

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Firearms Dealer Safe Storage - Level Seven

Premises & Safes

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 requirements for premises & safes for a firearms dealer.

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

All licence holders in NSW, including Firearms Dealers, are subject to the general requirement for safe storage of firearms under Part 4 - Section 39 of the *Firearms Act 1996*. 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 requirements for the premises of a Firearms Dealer?

Prior to the issue of a Firearms Dealer licence the Commissioner of Police must be satisfied that the applicant is carrying on, or proposes to carry on, the business of a firearms dealer as a genuine commercial enterprise, that the premises are suitable for this type of business and consent or approval of the local consent authority has been granted. To be considered suitable, the premises must be a permanent structure (not sheds or garages) 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 to which the licence relates, whether adequate provisions have been made for the safe storage of firearms by means of a safe, strongroom or otherwise and the security of the premises against unauthorised entry.

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as applicable to the premises of all dealers.

- * Dealers may only operate from the premises specified on the licence.
- * All external walls of the premises must be of solid construction consisting of concrete, brick or steel.
- * All perimeter doors must be of solid construction (ie solid core doors), securely hinged in hardwood or steel framework and fitted with mortise locks or deadlocks.
- * All perimeter windows and roof skylights must be fitted with either external or internal security grills.

What about the alarm system?

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

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

What about security of firearms after hours?

All firearms must be secured in a manner to prevent their removal except by the dealer or authorised employee.

What safe storage is applicable to a Firearms Dealer?

Prior to approving the premises the Commissioner of Police must be satisfied that 'adequate provision has been made for the safe keeping of firearms by means of a safe or strongroom or otherwise' as provided by clause 39 (2)(c) of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following applicable, as a minimum, for the safe keeping of firearms by a Firearms Dealer.

Free standing safes- Less than 500kg

To prevent removal the safe must be anchored internally through the rear and/or bottom of the safe using expanding anchor bolts no less than 15mm diameter and 90mm length, conforming to the manufacturers specification.

The safe walls should have a minimum thickness of 75mm, with 3mm inner and outer walls encasing 35mpa of reinforced concrete.

Free standing safes- Less than 500kgcontinued:

The door should be constructed of 10mm steel plate with 2 x 25 mm locking bolts front and back. The locking bolts are to be secured by a six lever key lock or other equivalent locking mechanism (eg keyless combination). Maximum clearance allowable on all sides of the door is 1mm. Time delay locks are preferable.

Wall safes

Construction should be of structural grade mild steel of at least 10mm thickness with continuous welding and a fixed locking bar and dogging bolts on a hinged edge. Safe should be fitted with a six lever key lock or other equivalent locking mechanism or a keyless lock. Maximum clearance allowable on all sides of the door is 1mm. Time delay locks are preferable.

The safe must be bolted or secured to the structure of the premises.

When mounted onto brick, stone or concrete it must be attached by at least four (4) masonry anchors 90mm in length and 10mm in diameter, internally fitted through holes in the rear and/or base of the container securing it to the wall and/or floor.

Otherwise the safe may be concreted into the structure of the premises.

When mounted onto main wall studs or wall bearers it must 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.

All safes

Bolts securing safes should be internally fitted with securing points not visible or accessible externally.

Under the floor safes

The container should be constructed of structural grade mild steel of at least 3mm thickness. The door should be at least 10mm thick secured by a six lever key lock or other equivalent locking mechanism or a keyless lock.

The container and the neck of the safe must be embedded in reinforced concrete of a minimum compressed strength of 35mpa and have a minimum dimension of 495mm x 622mm.

Vaults and Strongrooms

A vault or strongroom is a room wholly enclosed within the firearms dealer premises.

All walls of the vault/strongroom must be of solid construction and be of reinforced concrete, double brick or steel.

There must be a single entry point to the vault/storeroom with a door of at least 75mm thickness. The door must be manufactured from heavy steel with hardened plate over all lock areas.

The door frame must be of at least 6mm steel and fixed to the structure of the room and floor by at least 6 expanding bolts 90mm long and 10mm diameter minimum.

Locks to the vault/strongroom must be constructed of solid metal secured by a six lever key lock or other equivalent locking mechanism or a keyless lock.

Time delay locks are preferable.

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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

