



NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au

FIREARMS REGISTRY

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 request forms to apply for a firearms licence from the homepage of our website. Simply fill in the online form, including the categories and genuine reason you wish to apply for and submit it by using the email button on the form. You will receive pre-printed application forms in the mail within 10 days. You may also request application forms by phoning our Customer Service line - 1300 362 562.

When you receive the pre-printed application forms in the mail, fill in the sections and send them back with any supporting documents for processing.

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.

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, Owner, transporter, drover or other handler of animals which require the use of firearms.

Firearms Collection - a person who is a club member wishing to collect firearms or 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 **special need**. The special need for a Category B, C, D or H licence is established by the applicant providing evidence that a special need exists and giving reasons why the special need cannot be met by a smaller category of firearm or by any other means.

Each licence application includes a genuine reason form which has provision for completion of a special need.

Firearms Safety Training

Prior to applying for a firearms licence you will need to complete an approved firearms licence safety training course. Training providers are as follows:

For Longarms: The Firearms Safety Training Council - Phone: 02 9486 3077,
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia - Phone: 1300 746 683,
Department of Primary Industries, Game Licensing Unit - Phone: 02 63913750,
Your nearest firearms club.

For Pistols: You must complete the safety training for pistols. Courses are run by approved firearms clubs for club members. For assistance on courses run by other providers, call the Firearms Registry - 1300 362 562.

How long does it take to issue my licence?

A new licence application has a **mandatory waiting period of 28 days from the date of receipt** before the licence can be issued. Make sure that all the requested information is included in 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.

Pensioners and Primary Producers are exempt from fees for certain licences.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, see the 'Schedule of Fees' (found on our Website).

[Where do I pay?](#)

Fees for most licences are paid at the RMS when your photo licence is produced.

[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 is subject to an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO), or for 10 years from the expiry of the AVO (unless the AVO has been revoked).
- * If a person is subject to a good behaviour bond for a prescribed offence.
- * If a person is subject to a firearms or weapons prohibition order.
- * A person 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, violence, offences of sexual nature or involving fraud, dishonesty, stealing, robbery or offences relating to terrorism.

[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 paperwork.

[Related Information](#)

See FACT Sheets:

'Licence category & genuine reason table',

'Instructions for completing an Application for a Personal Firearms Licence',

'Firearms (Longarms) User Guide - Rights, Wrongs and Responsibilities',

'Firearm Types',

'Schedule of Fees',

See the Safe Storage page on our website.

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 *Firearms Regulation 2006*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

Firearms Registry

Address

Locked Bag 1
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Telephone

1300362562

Interstate

02 66708590

Fax

02 66708558

Email

firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au

Website

www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms



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