



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

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Licence Categories and Firearm Types

To lawfully possess or use firearms in NSW a person must be authored to do so by a firearms licence or permit.

This FACT sheet provides information on the different categories of licence available and the types of firearms which apply to each licence category.

What are the licence categories available to licence holders in NSW?

Category A, B, C, D, H, Firearms Collector and Firearms Dealer.

What firearms are applicable to a Category A firearms licence?

- * Air rifles.
- * Rimfire rifles (other than self-loading).
- * Shotguns (other than pump action, lever action or self-loading).
- * Shotgun/rimfire combinations.

All prohibited firearms are excluded from this licence category. Prohibited firearms are listed in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

What firearms are applicable to a Category B firearms licence?

- * Muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols).
- * Centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading).
- * Shotgun/centre-fire rifle combinations.
- * Lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.

All prohibited firearms are excluded from this licence category. Prohibited firearms are listed in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

What firearms are applicable to a Category C firearms licence?

- * Self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds.
- * Self-loading shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.
- * Pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.

These firearms are prohibited except for limited purposes.

Some firearms, specifically those adapted for military purposes, are excluded under all circumstances from this licence category.

What firearms are applicable to a Category D firearms licence?

- * Self-loading centre-fire rifles.
- * Self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds.
- * Self-loading shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds.
- * Pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds.
- * Lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds.
- * Any firearms to which a Category C licence applies.

These firearms are prohibited except for official purposes.

Some firearms, specifically those adapted for military purposes, are excluded under all circumstances from this licence category.

What firearms are applicable to a Category H firearms licence?

- * Pistols (including blank fire pistols and air pistols).

Prohibited firearms are excluded from this licence category. Prohibited pistols are not authorised for Sport/Target shooters.

Are there restrictions on the types of firearms allowed for each genuine reason?

Yes. There are restrictions on the category of licence, and therefore types of firearms, allowed for each genuine reason. See each individual genuine reason FACT Sheet for restrictions on licence category and types of firearms authorised for each genuine reason. Also, see the Genuine Reason Table available on the Licence and Genuine Reason page on the website.

Licence Categories and Firearm Types

Are there restrictions on what the firearms can be used for?

Yes. Firearms may only be used in connection with the purpose established by the person as being the genuine reason for possessing or using the firearm - sections 7 and 7A of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

For example, if you have category A and B firearms for the sole genuine reason of Sport / Target shooting, you cannot use those firearms for any other purpose.

What about imitation firearms?

Imitation firearms are defined in section 4D of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

A person must obtain a firearms permit to possess or use imitation firearms. For more information on imitation firearms, see the FACT Sheet '*Imitation Firearms Permit*' available on the Firearms Permit page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

Are there any restrictions on the number or type of firearms able to be acquired?

Yes. There are restrictions on the acquisition of handguns for Probationary Pistol Licence holders.

No Permits to Acquire a Handgun will be issued for the first six months of the probationary pistol licence. Only two Permits to Acquire will be issued in the second six months of the probationary pistol licence.

As a Probationary Pistol Licence holder you may have a combination of any two handguns, with the exception that you must not possess a centrefire and a rimfire pistol at the same time, within the second six months.

Are there restrictions on a category C licence?

Yes. The number of firearms authorised under a Category C licence issued to a primary producer are limited to:

- * No more than one registered self-loading rimfire rifle with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds, and
- * No more than one registered shotgun.

Consideration may be given to increasing the number of firearms authorised under this licence, if a special need exists, and has been established to the satisfaction of the Commissioner.

The special need could be the size of the rural property or because your activities involve more than one rural property.

Are there restrictions on a category D licence?

Yes. The number of firearms authorised under a Category D licence issued to a primary producer, (or a person who is the owner, lessee or manager of land used for primary production) and who is participating in an authorised campaign under the VPAC genuine reason, is restricted to three (3) registered firearms.

Related Information

See FACT Sheets for each genuine reason, and FACT Sheet '*Imitation Firearms Permit*'.

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.

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