



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.

There are exceptions to the requirement to hold a licence for possession and use of a firearm for police, prison officers and members of the armed forces, while acting in the ordinary course of their duties and range users while under direct supervision on an approved range.

However, individuals requiring possession and use of a firearm for personal or business use must make application for a firearms licence.

What general restrictions apply to obtain 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** (see FACT sheet for minors)
- * **Complete a firearms safety and training course** relative to the licence category concerned.
- * 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.

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

All persons making application for a firearms licence must be able to **prove a genuine reason** (see over) for possessing and using a firearm. In addition, if you are applying for anything over and above a Category A licence, you must also provide evidence of **special need** (see over).

A licence can only be issued **28 days after receipt** of the application at the Firearms Registry. Incomplete applications will delay the application process.

No fee is payable until your licence is issued and you attend the RTA for your photo licence.

What other restrictions apply to obtaining a firearms licence in NSW?

Certain criminal history may prevent a person from obtaining a firearms licence in NSW. You will be required to answer questions on your personal history on the licence application form. It is an offence to supply false or misleading information.

A licence cannot be issued if:

- * A person is subject to an **Apprehended Violence Order (AVO)**, or for **10 years** from the expiry of an AVO.
- * 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 for 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.

How do I make application for a firearms licence?

To make application for a firearms licence in NSW you will need to call the Firearms Registry on 1300362562.

Your name, address and date of birth details will be taken over the phone including your genuine reason for obtaining a firearms licence and the categories of licence for which you wish to make application. Our Call Centre operators will answer any questions you may have in relation to your application, genuine reasons or special need.

Please make sure when giving your details that you supply your **full legal name**, not your nickname or preferred name. Also, be quite specific with your name and address details spelling out any words where necessary.

Your application will then be printed and posted to you with other relevant information.

You will need to complete firearms safety training relevant to the category of licence for which you are applying. See FACT sheets for each genuine reason for details.

When received, your application will be reviewed and you will be informed of the outcome, usually within 6-8 weeks.

What are the genuine reasons for obtaining a firearms licence?

There are eight genuine reasons for having a firearms licence.

Sport/Target Shooting - Club membership to participate in target shooting competitions and activities.
Recreational Hunting/Vermin Control - Club membership; Owner Occupier of rural land; permission to shoot from owner/occupier or government agency on rural land, including the Game Council of NSW.

Primary Production - Either the owner, lessee or manager of land used for the business of Primary Production.

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

Business or Employment - Security Business/employees; commercial fisherman; other business licences.

Rural Occupation - a person employed in a rural occupation.

Animal Welfare - RSPCA or Animal Welfare League employees; Veterinary Practitioners; employees of the Department of Lands or Livestock Health and Pest Authorities; Owner, transporter, drover or other handler of animals.

Firearms Collection - a person who is a club member wishing to collect firearms of a genuine historic, thematic, financial or commemorative value.

NOTE:

Personal protection or the protection of another person does not constitute a genuine reason for possession and use of a firearm.

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.

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

Any person wishing to make application for a licence over and above a Category A licence must also produce evidence of **special need**.

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 licence or by any other means

Each genuine reason form has provision for completion of special need.

How much will my firearms licence cost?

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

A 2 year licence = \$100

A 5 year licence = \$200

Probationary Pistol Licence = \$100 for one year.

Composite licence - the higher fee applies.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, see the Schedule of Fees.

Concessions:

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

Our call centre operators can advise on these fee exemptions when you make application.

Where do I pay?

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

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

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.



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