is subject to an Interim Apprehended Violence Order
- \* Is subject to a Provisional Apprehended Violence Order
- \* Is subject to a good behaviour bond for a prescribed offence
- \* Is subject to a firearms or weapons prohibition order
- \* Is a registrable person or corresponding registrable person under the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*
- \* Has been convicted within the last 10 years of an offence prescribed by the regulations

A prescribed offence is a conviction for offences involving firearms or weapons, prohibited drugs/plants, fraud/dishonesty/stealing, prescribed restricted substances, terrorism, violence, public order, assaults against law enforcement officers, robbery, organised criminal groups and recruitment, riot, affray or an offence of a sexual nature.

## Is there an exemption to the requirement to obtain a firearms licence to authorise the possession and use of firearms?

**Yes.** There is an exemption to the requirement to hold a firearms licence to possess and use firearms which applies to police, prison officers and members of the armed forces while acting in the ordinary course of their duties. There is also an exemption which applies to people using an approved shooting range but only while under the direct supervision of an appropriately licensed person and only after completing the required documentation.

## Related Information

See fact sheets:

- ['Licence category & genuine reason table'](#)
- ['Licence Categories and Firearm Types'](#)
- ['Fee Schedule'](#)

See the [Safe Storage](#) page on our website for safe storage requirements.