

FIREARMS REGISTRY

P650 Declaration - Range Use by Unlicensed Persons

In NSW, an exemption exists for unlicensed persons to possess and use firearms under supervision without the authority of a licence or permit while shooting on an approved range or while participating in an approved firearms safety training course.

This FACT sheet provides information on the exemption requirements as outlined in section 6B of the *Firearms Act 1996* and clause 129 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

What does the exemption allow?

The exemption allows an unlicensed person to possess and use a firearm, other than a prohibited firearm:

- * At an approved shooting range only while under the direct supervision of a person authorised by a licence to possess and use a firearm of that kind, or
- * While participating in an approved firearms safety training course and while under the direct supervision of a firearms instructor approved by the Commissioner of Police.

What is 'direct supervision'?

Direct supervision must not exceed a ratio of **one unlicensed person to one licensed supervisor**.

The licensed supervisor must be present at the firing line and not leave whilst shooting activities are being undertaken by the unlicensed person.

The licensed supervisor must be able to immediately render assistance to the unlicensed person, if required.

The licensed supervisor must personally convey the firearm and ammunition to be used by the unlicensed person from its place of storage to the firing line.

The licensed supervisor must personally convey the firearm and ammunition from the firing line to the place of storage upon the conclusion of shooting activities.

Who can take advantage of this exemption?

1. An unlicensed person who wishes to try out the sport of shooting on an approved shooting range, or
2. A person completing an approved firearms safety training course in connection with an application for a firearms licence.

Why do I need an exemption?

It is an offence in NSW to possess and use a firearm without the authority of a licence or permit, unless you are exempt from this requirement.

How do I obtain an exemption?

You must complete a P650 'Declaration - Person Shooting on an Approved Range or undertaking a Firearms Safety Training Course' form before you are permitted to possess and use firearms.

This form is available from the club or range official at the shooting range where you are intending to shoot or from an approved firearms instructor.

When completed, the form is returned to the club or range official, or the instructor, whichever is applicable.

What if I want to shoot on a range and also complete a safety training course?

Then you will need to complete two forms, one for each separate purpose.

The forms are required to be kept by the club official, range official or instructor as a record of who is shooting on the range or participating in a safety training course. Therefore if you are doing both activities, two records need to be completed and retained by the appropriate person.

What happens if I responded 'Yes' to any of the questions in Section B?

Any person responding 'Yes' to a question in this section cannot be permitted to possess and use firearms.

If you have responded 'Yes' and you still wish to undertake a Firearms Safety Training Course or shoot on the range, a copy of your declaration form will be forwarded to the Firearms Registry. The form will be assessed by the Firearms Registry whereby a decision will be made as to whether the exemption is afforded.

In the circumstance where you have responded with a 'Yes' and the Commissioner determines that the correct answer should have been 'No', you may complete and sign another form. In this instance the new form replaces the previously completed and signed form and the answers given on the earlier form are to be ignored.

For example, where a person answers 'Yes' to being subject to an apprehended violence order within the last 10 years. However, upon the relevant checks being undertaken by the Firearms Registry, it is established that the apprehended violence order was outside the 10 year legislative prescribed period, you will be advised that you are entitled to answer 'No'.

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Are there circumstances where I can still participate in a firearms safety training course if I am not afforded the exemption?

There are circumstances where an unlicensed person may be required to undertake a firearm safety training course, however has answered 'Yes' to a question in Section B and is not afforded the exemption.

For example, where a person has been revoked and has been requested to refresh training by undertaking a firearm safety training course by the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal following an appeal of a decision made to revoke the persons firearms licence. As a result, the person is not afforded the exemption. However, the person may be issued with a permit to authorise the person to undertake a firearm safety training course.

How do I complete the form?

Section A - Personal Details

The 'Name' box should show your full legal name. This should be the name on your birth certificate, marriage certificate, change of name certificate or passport. Complete address and date of birth.

Insert the details of the photographic identification supplied and photo ID number. In the case of a Minor photo identification of the parent or legal guardian completing the consent in Section D must be supplied.

Section B - Personal History

The questions in Section B of the form relate to your personal history. It is an offence to provide information which is false and misleading and you must answer all the questions honestly and correctly.

Section C - Declaration

The declaration form must be signed and dated by the applicant.

By signing the declaration you are confirming that:

* You understand it is an offence to supply false or misleading information and you certify that all the information contained in the declaration is true and correct; AND

* You agree to the NSW Police Force making enquiries to establish that the information you have supplied in relation to the application is true and correct.

Section D - Minor

Written consent is required for a person aged between 12 - 18 years (a Minor). This section must be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian of the minor. The photographic identification of the parent or legal guardian must be supplied to the club official, range official or instructor and this is written in Section A.

Section E - Certification

Section E is completed by the club official, range official or instructor.

The box will be marked showing whether the applicant is authorised to shoot and the section is completed and signed by the official or instructor.

Further Information

Visit the Clubs Page on the Firearms Registry Internet site for further information.

Firearms Registry

Address

Locked Bag 5102
Parramatta NSW 2124

Telephone

1300 362 562

Interstate

02 66708590

Fax

02 66708558

Email

clubs@police.nsw.gov.au
OR
firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au

Website

www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

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.



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

