

FIREARMS REGISTRY



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Antique Firearms including Antique Revolvers

In NSW a person must be authorised by a licence or permit to possess and use firearms and antique revolvers. The Firearms Act 1996 provides certain exemptions to this requirement and one of those exemptions relates to the possession of antique firearms and revolvers. This FACT sheet provides information on the exemptions for possession of antique firearms and antique revolvers and the requirements for the use, registration and safe keeping.

What is an antique firearm?

An antique firearm is defined by [section 6A\(7\)](#) of the *Firearms Act 1996* (the Act) as a firearm manufactured before 1900 that in the case of firearm other than a pistol:

- is not capable of discharging breech-loaded metallic cartridges; or
- is a firearm for which ammunition is not commercially available.

See 'Ammunition no Longer Commercially Available' on the Firearms Registry Internet site for a list of ammunition determined by the Commissioner to be no longer commercially available.

Do I need a firearms licence or permit to authorise possession of an antique firearm?

A person does not need to be authorised by a firearms licence or permit to possess an antique firearm - [section 6A\(1\)](#) of the Act however this exemption does not extend to an antique revolver.

What is an antique pistol / revolver?

An antique pistol is defined as a pistol manufactured before 1900 that:

- is not capable of discharging breech-loaded metallic cartridges.

An **antique revolver** means an antique firearm that is a percussion lock pistol equipped with a revolving cylinder.

Do I need a firearms licence or permit to authorise possession and use of an antique revolver?

If you wish to possess an antique revolver, you must hold an appropriate firearms licence or permit. If you wish to use an antique revolver you must hold a category H (sport/target shooting) licence.

However, a category H (sport/target shooting) licence does not authorise the possession or use of any such antique revolver that is a prohibited pistol.

Does an antique firearm or antique revolver need to be registered?

An antique firearm is exempt from the registration requirements as prescribed by [section 6A\(2\)](#) of the Act.

An antique revolver does not need to be registered in order for a category H (sport/target shooting) licence holder to be able to use it.

Do I need to get a Permit to Acquire for an antique firearm or antique revolver?

A Permit to Acquire under [section 31](#) of the Act is not required in the case of an antique firearm or antique revolver.

What about an imitation of an antique firearm or antique revolver?

An exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit exists for possession or use of an imitation of an antique firearm - see [section 6A](#) of the *Firearms Act 1996* and [clause 134](#) of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

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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What if I want to sell my antique firearm?

Because a person is exempt from the requirement to hold a licence or permit for possession of an antique firearm, the provisions of the Act for sighting the licence or permit prior acquisition and supply do not apply in respect of an antique firearm - [section 6A\(4\) of the Act](#). However, this exemption does not apply to an antique revolver.

What if I want to sell my antique revolver?

The supply or acquisition of an antique revolver is subject to the requirement that both the seller and buyer hold a licence or permit for possession of the antique revolver and this licence or permit must be sighted prior to the supply or purchase taking place - [section 6A\(5\) of the Act](#). It is an offence to supply an antique revolver unless both the buyer and seller are authorised to possess the antique revolver by a licence or permit.

What safe keeping is applicable to an antique firearm or antique revolver?

All persons in possession of a firearm, regardless of whether or not they hold a licence or permit, must comply with the general requirements for safe keeping as prescribed by [section 39 of the Act](#).

[Section 39 of the Act](#) requires that a person must take 'all reasonable precautions' to ensure the safe keeping of a firearm to prevent it being lost, stolen or coming into the possession of an unauthorised person.

'All reasonable precautions' are considered by the Commissioner to be the prescribed requirements of [section 40](#) of the Act for category A & B licence holders and [section 41 of the Act](#) for category C, D & H licence holders.

Therefore, where the antique firearm is a longarm, Level 1 safe keeping applies. Where the antique firearm is a antique revolver, Level 2 safe keeping applies. If the antique firearm is held on a collectors licence, Level 9 safe storage applies ([clause 36 of the Firearms Regulation 2017](#)).

What if I want to display my antique firearm?

Where a person wishes to display antique firearms in a gun rack, display rack, display case or similar, the rack or display case must be secured to the wall or floor within a secure room where the firearms will not be visible to anyone outside the room.

The secure room would need to meet the same requirements as a firearms collector prescribed by [clause 36\(7\)](#) of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

- The area or room in which the firearms are displayed 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 in the area or room must be covered by a security screen,
- Doors leading into the area or room must be made of solid material or be reinforced,
- Each such 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.

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