

FIREARMS REGISTRY



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Recognition of Interstate Firearms Licences

Interstate residents who are authorised in their State or Territory of residence to possess and use firearms are afforded recognition of that interstate authority in NSW for the possession and use of firearms for limited purposes.

This fact sheet provides information on the purposes for which an interstate person may lawfully possess and use firearms in NSW.

What is mutual recognition?

Sections 7 and 7A of the *Firearms Act 1996* (Act) provide that a person must not possess or use a firearm in NSW unless they are authorised to do so by a licence or permit. A licence is defined by section 4 of the Act as 'a licence in force under this Act' - 'this Act' being the NSW Firearms Act.

Therefore, a person who holds a firearms licence or permit in another State or Territory is not authorised to possess or use firearms registered to that interstate licence or permit in NSW, except where the NSW legislation provides for recognition of that interstate licence or permit.

What licence or permits are recognised and for what purposes?

An interstate licence or permit holder may lawfully possess and use firearms in NSW for the following purposes:

Equivalent Category A or Category B licence

An interstate resident who holds the equivalent to a category A or B licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, is authorised to possess or use a firearm for any purpose established by the licensee as being the genuine reason for possessing or using the firearm.

Shooting Competitions (Category A, B or H)

An interstate resident who holds the equivalent of a category A, B, or H firearms licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess and use a firearm of a kind to which a corresponding category A, B or H licence issued in this State applies, but only for the purpose of enabling the person to participate in a shooting competition being held in NSW and for practicing in connection with an approved competition.

Minors Firearms Permit

An interstate resident who is between the ages of 12 and 18 years and holds the equivalent of a minor's firearms permit issued in their State or Territory of residence may, under the supervision of an authorised person, lawfully possess and use a firearm of a kind to which a corresponding minors firearms permit issued in NSW applies, for the purpose of competing in an approved event, or receiving safe instruction in the use of the firearm. Supervision of the minor must be in accordance with clause 156 of the Regulation.

Clay Target Shooting Competitions (Category C)

An interstate resident who holds the equivalent of a category C firearms licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess and use a self-loading or pump action shotgun for the purpose of participating in a recognised clay target shooting competition. Note: The shotgun must not be loaded at any one time with more than 2 rounds and may only be used for shooting at clay targets and for associated training programs while on an approved shooting range.

Professional Contract Shooter (Category C)

An interstate resident who is a professional contract shooter engaged or employed in controlling vertebrate pest animals on rural land and who holds the equivalent of a category C firearms licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess and use a firearm of a kind to which a corresponding category C licence issued in NSW applies, but only for the purpose of controlling vertebrate pest animals on rural land.

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.

Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

Tel: 1300 362 562

Interstate: 02 6670 8590

Email: firearms@police.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

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Primary Producer (Category C)

An interstate resident whose occupation is the business of a primary producer or who is the owner, lessee or manager of land used for primary production and who holds the equivalent of a category C firearms licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess and use a firearm of a kind to which a corresponding category C licence issued in NSW applies, but only for the purpose of using the firearm in connection with farming or grazing activities, including the suppression of vertebrate pest animals on the land concerned.

Supervising at an approved Shooting Range (Category A, B or H)

An interstate resident who holds the equivalent of a category A, B, or H firearms licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess and use a firearm of a kind to which a corresponding category A, B or H licence issued in this State applies, but only for the purpose of supervising a person at an approved NSW shooting range in accordance with section 6B of the Act and clauses 128 and 26 of the Regulation.

Note: 'Supervising' means the person supervising supervises one person only.

Travelling through NSW (Category A, B or H)

An interstate resident who holds the equivalent of a category A, B, or H firearms licence issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess a firearm (possess only, not use) of a kind to which a corresponding category A, B or H licence issued in this State applies, but only while:

- Travelling through NSW, or
- After acquiring the firearm from a licensed NSW firearms dealer, or
- Taking it to a licensed NSW firearms dealer for the purposes of sale, repair, servicing or modification.

Note: Possession only, not use.

Security Activities

To possess and use the pistol or shotgun in NSW for security activities referred to in section 4(1)(c) of Security Industry Act, an interstate security guard must be:

- Licensed in that State or Territory to carry on security activities referred to in section 4(1)(c) of the Security Industry Act 1997, AND
- Authorised to possess and use a pistol or shotgun under the law of that other State or Territory for the purposes of business or employment.

Interstate security guards must contact the NSW Security Licensing Enforcement Directorate on 1300 362 066 to confirm mutual recognition of their security licence.

Exemption - Possess and Acquire Ammunition

An interstate resident who holds the equivalent authority for a firearm that takes the ammunition issued in their State or Territory of residence, may lawfully possess and acquire ammunition for the firearm. Refer clause 132 of the Regulation.

Note: Ammunition includes any ammunition that can be safely fired in the firearm.

Related Information

- [Safe Storage Level One - Category A & B Requirements fact sheet](#)
- [Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D & H Requirements fact sheet](#)

See the [Safe Storage](#) page on our website.