



**NSW Police Force**  
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## **GENERAL LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS SHOOTING RANGE APPROVAL**

*Firearms Act 1996 & Firearms Regulation 2017*

### **Legislative Requirements:**

1. The range must be conducted with proper regard to the preservation of public safety and the peace.
2. The approval holder must not:
  - a) operate, or use land as, a shooting range unless it is an approved shooting range, or
  - b) operate an approved shooting range in contravention of any condition to which the approval is subject, or
  - c) alter an approved shooting range without the approval of the Firearms Registry, or
  - d) allow any other person to use a shooting range unless it is an approved shooting range.
3. A person must not use a firearm on a shooting range unless the range is an approved shooting range.
4. A person must not possess or use a firearm on an approved shooting range in contravention of any condition to which the approval is subject.
5. The approval holder must maintain control over the use of the range for the duration of the Approval.
6. All persons using the range must be authorised by a current firearms licence or permit, unless they are provided an exemption under the *Firearms Act 1996*.
7. The range approval holder must ensure that any person using the range under the provisions of clause 28A of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* (Licences and permits extend to authorise sighting in, patterning and related activities) is supervised in accordance with clause 156 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* by a person appointed by the approval holder. In addition, the approval holder must ensure that the name and licence number of the person using the shooting range under the provisions of clause 28A of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* is recorded and make any such record available for inspection by a police officer.
8. The range<sup>1</sup> or a club official<sup>2</sup> must ensure that, in compliance with clause 129(2) of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*, all persons possessing and using firearms at the shooting range under the provisions of section 6B(1)(a) of the *Firearms Act 1996* complete and sign a P650 declaration form.

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<sup>1</sup> Range official means a person authorised by the person nominated on the Range Approval for the purpose of clause 129 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*

<sup>2</sup> Club official means a member of an approved club under Part 9 of the *Firearms Act 1996* who has been authorised for the purpose of clause 129 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* by the secretary or other relevant office holder of the club.

9. The range or club official must prevent a person from possessing and using a firearm on the shooting range if that person answered 'Yes' to any of the personal history questions on the P650 declaration form. Note: A person may complete and sign a new P650 declaration form to replace and correct a form previously completed and signed.<sup>3</sup> In this instance, the answers given on the earlier form are to be ignored for the purposes of determining the person's entitlement to possess or use a firearm after the replacement form is signed.
10. The range or club official must record the name, address, date of birth and photo identification details<sup>4</sup> of each person possessing and using firearms at the shooting range in accordance with section 6B of the *Firearms Act 1996*.
11. The range or club official must make all P650 declaration forms and records made in relation to use of the range by licence or permit holders available for inspection by the Firearms Registry or police upon request.
12. The range or club official must ensure that persons possessing and using a firearm in accordance section 6B of the *Firearms Act 1996* remain under the direct supervision<sup>5</sup> of a person who is authorised by a licence to possess or use a firearm of that kind (including a person holding an equivalent licence issued under the law in force in another State or Territory) and who is approved and nominated by the range or club official.
13. All activities involving the possession and use of firearms must at all times be under the supervision and control of a range officer, firearms instructor or suitably licensed person nominated by the range approval holder.
14. The range or club official must if any incident involving a firearm on the range results in an injury to a person, notify the Commissioner of the details of the incident within 48 hours.

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<sup>3</sup> This is limited to where the lawful capacity of the person to answer 'No' exists however, 'Yes' was erroneously selected.

<sup>4</sup> In the case of a Minor (under 18 years old) the parent or legal guardian must provide their photo identification details and written consent for the minor using firearms on the range. If the unlicensed person is an overseas tourist the record must include details of their passport, the date which the tourist used the range and the name of the person who supervised the overseas tourist at the range.

<sup>5</sup> Section 6B(1A) of the *Firearms Act 1996* states the level of supervision that is required for this purpose is direct supervision so that the person supervising supervises one person only. The licensed supervisor must be present at the firing line at all times while shooting activities are being undertaken and must be able to render immediate assistance if required. The licensed supervisor must personally convey the firearm and any ammunition to be used by the unlicensed person from its place of storage to the firing line and personally return the firearm and ammunition to the place of storage at the conclusion of shooting activities.