

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Safe Storage Security Firms - Level Three

One firearm only

All persons possessing firearms in NSW must comply with the safe storage requirements prescribed by the *Firearms Act 1996*, the associated Regulation and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT Sheet provides information on the prescribed requirements for safe storage of firearms for security firms with one firearm only.

There are general requirements for the safe storage of firearms for all licence holders. What are these requirements?

All licence holders in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe storage of firearms under Part 4 - section 39 of the *Firearms Act 1996* (the Act). Any person in possession of a firearm must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

What are the specific requirements for security firms?

Security firms are subject to a tiered safe storage regime as prescribed by clause 81 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* (the Regulation).

The safe storage requirements for security firms are based on the number of firearms the firm has been authorised to hold: one firearm only; two to five firearms; six to fifteen firearms; over fifteen firearms.

Authorisation for the number of firearms allowed to be held by security firms is determined by the Firearms Registry upon application for a Category H firearms licence in accordance with clause 90 of the Regulation. Note, additional information may be requested to assist in making that determination.

What are the safe keeping and storage requirements for security firms with one firearm?

Clause 81(2) of the Regulation provides the following for security firms authorised for one firearm only.

The firearm must be:

- * Stored within a safe of the approved type, and
- * Fitted with a trigger or barrel lock that prevents the firearm from being discharged, and
- * Secured individually on, or in, a locked device within the safe.

The safe must be fitted with an alarm of an approved type that is monitored off-site.

The premises where the firearm is stored must have an intruder alarm and duress facilities of an approved type, that are monitored off-site.

Approved safe for one firearm

The Commissioner of Police has approved the following for a safe to comply with clause 81(2)(a)(i) of the Regulation for the storage of one firearm by a security firm:

- * The safe must be constructed of structural grade 250 mild steel conforming with AS3679 and be not less than 3 mm in thickness and be constructed with continuous welding on all external edges, and
- * It must be fitted with a door of not less than 6mm thick, swung on either concealed pivots, or externally mounted sealed end hinges welded to the door and body of the safe, with clearance around the door of not more than 1mm, and
- * Be fitted with a six lever key, pick resistant, deadbolt locking mechanism or a keyless combination lock. Two locks, or a single lock that engages more than three locking mechanisms, are required if the safe door is greater than 1.3 metres in height, and
- * The lock/s must be securely attached to the rear face of the door with hardened steel anti drill plates (minimum of 3mm mild case hardened) installed around the locks to prevent tampering, and
- * The safe must contain a full length steel jamb, welded to the side of the safe body with a rebate that engages the deadbolt locking mechanism.

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of section 41(1)(b) of the Act, the safe must be bolted to the structure of the premises where the firearm is authorised to be kept.

Approved Safe Alarm System

The Alarm System for the safe must consist of the following features:

- * Separate external and internal sirens of not less than 100dB and strobe light, and
- * Inbuilt duress code and panic functions (including any remote controls), and
- * Control panel box with backup battery, and
- * Built in system back-up battery, and
- * Door switch and line cut function or similar which arms the system if the phone line is cut, and
- * Components fitted with anti-tamper switches and off-site 24 hour monitoring.

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Premises Alarm System

The Alarm Systems for the premises must consist of the following features:

- * Not less than three (3) internal movement/motion detectors, and
- * Multiple zone programmable (entire premises to be monitored), and
- * Single zone trigger, and
- * Separate external and internal sirens of not less than 100dB and strobe light, and
- * Entry keypad with inbuilt duress code and panic functions, and
- * Any remote controls must also have panic buttons, and
- * Control panel box with backup battery, and
- * Built in system back-up battery, and
- * Perimeter switches on doors and windows, and
- * Line cut function or similar which arms the system if the phone line is cut, and
- * Components fitted with anti-tamper switches, and
- * Event log (no less than 20 event capacity), and
- * Off-site 24 hour monitoring.

Residential premises

Security firms authorised for only one firearm may operate from residential premises. Any security firm authorised for more than one firearm must not operate from residential premises.

Residential premises include any structure within the area of land occupied by a building, including any outbuildings that are used for a residential purpose, whether the land is enclosed or not.

Inspection

Your safe keeping and storage facilities will require inspection upon initial application for your business firearms licence, upon reapplication for your business firearms licence and if, during the term of your licence, you have successfully applied for an increase in the number of firearms for which you are authorised.

You will be contacted by the Firearms Registry or police if your safe storage requires inspection. If you have made changes to your safe storage facilities, for example installed another safe, you must make arrangements with local police for an inspection to be conducted.

Section 42A of the Act provides for the inspection of firearms held by security firms. Police may enter the premises of the security master licence holder at any time of the day or night to inspect firearms and the security and safe storage of those firearms.

The police officer is authorised to enter any part of the premises where firearms are being stored or any part of the premises required to give access to the firearms. This includes residential premises.

It is an offence for a person to obstruct, hinder, prevent or interfere with a police officer in the exercise of their power under section 42A of the Act.

Firearms Registry

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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

