



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

# FIREARMS REGISTRY

## Permit to Acquire a Firearm (PTA)

This FACT sheet provides information on applying for a Permit to Acquire a Firearm - section 31 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

All persons wishing to acquire a firearm in NSW must be the holder of a current firearms licence or permit authorising possession of that type of firearm and must make application for a Permit to Acquire the firearm. PTA applications are made online via Service NSW. The online PTA accommodates all firearm types (longarm, handgun and prohibited firearms).

### Who can apply for a PTA?

You **must** hold a current NSW firearms licence or permit to apply for a PTA.

You may only acquire a particular type of firearm if you hold the corresponding category of licence or permit authorising possession of that firearm. For example, to apply for a Category A firearm you must hold a Category A firearms licence or to apply for a Category H firearm you must hold a Category H firearms licence.

A separate PTA application must be completed for each firearm you wish to acquire.

'Good Reason' - select the reason which most closely describes your purpose for acquiring the firearm from the options provided. Your selection must directly relate to your Genuine Reason for holding a firearms licence.

### How do I apply for a PTA?

You can apply for a PTA online at the Service NSW website ([www.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au))

What you'll need to complete an online PTA application:

1. A MyServiceNSW Account linked to the NSW Police Force
2. Your firearm licence or permit number
3. Full address details where you will store the firearm
4. If applying to acquire a handgun for sport/target shooting you will also need:
  - \* Club Confirmation form completed by a club official
  - \* Pistol Firearms Safety Completion Certificate (for probationary pistol licence holders only)
5. Credit card for payment of the \$30 PTA fee (unless you are a Primary Producer, or you have a fee exemption status as a Pensioner recorded with the NSW Police Force Firearms Registry)

Note: The Club Confirmation is a written statement by the secretary or other relevant office holder of the pistol shooting club specifying the shooting activities for which the pistol is required and confirming the person has adequate storage for the safe keeping of the pistol.

### How much will my PTA cost?

Each PTA costs \$30 and payment is made by credit card at the time of application.

Fee Exemptions are automatically applied during the online application process to :

- \* Primary Producers who hold a current licence issued with the genuine reason of Primary Production
- \* Holders of the following current concession cards are entitled to a pensioner fee exemption
  - Centrelink pension concession card only
  - Disability card
  - Veteran's Affairs card (including concession and health care card)

NOTE: If your pensioner status has changed and you have been issued one of the above concession cards, you will need to email the NSW Firearms Registry with a copy of the **front and back** of your valid pension card prior to commencing your application for a PTA. When you receive a confirmation email that your status has been updated, allow 24 hours before commencing your online application.

If your pension card has expired since lodging a prior application, you are able to upload a copy of your current concession card during the application process.

### Is there a mandatory waiting period?

For initial PTA's, there is a mandatory 28 day waiting period from receipt of your application before your PTA can be issued. For second and subsequent PTA's for the same type of firearm as one already registered to you, there is no waiting period.

In addition, there is no waiting period for a PTA if a firearm of the same type was registered in your name at any time during a 90 day period before the PTA application was made, provided the registration was not cancelled under section 35 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

A PTA remains in force until the firearm is acquired or for 90 days, after which time it will expire.



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## What happens when my PTA is issued?

If approved, the PTA will be issued and posted to you and must be presented to the firearms dealer when acquiring the intended firearm.

The firearms dealer identifies the firearm, completes the necessary paperwork and forwards this information to the Firearms Registry. The Firearms Registry will then issue a registration certificate to you as proof of registration.

The issued PTA may also be used, in lieu of the registration certificate, to acquire ammunition for the firearm. *Please see the 'Firearms & Ammunition' page on the Firearms Registry website.*

## What if I hold a Probationary Pistol Licence (PPL)?

There are restrictions on the acquisition of handguns for PPL holders. No PTA will be issued for the first six months of the licence and only two PTA's will be issued in the second six months of the licence. Within the second six months, you may make application to acquire a combination of any two handguns, with the exception that you must not possess a centrefire and a rimfire pistol at the same time.

You must include with your application a copy of the completion certificate issued to you by your club when you successfully complete the Pistol Safety Training Course. You must also include a Club Confirmation form completed by a club official.

## What if I am acquiring a firearm from Interstate?

If the firearm is to be acquired from interstate, you will still require a PTA in NSW. In addition you will need to arrange for the transfer of the firearm from the interstate firearms dealer to a NSW firearms dealer. The NSW firearms dealer will identify the firearm, complete the necessary paperwork and forward this information to the Firearms Registry. The Firearms Registry will then issue a registration certificate to you as proof of registration.

## Can I still utilise the existing paper-based PTA forms?

The Firearms Registry will continue to accept the existing paper-based PTA application forms for a transitional period of 6 months following the commencement of online PTA applications in October 2018. After this transitional period, paper-based PTA application forms will no longer be accepted.

However, given the numerous benefits provided by applying online, we encourage you to utilise the online application process to apply for your next PTA.

### Related Information:

Safe Storage Level One - Category A and B Requirements  
Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D and H Requirements  
Genuine Reason FACT Sheets

## 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).

## Firearms Registry

### Address

Locked Bag 1  
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

### Telephone

1300362562

### Interstate

02 66708590

### Fax

02 66708558

### Email

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

OR

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

### Website

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



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