



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

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Security Industry Genuine Reason - Security Business

P 666

All persons wishing to obtain a firearms licence in NSW must have a genuine reason for obtaining the licence.

The genuine reason P666 'Business or Employment Security Industry' form and the P559 'Application for a Business, Club or Government Agency' form provide for application by a security business.

This FACT sheet provides information on obtaining a firearms licence for the genuine reason of Business/ Employment - Security Business.

What are the requirements to acquire firearms for my security business?

To operate as a security firm in NSW you must first hold a 'Master Licence' issued under the provisions of the *Security Industry Act 1997*.

If you require firearms to be used in connection with your security firm it is necessary for you to make application for a business firearms licence and provide sufficient information to allow the Commissioner of Police to be satisfied that a genuine reason exists for the possession and use of firearms.

NOTE: Firearms instruction and training of security guards is defined under Section 4 of the *Security Industry Act 1997* as a 'security activity'. Instructors must hold either a master licence or be employed by a master licence holder to carry on this activity.

Consequently, it is a requirement for any person conducting a business in security firearms training to apply for a category H Business licence under the criteria applied to all other security firms and become subject to the safe storage requirements of security firms.

What requirements must be met for this Genuine Reason?

Guidelines have been developed and are available to provide you with direction in obtaining and presenting the information necessary to assist the Commissioner to form an opinion that a genuine reason exists and the number of firearms your business actually requires.

The information sought by the Commissioner is intended to provide sufficient evidence to clearly support the valid use of firearms for the security activities to be carried out.

A 'Genuine Reason' information package for either working and/or training firearms is available on the Firearms Registry internet site or on request from the Firearms Registry.

What categories of licence can I have for this Genuine Reason?

Categories A (shotgun only) & H only (excludes prohibited pistols).

What should I be aware of once I have obtained my security business firearms licence?

As the employer, you must ensure that your armed employee holds the class of licence for the activity performed. Armed security operatives are required to hold a 1F licence under the *Security Industry Act 1997* and a firearms licence under the *Firearms Act 1996*.

A 1F licence authorises your employee to perform either Cash in Transit activities, Non Cash in Transit activities or both activities on an Unrestricted 1F licence. Before you permit your employee to perform any armed duties you should confirm which activities they are authorised to perform from the Security Industry Registry Website within the 'Public Register'.

A licence holder is not authorised to enter into any contract or arrangement with another person to carry on armed security activities unless the other person is the holder of a master licence as required by the *Security Industry Act 1997*.

The firearms possessed by your security firm must not be loaned to another security firm even if this firm holds a Business Firearms Licence.

Only the number of firearms prescribed by the Commissioner may be stored at the business premises and used by armed security guards.

The firearms may be signed in and out by the licence holder of the business, a security guard who holds the relevant category H licence and is employed by your firm, or by a person nominated by the licence holder who holds a Commissioners Permit for this purpose.

You must notify the Firearms Registry, within 7 days, if any armed security guard employed by you ceases that employment.

You must ensure that firearms are inspected every 3 months and serviced at least once a year. Firearms inspection can be performed by a Firearms Dealer, a Club Armourer, experienced firearms licence holder or a police officer by prior arrangement.

Firearms servicing is performed by a licensed Firearms Dealer.

You must ensure that each security guard employed by you completes their annual firearms safety training course and report to the Commissioner on those completing and those failing to complete the course.

If it has been determined by a Risk Assessment that armed covert security activities are to be performed, you will need to seek approval to undertake this activity. An application package for Armed Covert Exemption is available, on request, from the Security Firearms Adjudication Unit of the Firearms Registry.

All firearms authorised to a master licensee under the *Firearms Act 1996* must, on request by the Commissioner, be submitted for ballistics testing. NOTE: If any tested firearms have been modified in a manner that would change the characteristics of the firing mechanism, the Commissioner must be notified so that arrangements can be made for further ballistics testing.

What safe storage requirements must be met by the Security Firm?

All firearms must be kept at the place of business as provided by Clause 77 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006*.

Safe keeping requirements for security firms are tiered according to how many firearms the firm is allowed to retain after assessment by the Firearms Registry.

As the number of firearms increase, so does the required level of storage. See FACT sheets 'Safe Storage - Security Business' & the guide 'Approved items for safe keeping for Security Firms' for full details.

Any security firm authorised to possess more than one firearm must store the firearms at non-residential premises.

Does the business need to keep registers?

If you employ security guards or if you are self-employed as a security guard (sole trader) you must keep two registers:

1. A register recording the details of the acquisition, disposal, servicing and inspection of firearms and ammunition (all entries made within 24 hrs); **AND**
2. A register with the names of guards authorised to possess a firearm and periods for which each guard has possession of the firearms.

The registers must be bound, machine numbered consecutively, machine printed heading on each page, entries made in black or blue ink, alterations to be made by strikeout, no less than 100 pages and no pages extracted.

Each register must be kept in a place of safe keeping (separate from firearms safe keeping) and be retained for 3 years after completion.

A PAB29 Register is available from Zions Pty Ltd of Rockdale, NSW. The telephone number is available in the White Pages.

How much will this licence cost?

A firearms licence is issued for 2 or 5 years.

A 2 year licence = \$100

A 5 year licence = \$200

Fee Exemptions: There are no fee exemptions prescribed for this type of licence.

Where do I pay?

Payment must be made at the time of application by cheque, credit card or money order.

Related Information

See the relevant FACT Sheets: Safe Storage for Security Firms, 'Off Duty Possession of Pistol permit', 'Security Firm Employee permit'.

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*, the *Firearms Regulation 2006*, the *Security Industry Act 1997* and the *Security Industry Regulation 2007* which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.



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