



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

NSW Firearms Registry

Permits to Acquire a Firearm – How they work

All transactions involving the acquisition and disposal of firearms are conducted by a licensed firearms dealer and require a 'Permit to Acquire'.

Before you can purchase a firearm, you must hold a licence or permit authorising possession of that type of firearm. You may then make application to the NSW Firearms Registry for a 'Permit to Acquire' (PTA) for that type of firearm.

If approved, the PTA will be issued to you and must be presented to the firearms dealer when purchasing the intended firearm. It should be noted that a PTA is valid for 90 days only.

The firearms dealer identifies the firearm, completes the necessary paperwork and forwards this information to the Firearms Registry. The Firearms Registry will then issue a registration certificate to you as proof of registration.

It is your responsibility as the holder of a firearms licence or permit to ensure that all the firearms you own are registered to you, unless they are exempt from the registration requirements as prescribed by the legislation¹.

Depending on the circumstances of the sale, the following steps apply.

Purchasing Privately

Both the seller and the buyer must attend a licensed firearms dealer for the transaction to be completed.

The dealer will require:

- The firearm being acquired,
- The registration certificate for the firearm to be provided by the seller,
- The issued PTA for purchase of the firearm to be provided by the purchaser,
- The firearms licence or permit of both the seller and the buyer.

The registration certificate identifies the firearm and the owner. On the back of the certificate is a disposal advice. The disposal advice is completed by the seller upon sale.

The PTA provided by the purchaser is completed by the firearms dealer. On completion, the firearms dealer returns the top half of the PTA to the purchaser as an Interim Registration Certificate, which is valid for 60 days from date of purchase. *Please keep it safe until your registration certificate is received.*

The purchaser then takes possession of the firearm.

The firearms dealer sends the bottom half of the PTA to the Firearms Registry for processing. Upon receipt of the paperwork at the Firearms Registry a registration certificate will be issued to you within 28 days. Your registration certificate identifies the firearm, provides proof of registration and is required if you sell the firearm.

You must keep your registration certificates in a safe place. Not only do they identify the firearm, they identify you as the owner of the firearm and must be produced upon sale.

¹ See section 6A of the *Firearms Act 1996* for exemptions to registration requirements for antique firearms. See section 4D of the *Firearms Act 1996* for exemptions to registration requirements for imitation firearms.

Purchasing from a Dealer

If you are buying a firearm from a licensed firearms dealer, the dealer will require you to attend with:

- Your issued firearms licence or permit authorising you to possess a firearm of the type being purchased, and
- The issued PTA for a firearm of the type being purchased.

The dealer will complete the disposal details for the firearm they are selling and complete the Notice of Purchase on the bottom half of the PTA. The firearms dealer will then forward all the paperwork to the Firearms Registry.

The top section of the PTA will be given to you as an interim registration certificate. This is valid for 60 days from the date of purchase. *Please keep it safe until your registration certificate is received.*

Upon receipt of the paperwork at the Firearms Registry a registration certificate will be issued to you within 28 days. Your registration certificate identifies the firearm, provides proof of registration and is required if you sell the firearm.

You must keep your registration certificates in a safe place. Not only do they identify the firearm, they identify you as the owner of the firearm and must be produced upon sale.

Purchasing a Firearm from Interstate

If you are buying a firearm from interstate, you must arrange for the firearm to be delivered by an interstate firearms dealer to a firearms dealer in NSW. You must then attend the NSW firearms dealer for the transaction to be completed.

The dealer will require you to attend with:

- Your issued firearms licence or permit authorising you to possess a firearm of the type being purchased, and
- The issued PTA for a firearm of the type being purchased.

The dealer will complete the disposal details for the firearm they are selling and complete the Notice of Purchase on the bottom half of the PTA. The firearms dealer will then forward all the paperwork to the Firearms Registry.

The top section of the PTA will be given to you as an interim registration certificate. This is valid for 60 days from the date of purchase. *Please keep it safe until your registration certificate is received.*

Upon receipt of the paperwork at the Firearms Registry a registration certificate will be issued to you within 28 days. Your registration certificate identifies the firearm, provides proof of registration and is required if you sell the firearm.

You must keep you registration certificates in a safe place. Not only do they identify the firearm, they identify you as the owner of the firearm and must be produced upon sale.

Further Information

The validity of a firearms licence or permit to acquire can be checked using the 'Register of Firearms Licences and Permits to Acquire' which is available on the Home Page of the Firearms Registry Internet Site. This facility may be used by the general public, or by the firearms dealer to verify your licence and permit status.

If you have not received the registration certificate six weeks after the purchase of your firearm, contact the Firearms Registry Customer Service line on 1300 362 562 or email: dealers@police.nsw.gov.au

For further information or assistance with the purchase of your firearm please call the Firearms Registry Customer Service line on 1300 362 562 or email: dealers@police.nsw.gov.au