



NSW Police Force
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FIREARMS REGISTRY

Government Agency Employees

This FACT sheet provides information for government agencies and their employees on obtaining a firearms licence.

What is a government agency?

A Government Agency is defined in clause 3 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006* as:

A **government department or public authority** that holds a licence or permit, or in respect of which a licence or permit is held, authorising the possession of firearms by the department or authority.

A **public authority** is a person or body executing a function in the public interest and for the public benefit.

Government Agencies include:

Councils, Taronga Park and Western Plains Zoos, Department of Primary Industries, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES), Forests NSW in addition to the prescribed government agencies as listed.

Prescribed Government Agencies for the purposes of the genuine reason of Vertebrate Pest Animal Control are defined in clause 32 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006* as:

- * Department of Primary Industries
- * Department of Environment and Climate Change
- * Livestock Health and Pest Authorities
- * Wild Dog Destruction Board

What are the licensing requirements for the government agency and their employees?

The Agency holds the business licence and may acquire firearms on that licence for use by appropriately licensed employees. The business licence allows for possession only of firearms.

All firearms acquired on the business licence are stored by the agency.

Employees wishing to possess and use firearms for work related activities must make application for an individual firearms licence for employment purposes. Employees with the appropriate licence are then authorised to possess & use firearms from the employers store for work purposes.

Firearms may only be acquired on the individual licence where written agreement from the employer is obtained for the employees firearms to be used in connection with employment activities.

How does the employee apply for a licence?

If the Government Agency requires employees of the agency to possess and use firearms owned by the individual or the Agency in relation to their employment, the following provisions exist as prescribed by clause 26 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006*:

Employees of the government agency may make application for an individual firearms licence on the P561 form 'Application for a Personal Firearms Licence' for the following genuine reasons:

- * P668 Business Other - category A, B & H.
- * P664 VPAC Government Agency (for prescribed government agencies only) - category A, B, C, D only.
- * P670 Animal Welfare - RSPCA or AWL category A & B only.
- * P672 Animal Welfare - category A & B only.

Employees are entitled to use the employer's firearms corresponding to the authority of the individual licence held, but must return the firearms at the end of their period of duty unless they meet the provisions of clause 26 (3) or (4) - see retention of firearms & Off Duty Permit overleaf.

Firearms may only be acquired on an individual licence where the employer has provided written agreement that the employees firearms may be used in connection with employment activities.

Can I use my own firearms at work?

Yes. Where you have an individual firearms licence for employment purposes AND where your employer has an internal policy allowing the use of firearms registered to your licence for work related activities. You must have a written agreement from your employer to use your firearms and a copy of this written agreement should be forwarded to the Firearms Registry. If there is no written agreement provided to the Firearms Registry, a special condition will be placed on your licence for this genuine reason preventing the acquisition of firearms on your licence for this genuine reason.

Firearms attached to any other genuine reason on your licence cannot be used for employment related activities.

It is an offence under section 7 & 7A of the *Firearms Act 1996* to possess and use a firearm other than in connection with the genuine reason for possessing and using the firearm.

What if an employee is not able to return firearms at the end of the day?

Clause 26 (3) allows for retention of firearms where an employee has been on duty at a location that is not their ordinary place of work AND it is not reasonably practical due to distance, or for reasons of public safety, to return the firearms to the employers store AND it was not practical to obtain an Off Duty Permit due to the unexpected nature of the travel or duty.

How does an employee apply for an Off Duty Permit?

There is provision for an employee to retain firearms between periods of duty by means of an Off Duty Permit.

The employee must satisfy the Commissioner that it is not practical, in their particular circumstances, to return the firearm to the employers store AND that they can comply with the safe storage provisions of Part 4 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

Examples of where it may not be practical to return firearms to the employers store are: On-going remote location work, distance to storage facilities and end of duty location, etc.

Firearms must be transported directly to and from the safe storage location to the work location.

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

Concessions:

There are no fee exemptions for this type of licence.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, see the Schedule of Fees available on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

Where do I pay?

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

Related Information

See FACT Sheets:

'Information on obtaining a Firearms Licence in NSW',
'Safe Storage Level 1 - Category A & B Requirements',
'Safe Storage Level 2 - Category C, D & H Requirements',
'Transportation of Firearms',
'Ammunition Safe Storage, Purchase and Possession'.

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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