

Category A and B requirements Safe Storage Level 1

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FACT SHEET

Any person possessing a firearm in NSW must comply with the safe keeping and storage requirements prescribed by the [Firearms Act 1996](#) (the Act), the associated Regulation, and the Commissioner's requirements.

This factsheet outlines the safe keeping and storage requirements that all category A and B firearm licence and permit holders are obligated to meet. Offences are prescribed within the legislation for failure to meet these requirements and associated penalties may apply.

NOTE: All firearm licence holders must have and maintain a genuine reason for possessing or using the category of firearm for which the licence applies.

Section 39 of the Act requires that any person in possession of a firearm must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm is kept safely, not lost or stolen, and does not come into possession of an unauthorised person.

Safe storage requirements for category A and B firearms

You are obligated to store your category A and B firearms in accordance with the requirements below.

| Item | Legislated and Commissioner's requirements |
|-------------------|---|
| Firearm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stored in a locked safe meeting the requirements below, when not being used or carried |
| Safe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commercially manufactured and made of steel or hardwood designed for securing firearms and not easily penetrable when mounted into brick, stone or concrete — be attached by at least 4 appropriately secured anchor points, internally fitted through holes in the rear and/or base securing it to the floor and/or wall when mounted into main wall studs — be secured to the wall studs and/or floor joists by at least 4 appropriately secured anchor points fixed if weighing less than 150 kilograms when empty |
| Locking mechanism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> solid metal have a 3-point locking system with an internal locking mechanism that secures at various points around the door, or alternative door locking mechanism equivalent to, or exceeding, the 3-point locking mechanism external locks or padlocks to the door have a minimum body width of 40mm and hardened steel shackle |
| Ammunition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stored in a locked metal, or commercially manufactured locked container designed for storing ammunition, and, separate from firearms, or a commercially manufactured firearm safe containing an integral lockable steel compartment within the safe, is approved for storing ammunition. |

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Alternative arrangements for safe storage

Alternative arrangements for storage of firearms are only acceptable if police are satisfied the arrangements exceed the requirements outlined above.

A safe that has previously been the subject of a compliant safe storage inspection conducted by the NSW Police Force, relevant to the class of firearms stored at the time of the inspection, will continue to be accepted as an approved type of safe.

Location requirements for safe storage facilities

Depending on where your safe storage facility is located, you may need to meet additional criteria for safety reasons, in accordance with the associated regulation, and detailed below.

| Safe storage location | Legislated and Commissioner's requirements |
|---|---|
| Principle place of residence while the firearm is stored there | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category A and B requirements outlined above |
| Premises easily observed from an inhabited dwelling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category A and B requirements outlined above |
| (For licenced firearms dealers) the corresponding commercial or business premises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category A and B requirements outlined above |
| Any other storage location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category A and B requirements outlined above, and Each firearm is fitted with a trigger or barrel lock preventing discharge and is secured individually on, or in, a locked device within the safe, and Safe is fitted with an alarm of a type that is monitored remotely, and Storage location has a functional intruder alarm and duress facilities with offsite notifications, response that covers the entire premise, and internal motion sensor/s that detect any breach of the storage location |

Safe storage inspections

It is a condition on a licence that the licensee allows inspection by police of the storage facilities and safe keeping of firearms at a mutually agreed time.

A licensee must make all reasonable efforts to accommodate any reasonable request by police to inspect the safe storage and safe keeping facilities.

If your safe storage requires inspection, police will contact you to arrange a suitable time and provide you with an inspection event number once the inspection is complete.

Change in address notification

You are obliged to ensure that your safe storage address provided to the Commissioner is current. Any change to this address requires you to notify the Firearms Registry within 14 days after the change occurs. This can be done online via the NSW Police Force Community Portal.



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Legislation and authorities

- [Firearms Act 1996](#)
- Associated Regulation
- Commissioner's requirements - Instrument of Approval

Related factsheets available

- Safe Storage Level 2 – Category C, D and H requirements
- Ammunition Safe Storage, Acquisition and Possession
- Transportation of Firearms

| NSW Police Force Firearms Registry | Document version |
|---|--------------------|
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