



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

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Laser Pointers

P 638

Any person wishing to possess & use a laser pointer of over 1 milliwatt must be authorised to possess the laser pointer by a prohibited weapon permit, unless they are provided an exemption under clause 10 to Schedule 1 of the Weapons Prohibition Regulation 2009.

This FACT sheet provides information on obtaining a prohibited weapon permit for a laser pointer.

What is the definition of a laser pointer?

A laser pointer means a hand-held battery-operated device, designed or adapted to emit a laser beam, that may be used for the purposes of aiming, targeting or pointing.

If the laser pointer is over 1 milliwatt, it is classified as a prohibited weapon by virtue of clause 4(8) to Schedule 1 of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998.

Am I allowed to own a laser pointer under 1 milliwatt?

You may own a laser pointer of 1 milliwatt or less, but it is an offence in NSW to carry or use the laser pointer in a public place without a reasonable excuse.

What is reasonable excuse?

A reasonable excuse would be an amateur astronomer, teacher, lecturer or builder who has the laser pointer in their possession at a time and place related to that purpose (ie lawful pursuit of that occupation).

What about a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt?

If you wish to possess and use a laser pointer over one milliwatt, you must obtain a prohibited weapon permit from the NSW Firearms Registry, unless you are exempt.

Who is exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit?

A member of an astronomical organisation approved by the Commissioner of Police for use of a laser pointer for activities associated with astronomy. A member means a person who is currently a member and has been a member for 3 months or more,
OR

A person who holds a licence or permit under the Firearms Act 1996, for use of a laser pointer in connection with a firearm to which the licence or permit applies.

What astronomical organisations are approved by the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of this exemption?

The following astronomical societies, clubs or associations are approved by the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of an exemption to obtain a permit:

- * All clubs, societies and associations listed with the Astronomical Society of Australia;
- * The Astronomical Society of NSW;
- * Any astronomical club, society or association linked to a recognised Observatory such as the Sydney Observatory or Parkes Observatory;

- * University astronomical clubs and lecturers associated with those clubs;
- * Any other astronomical club, society or association approved by the Commissioner of Police (see approved list on Firearms Registry Internet site).

Who should apply for a permit?

Any person who wishes to possess and use a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt and is not exempt.

What is the term of the permit?

The permit will be issued for a maximum term of 5 years.

How much will the Laser Pointer Permit cost?

The prescribed fee for this permit is \$127. Payment must accompany your application.

What safe storage applies to this permit?

Level 1 safe storage. See 'Safe Storage Prohibited Weapons Levels 1, 2 & 3' available on the Safe Storage page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

How do I apply for a permit for a laser pointer?

Contact the NSW Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562 to request a P638 'Application for a Prohibited Weapon Permit' form.

What about employees/other persons?

Persons to be listed and authorised by this permit (in addition to the permit holder) must complete an 'Application for a person to be authorised on a Prohibited Weapon Permit' P639 form. There is a \$25 fee for each additional person listed on the permit.

- * A separate P639 form must be completed by each employee; and
- * Complete Section E of the P639 form to establish proof of employment status; and
- * If the persons to be listed on this permit do not hold a current firearms licence or permit, proof of identity totalling 100 points must be provided.

What do I need to send with the application?

- * You must provide as part of this application a passport style colour photo of yourself endorsed on the back with 'This is a true photo of (name)' and signed by a JP or police officer.
- * In addition, you must provide as part of this application documentation totalling 100 points for proof of identity (see *100 point identification fact sheet*).
- * Completed P638 Prohibited Weapons Schedule, and
- * Provide evidence of your genuine reason to obtain a laser pointer permit eg business or employment, and
- * Describe the activities for which you require to use the laser pointer, and
- * Specify safe keeping location and the storage facilities for the laser pointer.

Any person in possession of a laser pointer must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that it is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

How do I complete the application form?

Section A - Applicant Details

The 'Last Name' & 'Given names' box should show your full legal name. This should be the name on your birth certificate, marriage certificate, change of name certificate or passport. Complete your DOB, drivers licence, contact details including mobile phone number and email address.

List any other names by which you have been known and supply details.

Section B - Residential Address

Insert your full residential address here.

Section C - Postal Address

If your postal address is the same as your residential address mark the box with an 'X', otherwise, insert your postal address here.

Section D - Business, Club, Government Agency Details

Complete Business, Club or Government Agency name, trading name, business address, phone numbers and postal address, if applicable.

Section E - Permit Type

Place an 'X' in the box Other.

Section F - Safekeeping Address of Weapons

This section should be completed providing the address at which the prohibited weapons will be stored and details of the arrangements for the safekeeping and storage. (attach a separate sheet if there is insufficient space).

Section G - Personal History

Please answer all questions by marking the appropriate 'Yes' or 'No' box. If you responded 'Yes' to any of the questions, please provide an attachment with details.

Section H - Declaration

The application form must be signed and dated by the applicant in the presence of a witness. The witness must be 18 years of age or over.

By signing the declaration you are confirming that:

- * You understand and can comply with the requirements of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 and associated Regulation, and
- * That you understand that is a serious offence to supply information that is false or misleading, and
- * All the information provided on the application is true and correct, and
- * You agree to the NSW Police Force making enquiries to establish that the information you have supplied in relation to the application is true and correct.

Section I - Credit Card Authority

If you wish to pay by credit card, indicate whether Mastercard or Visa, fill out cardholder details in full, sign and date. Otherwise include a cheque or money order for \$127.00 with your application.

DO NOT SEND CASH

Checklist

- Completed P638 application form
- Completed P638 Schedule
- Passport sized colour photo
- Proof of ID (if applicable)
- Storage facilities & location
- Reasons for obtaining the permit. Employment, occupation, activities etc
- Send payment with the application

If applicable:

- If applicable, P639 form & \$25 payment with the application for each additional person to be listed on the permit.

Firearms Registry

Address

Locked Bag 1
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Telephone

1300362562

Interstate

02 66708590

Fax

02 66708558

Email

permits@police.nsw.gov.au
OR
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 *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* and the *Weapons Prohibition Regulation 2009*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.



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

