

FIREARMS REGISTRY

RSL & Museums Safe Storage, Premises & Display

Firearms & Prohibited Weapons - Level 8

All persons owning firearms or weapons in NSW must comply with the safe storage requirements prescribed by the *Firearms Act 1996*, the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*, the associated Regulations and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements as prescribed by the legislation and as approved by the Commissioner of Police for premises and safes for RSL & Museum permit holders.

There are general requirements for the safe keeping of firearms & weapons. What are these requirements?

All persons who are authorised by a licence or permit to possess firearms & weapons in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe keeping of the firearms or weapons - section 39 of the *Firearms Act 1996* & section 32A of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*. Any person possessing a firearm or weapon must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm/weapon is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

What are the requirements for the premises of an RSL or museum?

Prior to the issue of a permit, the Commissioner must be satisfied that the premises are suitable for this type of business. To be considered suitable, the premises would need to be a permanent structure with secure locks on all openings.

When approving premises, consideration is given to the nature of activities, the location of the business, the types of firearms or weapons to which the permit relates, whether adequate provisions have been made for the safe storage of firearms/weapons by means of a safe, strongroom or otherwise and the security of the premises against unauthorised entry.

The Commissioner has determined the following as applicable to RSL or museum premises:

- * The permit holder may only operate from the premises specified on the permit, unless otherwise approved.
- * The area or room of the building must have solid walls that provide a substantial barrier to forced entry.
- * Any windows in the area or room must be covered by a security screen.
- * Any doors to the area or room must be made of solid material or be reinforced with steel.
- * Any such door must be fitted with a 'dead latch' type lock or 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.
- * The weapon must be stored in the area or room in a locked steel safe of a type approved by the Commissioner and that cannot be easily penetrated.
- * Such a safe must be bolted to the structure of the area or room where the weapon is authorised to be kept.

What about the alarm system?

Premises must be fitted with an intruder alarm system installed with the following features:

- * No less than three (3) internal movement/motion detectors.
- * The entire premises must be monitored and have separate multiple programmable zones, and single zone triggers.
- * Separate external and internal sirens of not less than 100dB and an external strobe security light.
- * Entry keypad with inbuilt duress code and panic buttons.
- * Any remote controls must also have panic buttons.
- * The control panel box must have back up battery power.
- * The entire alarm system must have back up battery power.
- * All doors and windows must have perimeter switches.
- * A line cut system or similar which arms the system if the phone line is cut.
- * All components fitted with anti-tamper switches.
- * An Event Log with a minimum of 20 event capacity.
- * Off-site 24-hour monitoring.

What requirements must be met for displayed firearms/weapons?

Firearms or weapons on display must be secured in such a manner as would reasonably prevent their removal other than by the permit holder or an authorised employee.

No firearms or weapons can be displayed unless reasonable precautions have been taken to secure the firearms or weapons to prevent them from being lost, stolen or coming into the possession of an unauthorised person.

[The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as reasonable precautions for display:](#)

[Display Case](#)

Any display case or cabinet should be:

- * Of solid construction, and
- * All glass panelling must be a minimum grade of 6.38mm and be laminated, and
- * When mounted onto brick, stone or concrete it should be attached by at least four (4) masonry anchors 90mm in length and 10mm in diameter, and
- * When mounted onto main wall studs or wall bearers, it should be fitted flush against the wall and secured to the wall studs or wall bearers by four (4) galvanized hexagon head coach screws not less than 65mm in length and 8mm in diameter, and
- * The display case must be fitted with a metal lock which is either an internal locking mechanism operated by means of a key or combination lock or other similar locking mechanism (pin number etc), or
- * Locked by the use of a hasp and staple (or similar) and fitted with a padlock.

[Display racks](#)

Any rack used for display of firearms or prohibited weapons should be of solid construction - made of either metal or timber.

Firearms or weapons displayed within the rack must be secured to prevent removal by:

- * Plastic coated flexible steel cable no less than 4mm passing through the trigger guard or weapon and secured to the wall; or
- * Chain of equivalent strength passing through the weapon and secured to the wall; or
- * A solid metal bar of not less than 10mm in diameter, or metal sash not less than 3mm thickness and 2cm wide expanding across the length of the cabinet and secured to the wall/cabinet at either end by way of a padlock or similar; or
- * Other approved means.

When the display rack is mounted onto brick, stone or concrete, it should be attached by at least four (4) masonry anchors 90mm in length and 10mm in diameter.

When the display rack is mounted onto timber or gyprock, it should be fitted flush against the wall and secured to the wall studs and floor bearers by four (4) galvanized hexagon head coach screws, not less than 65mm in length and 8mm in diameter.

When can police inspect firearms & weapons safe keeping & storage?

Section 14 (2)(b) of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* provides for inspection of the storage and safe keeping arrangements of prohibited weapons at a mutually agreed time.

Section 19 (2)(c) of the *Firearms Act 1996* provides for inspection by police of the storage and safe keeping facilities at a mutually agreed time. A licensee must make all reasonable efforts to accommodate any reasonable request by police to inspect the storage and safe keeping facilities - clause 37 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

Section 59 of the *Firearms Act 1996* & section 27 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* provide for 'On the spot' inspections of firearms/weapons by police. Any person carrying or possessing a firearm / weapon must produce the firearm / weapon and any licence or permit on demand by a police officer.

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*, the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* and the associated regulations, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

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