This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a Firearm Permit for an imitation firearm - section 4D of the Firearms Act 1996 (the Act).

Persons wishing to possess and/or use an imitation firearm must obtain a permit authorising possession and use of the imitation firearm.

What does an Imitation Firearm Permit authorise?
This permit authorises a person to possess and/or use an imitation firearm for the legitimate reason nominated in the permit application.

What is an imitation firearm?
An imitation firearm is defined in section 4D of the Act as an object that, regardless of its colour, weight or composition or the presence or absence of any moveable parts, substantially duplicates in appearance a firearm but that is not a firearm, including a laser target shooting device used in a biathlon or modern pentathlon. An imitation firearm does not include anything that is produced and identified as a children’s toy.

How is a child’s toy distinguished from an imitation firearm?
A child’s toy would be distinguished from an imitation firearm by the packaging, targeted sale market (ie sold in a toy store, marked for ages 3+ etc), the materials the toy is made from, the general appearance or the functioning of the toy (for example, a water pistol). The onus is on the person in possession of the item and if there is any doubt they may seek advice from industry bodies such as a firearms dealer or a theatrical armourer.

What about an imitation of an antique firearm?
A person is afforded an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit for possession or use of an imitation of an antique firearm, but not an imitation antique revolver - see section 6A of the Act and clause 134 of the Firearms Regulation 2017.

In what circumstances would a person be able to possess an imitation firearm?
A person or a person on behalf of a business or organisation may obtain a permit authorising possession of an imitation firearm for legitimate purposes, such as film, television or theatrical productions, firearms training, laser game activities, collection or similar. Imitation firearms may also be authorised on a Firearms Museum or RSL Display permit or a firearms dealer licence. An exemption exists relating to imitation firearms that are laser target shooting devices used for biathlons and pentathlons. Refer to document “Exemption - Laser Target Shooting Devices (Imitation Firearms) - Biathlons and Pentathlons” for further information.

Does an imitation firearm require registration?
No, an imitation firearm does not require registration.

What is the term of the permit and how much will the permit cost?
The permit will be issued for a maximum term of 5 years and the prescribed fee for this permit is $75. Your payment must accompany the application.

What governs the possession and use of an imitation firearm?
The Act applies to an imitation firearm in the same way it applies to any other firearm, with the exception of the registration requirement as detailed above. Therefore, all the requirements for the transportation and safe storage that apply to a firearm, apply in the same way to an imitation firearm.

What about safe storage of an imitation firearm?
An imitation of a category A or B firearm is subject to level 1 safe storage (s. 40 of the Act) and an imitation of a category C, D or H firearm is subject to level 2 safe storage (s. 41 of the Act).

An imitation of a prohibited firearm is subject to the level of safe storage indicated on the document ‘Recommended Safe Storage Schedule 1 Prohibited Firearms’ available on the Safe Storage page on our website.

What about other persons to be authorised on this permit?
Persons to be listed and authorised by this permit (in addition to the permit holder) must complete a P635 ‘Application for a Person to be Authorised on a Firearms Permit’ form (separate form for each person); and provide proof of identity totalling 100 points (if the person does not hold a current licence or permit).

How do I apply for an Imitation Firearm Permit?
You must complete the P634 ‘Application for a Firearms Permit’ form and the ‘Imitation Firearm Legitimate Reason’ form and where applicable provide any supporting documentation. Please see the reverse of this FACT Sheet for instructions on how to complete the P634 form.
Instructions for completing the Firearms Permit Application Form

FIREARMS PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (P634)

NEW APPLICATION / REAPPLICATION
Mark appropriate box (new application or reapplication) and insert any previous or current firearms licence or permit number.

SECTION A - PERMIT TYPE
From the drop down list select the type of permit relevant to this application. If the permit is not listed in the drop down list, enter the type of permit you require in the space provided.

SECTION B - NOMINATED PERSON/BUSINESS OR NOMINATED PERMIT HOLDER/INDIVIDUAL
Insert your full name, date of birth, gender, NSW drivers licence (if held), contact phone numbers, email address and supply details if you have been known by any other names.

SECTION C - RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Insert your full residential address in this section.

SECTION D - POSTAL ADDRESS
If the postal address is the same as the residential address, mark the box. If your postal address is different to your residential address, insert your postal address in this section.

SECTION E - BUSINESS, CLUB OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY DETAILS
If this application is being made by a Business, Club or Government Agency, provide details in this section and attach supporting documentation.

SECTION F - SAFEKEEPING ADDRESS OF FIREARMS
If the safekeeping address is the same as the residential address, select 'YES' in the box. If your firearm safekeeping address is different to your residential address, insert the address in this section.

SECTION G - PERSONAL HISTORY
Answer each question by selecting a 'YES' or 'NO' from the drop down list. If you answer 'YES' to any question, provide details as an attachment.

SECTION H - DECLARATION
The application must be signed and dated by the applicant.

SECTION I - FEE
The prescribed fee for this permit is $75. Your payment must accompany the application.

RELATED INFORMATION
See FACT Sheets:
'100 Point Identification',
'Safe Storage Level One - Category A & B Requirements',
'Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D & H Requirements',
'Transportation of Firearms',
'Recommended Safe Storage for Schedule 1 Prohibited 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 associated Regulation, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.