



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

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Safe Storage Level Nine - Firearms Collector

Collector

All persons owning firearms in NSW must comply with the safe storage requirements as prescribed by the *Firearms Act 1996* (Act), the associated Regulation and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements, as prescribed by the legislation and as approved by the Commissioner of Police, for premises & safes for firearms collectors.

There are general requirements for the safe storage of firearms for all licence holders. What are these requirements?

All licence holders in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe storage of firearms under Part 4 - Section 39 of the *Firearms Act 1996*. Any person in possession of a firearm must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

Licensees who store their firearms at residential premises are restricted to premises that are the principal place of residence of a person (whether or not that person is the licensee), OR residential premises where a person is residing while the firearms are stored there (whether or not that person is the licensee). In addition, if the firearms are stored in a building or structure that is separate from the residential premises, that building or structure must be easily observed from the residential premises - refer clause 38 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

What are the requirements for a Firearms Collector?

Firearms

All firearms forming part of the collection must be rendered inoperable. Category D firearms must be rendered permanently inoperable - section 20(a) of the Act. All other firearms manufactured after 1900 AND all prohibited pistols must be rendered temporarily inoperable - section 20(b) of the Act. This may be achieved by removing the bolt or firing mechanism and keeping it separate from the firearm in a locked container or by using a trigger lock, as approved by the Commissioner.

Please refer to clause 36 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* for detailed information on how to disable a firearm which forms part of a collection.

Trigger Locks

The type of trigger locks approved by the Commissioner for securing of firearms (other than prohibited firearms including Category D firearms) are those which are made of metal and locked by way of keys or keyless combination locks.



Examples of approved trigger locks

Prohibited Firearms

A firearms collector licence does not authorise the collection of prohibited firearms, except those firearms to which a category C or D licence applies.

Post 1946 pistols may only form part of the collection if the person has been a member of a collectors society or club for more than one year and provides a written statement from the society or club confirming that the collection has a genuine commemorative, historical, thematic or financial value.

What are the safe keeping requirements for firearms forming a collection?

Any firearms forming part of a collection can only be kept on premises approved by the Commissioner of Police and stored as prescribed by the Regulation - section 20(e) of the Act.

Clause 36(6) of the Regulation prescribes the following as approved premises:

- * The area or room where the firearms are stored must be part of a permanent building with secure locks on all entrances.
- * The area or room must have solid walls that provide a substantial barrier to forced entry.
- * Any window or skylight in the area or room must be covered with a security grill or screen.
- * Doors leading into the area or room must be made of solid material or be reinforced by steel.
- * Each door must be fitted with a 'dead latch' type lock, or be fitted with a hasp/barrel bolt and padlock.
- * Door hinges must be concealed or the hinge pins must be welded to prevent them from being punched out.
- * If firearms are to be displayed outside of their locked containers at any time, the licence holder must be physically present in the area or room at that time.
- * Ammunition for any firearm, whether or not the firearm forms part of the collection, must not be kept in the area or room in which the firearms are stored, unless the ammunition is stored in a separate locked container.

All firearms forming part of the collection must be kept within a secure room, as described above, and it is recommended firearms be kept in an approved safe/receptacle OR approved display cases or gun racks OR secured in an approved manner to the wall within the secure room. In addition, the licensee has an obligation to comply with Part 4 of the Act.

Display

Firearms may only be on display within the secure room with the appropriate security measures to prevent their removal by unauthorised persons. In addition, if the firearms are to be displayed outside their locked cases at any time, the licence holder must be physically present in the room with the firearms.

Locked Containers

It is recommended by the Commissioner that firearms forming the collection must be kept within a secure room as prescribed AND be locked in a container of an approved type.

Locked containers may be:

1. A locked safe or receptacle, or
2. A locked display case of an approved type, or
3. A gun rack of an approved type, or
4. Firearms secured directly to the wall.

Safe or Receptacle

As approved for Level One or Level Two Safe Storage - see relevant FACT Sheets.

Display Cases

Any display case or cabinet should be:

- * Of solid construction, and
- * All glass panelling must be laminated, and
- * Mounted flush against the wall and secured to the wall/floor in four locations, and
- * Locked with a secure metal lock or padlock.

Gun Racks

Firearms must be secured to a wall mounted gun rack by plastic coated flexible steel cable (minimum 4mm thickness) or chain of equivalent strength passing through the trigger guard/s or a solid metal bar/sash across all firearms. The gun rack is to be secured at each end to the wall by either expanding bolts or galvanized hexagon head coach screws not less than 65mm in length and 8mm in diameter.

Firearms fixed to a wall

The firearms may be fixed to the wall by either expanding bolts or galvanized hexagon head coach screws not less than 65mm in length and 8mm in diameter.

When do I need to have my safe storage inspected by Police?

If your safe storage requires inspection, police will contact you to arrange a time for the inspection and they will issue you with an event number upon successful completion of the inspection.

Police are authorised to inspect facilities for the storage and safe keeping of firearms in your possession at a mutually agreed time and you must make all reasonable efforts to accommodate any reasonable request by police to inspect the safe storage and safe keeping facilities - section 19(2)(c) of the Act.

Can police inspect my firearms at any other time?

Yes. Section 59 of the Act authorises police to conduct 'on the spot' inspection of firearms at any time. Any person who is carrying a firearm or possesses a firearm that is within the immediate vicinity of the person must, on demand by the police officer, produce the firearm and any licence or permit for inspection. This includes firearms on display.

Related Information:

See also FACT sheets:

- 'Safe Storage Level One - Category A & B Requirements',
- 'Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D & H Requirements',
- 'Firearms Collection Genuine Reason'.

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.

Firearms Registry

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