

# FIREARMS REGISTRY



OFFICIAL

## Safe Storage Level Nine - Firearms Collector Requirements

All persons possessing firearms in NSW must comply with the safe keeping and storage requirements as prescribed by the *Firearms Act 1996*, the associated Regulation and as recommended by the Commissioner

This fact sheet provides information on the requirements, as prescribed by the legislation and as approved by the Commissioner, for premises and safes for firearm collectors.

### What are the general requirements in relation to the safe keeping of firearms?

All licence holders in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe storage of firearms under section 39 of the *Firearms Act 1996* (the Act). 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.

A licence or permit holder may only store a firearm in an inhabited dwelling or in a dwelling where the licence or permit holder, or someone on their behalf, can easily observe the premises where the firearm is stored. An inhabited dwelling is a person's principal place of residence, where the licence or permit holder may or may not also live, or where a person lives while the firearm is stored there.

If a person stores their firearms in a place other than an inhabited dwelling, they can do so provided the following safe storage requirements are met or exceeded:

All firearms must be -

- stored in a safe of an approved type, and
- fitted with a trigger or barrel lock that prevents the firearm from being discharged, and
- secured individually on, or in, a locked device within the safe.

The safe must be fitted with an alarm of an approved type that is monitored off-site.

The premises on which the firearm is stored must have an intruder alarm and duress facilities that are monitored off-site and are of an approved type.

In addition to this general safe keeping requirement, there are specific legislative requirements for the safe keeping and storage of firearms for Category C, D and H firearm licence holders.

### 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.

#### 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](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

Tel: 1300 362 562

Interstate: 02 6670 8590

Email: [firearms@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:firearms@police.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms)

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

### 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

## OFFICIAL

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 fact sheets:

- [Safe Storage Level One - Category A&B Requirements](#)
- [Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D & H Requirements](#)
- [Firearms Collection Genuine Reason](#)