



NSW Police Force
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FIREARMS REGISTRY

Safe Storage Security Firms - Level Six

Over 15 Firearms

Level 6

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 over fifteen firearms.

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 requirements for security firms with over fifteen firearms?

Clause 81(5) of the Regulation provides the following for security firms authorised for over fifteen firearms.

The firearm must be:

- * Stored within a safe (over 500kg) of the approved type or within a vault or control room of an 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, vault or control room.

The safe must be of an approved type and be:

- * Secured in an approved manner to or within a brick or concrete floor or wall, and
- * Fitted with an alarm of an approved type that is monitored off-site. This alarm must be separate to the alarm for the premises.
- * Locked at all times except when distributing a firearm.

The premises must have an intruder alarm and duress facilities of an approved type that are monitored off-site. The premises must be equipped with 24 hour video surveillance of an approved type. The premises must not be residential premises.

Approved Safes for Over 15 Firearms

Safes as approved by the Commissioner of Police to comply with clause 81(5)(a)(i) of the Regulation for the storage of over fifteen firearms:

- * The safe must weigh in excess of 500kgs, and
- * Be constructed of structural grade 250 mild steel conforming with AS3679 and be not less than 10mm in thickness and be constructed with continuous welding on all external edges, and
- * The safe, vault or control room must be fitted with a door constructed of steel not less than 10mm 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
- * The jamb surrounding the door must be constructed of steel of not less than 10mm thickness and secured to the surrounding walls/floor by bolting it with hardened steel bolts. The bolts must be recessed so as to ensure they are not accessible from the external area of the vault or control room when the door is closed, and
- * The door must be fitted with a six lever key, pick resistant, deadbolt locking mechanism or a keyless combination lock that engages more than six locking mechanisms/bolts, and
- * The locks must be securely attached to the rear face of the door with hardened steel anti drill plates (minimum of 6mm 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 dead bolt locking mechanism.
- * The vault or control room must be constructed of brick, concrete or steel.

Securing the Safe

To comply with clause 81(5)(b)(i) of the Regulation and to prevent removal of the safe, it must be secured to or within the wall or floor by means of not less than four (4) expanding anchor bolts of not less than 15mm diameter thread, by 90mm in length, internally fitted through holes in the rear and/or bottom of the safe, which must conform to the manufacturer's specification.

Approved Safe Alarm System over 15 Firearms

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
- * Event log (no less than 20 event capacity) and off-site 24 hour monitoring.

Premises

The Commissioner has approved the following as premises for a security firm with more than 15 firearms for the purpose of clause 81(5)(c)(ii) of the Regulation.

The storage premises must be zoned for Commercial or Industrial use. However, this does not include any premises within a retail complex. The premises must also have the following security features:

- * All perimeter doors must be of solid construction, securely hinged with concealed hinges,
- * Such doors must be fitted with mortise lock or deadlock, and
- * The framework of the doorways must be hardwood or steel, and
- * All perimeter windows and roof skylights must be fitted with security grilles/bars, and
- * The exterior walls and floor to such premises must be constructed of brick or concrete.

Premises Alarm System

The Commissioner has approved the following as the type of alarms for premises for a security firm with more than 15 firearms to comply with clause 81(5)(c)(i) of the Regulation.

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 is 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.

Video Surveillance

The Commissioner has approved the following as the type of video surveillance for premises for a security firm with more than 15 firearms to comply with clause 81(5)(c)(iii) of the Regulation.

- * Must be CCTV or preferably DVR.
- * Possess sufficient cameras to monitor all external access points to the premises and all exterior walls that house windows.
- * The cameras must have infrared capability, or alternatively be supported by motion sensor lighting.
- * Must be able to record in 24hour format.
- * Must be connected to a recording device, whether video recorder, DVD or computer.
- * Copies of surveillance tapes/recordings must be maintained for not less than 14 days.
- * Must have independent power source to each individual camera.

Residential premises

Security firms authorised for one firearm only 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 is 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.

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.

Firearms Registry

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