

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Safe Storage RSL & Museums - Premises & Display

Prohibited Firearms & Prohibited Weapons

All persons owning firearms or weapons in NSW must comply with the safe storage requirements as outlined in the Firearms Act 1996, the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998, the associated Regulations and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements, as provided by the legislation and as approved by the Commissioner of Police for premises and safes for RSL & Museum permit holders..

There are general requirements for the safe keeping of firearms & weapons. What are these requirements?

All persons who are authorised by a licence or permit to possess firearms & weapons in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe keeping of the firearms or weapons - Section 39 or the *Firearms Act 1996* & Section 26 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*. Any person possessing a firearm or weapon must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm/weapon is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

What are the requirements for the premises of an RSL or museum?

Prior to the issue of a permit, the Commissioner of Police must be satisfied that premises are suitable for this type of business. To be considered suitable, the premises would need to be a permanent structure with secure locks on all openings.

When approving premises, consideration is given to the nature of activities, the location of the business, the types of firearms or weapons to which the permit relates, whether adequate provisions have been made for the safe storage of firearms/weapons by means of a safe, strongroom or otherwise and the security of the premises against unauthorised entry.

The Commissioner has determined the following as applicable to RSL or museum premises:

- * The permit holder may only operate from the premises specified on the permit, unless otherwise approved.
- * All external walls of the premises must be of solid construction consisting of concrete, brick or steel.
- * All perimeter doors must be of solid construction (ie solid core doors), securely hinged in stout framework and fitted with mortiselocks or deadlocks.
- * The framework of the doorways must be hardwood or steel.
- * All perimeter windows and roof skylights must be fitted with either external or internal security grills.

What about the alarm system?

Premises must be fitted with an intruder alarm system installed incorporating the following:

- * No less that three (3) internal movement/motion detectors, and
- * The entire premises must be monitored and have separate multiple prorammmable zones, and
- * Single zone triggers, and
- * Separate external and internal sirens of not less than 100dcb and external strobe security light, and
- * Entry keypad with inbuilt duress code and panic buttons, and
- * Any remote controls must also have panic buttons, and
- * The control panel box must have back up battery power, and
- * The entire alarm system must have back up battery power, and
- * All doors and windows must have perimeter switches, and
- * A line cut system or similar which arms the system in the phone line is cut, and
- * All components fitted with anti-tamper switches, and
- * An Event Log with a minimum of 20 event capacity, and
- * Off-site 24 hour monitoring.

What requirements must be met for displayed firearms/weapons?

Firearms or weapons on display must be secured in such manner as would reasonably prevent their removal other than by the permit holder or an authorised employee.

No firearms or weapons can be displayed unless reasonable precautions have been taken to secure the firearms or weapons and prevent them from being lost, stolen or coming into the possession of an unauthorised person.

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as reasonable precautions for display: Display Case - Any display case or cabinet should be:

- * Of solid construction, and
- * All glass panelling must be a minimum grade of 6.38mm and be laminated, and
- * When mounted onto brick, stone or concrete it should be attached by at least four (4) masonry anchors 90mm in length and 10mm in diameter, and
- * When mounted onto main wall studs or wall bearers, it should be fitted flush against the wall and secured to the wall studs or wall bearers by four (4) galvanized hexagon head coach screws not less than 65mm in length and 8mm in diameter, and

Display Case cont....

- * The display case must be fitted with a metal lock which is either an internal locking mechanism operated by means of a key or combination lock or other similar locking mechanism (pin number etc), or
- * Locked by the use of a hasp and staple (or similar) and fitted with a padlock.

Display racks - any rack used for display of firearms or prohibited weapons should be of solid construction - made of either metal or timber.

Firearms or weapons displayed within the rack must be secured to prevent removal by:

- * Plastic coated flexible steel cable no less than 4mm passing through the trigger guard or weapon and secured to the wall; or
- * Chain of equivalent strength passing through the weapon and secured to the wall; or
- * A solid metal bar of not less than 10mm in diameter, or metal sash not less than 3mm thickness and 2cm wide expanding across the length of the cabinet and secured to the wall/cabinet at either end by way of a padlock or similar; or
- * Other approved means.

When the display rack is mounted onto brick, stone or concrete, it should be attached by at least four (4) masonry anchors 90mm in length and 10mm in diameter.

When the display rack is mounted onto timber or gyprock, it should be fitted flush against the wall and secured to the wall studs and floor bearers by four (4) galvanized hexagon head coach screws, not less than 65mm in length and 8mm in diameter.

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.

When can police inspect firearms & weapons safe keeping & storage?

At application, re-application at a mutually agreed time.

Section 14 (2)(b) of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* provides for inspection of the storage and safe keeping arrangements of prohibited weapons at a mutually agreeable time.

Clause 11 (2) of the *Weapons Prohibition Regulation* provides for inspection by police of weapons at the storage site.

Section 19 (2)(c) of the *Firearms Act 1996* provides for inspection by police of the storage and safe keeping facilities at a mutually agreeable time.

Section 59 of the *Firearms Act 1996* & Section 27 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* provide for 'On the spot' inspections of firearms/ weapons by police. Any person carrying or possessing a firearm must produce the firearm and any licence or permit on demand by a police officer.

Is there a fee for inspection?

Yes - A prescribed fee of \$100 is payable, upon request, to police conducting an inspection on the premises or the storage and safe keeping facilities for prohibited weapons.

Related Information

See FACT Sheet: 'Safe Storage Prohibited Weapons - Dealer and Theatrical Armourer - Premises and Safes' for information on safes and strongrooms, if applicable.

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