

FIREARMS REGISTRY



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VERTEBRATE PEST ANIMAL CONTROL GENUINE REASON

All persons wishing to obtain a firearms licence in NSW must have a genuine reason to obtain the licence. This fact sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a firearms licence for the genuine reason of Vertebrate Pest Animal Control (VPAC).

What requirements must be met for this Genuine Reason?

This genuine reason applies to a person who wishes to use firearms for the control or suppression of vertebrate pest animals.

There are three different types of VPAC genuine reasons:

1. A professional contract shooter engaged or employed to control vertebrate pest animals on rural land, or
2. An authorised officer or employee of a prescribed government agency, or
3. A primary producer participating in an authorised eradication campaign run by or on behalf of a government agency or public authority to eradicate large feral animals or animals affected by brucellosis or tuberculosis

What categories of licence are available for this Genuine Reason?

Categories A, B and/or D. Category D covers any firearm to which a category C licence applies.

Any person wishing to make application for a licence over and above a category A licence must also produce evidence of a special need.

The online application has provision for completion of a special need. Select a reason from the options provided which most closely describes your special need to possess or use the selected firearm category.

What do I need to provide to support this Genuine Reason?

Contract Shooter

- * A tax assessment notice or letter on letterhead from a registered tax agent or certified accountant confirming your occupation as a professional contract shooter
- * Contracts or agreements (minimum of three) from clients confirming the engagement of your services, including the name and contact details of the client, term of the engagement, the type of animals to be eradicated and terms of payment
- * Insurance and qualifications in pest management and approval from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), if conducting aerial shooting

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.

Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

Tel: 1300 362 562

Interstate: 02 6670 8590

Email: firearms@police.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

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Person employed in, or authorised by, a prescribed government agency

A letter from the prescribed government agency certifying that you are employed or authorised by them to control or suppress vertebrate pest animals on property controlled by the agency. The letter must be on official letterhead and include your details, the employer's details, describe the animal/pest to be controlled/suppressed, the property location and size and the type of firearms required (category A, B and/or D) to carry out these activities.

Prescribed government agencies for the purpose of the genuine reason of vertebrate pest animal control are:

- * Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- * Local Land Services
- * Border Fence Maintenance Board

Primary producer - authorised eradication campaign

A declaration from the authorised agency (e.g. Local Land Services) on behalf of which you are participating in an organised campaign, stating that the agency has declared that an eradication campaign is in force for a given period of time and the location of the primary producer's property.

Proof of primary producer status, e.g. primary producer declaration or letter on official letterhead signed by a registered tax agent or qualified accountant.

In addition to producing evidence of a special need as outlined above, an applicant for this genuine reason is also required to provide evidence as to why this activity cannot be met by any other means (for example, including by the authority conferred by a category A, category B or category C licence, or by engaging the services of a professional contract shooter.) This evidence should be unique to your specific circumstances.

Note: The holder of a category D licence issued for the genuine reason of vertebrate pest animal control - primary producer authorised eradication campaign can apply to acquire three category D firearms only.

This licence is issued for a 12 month, 2 year or 5 year term and the above documentation must be uploaded with each application.

Further information / related information

Firearms Registry website: www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

NSW Police Force Community Portal: portal.police.nsw.gov.au/s/online-firearm-applications

See fact sheets:

- ['Information on obtaining a Firearms Licence in NSW'](#)
- ['Fee Schedule'](#)
- ['Safe Storage Level One - Category A and B Requirements'](#)
- ['Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D and H Requirements'](#)
- ['Transportation of Firearms'](#)

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