

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Vertebrate Pest Animal Control Genuine Reason

All persons wishing to obtain a firearms licence in NSW must have a genuine reason for obtaining the licence.

This FACT sheet provides information on 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 VPAC genuine reason applications, as follows:

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 can I have for this Genuine Reason?

Categories A, B and 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 special need. The online application has provision for completion of special need.

- * Special need for a category B licence is established by demonstrating that the activities and animals to be destroyed require the use of a category B firearm.
- * Special need for a category D licence is established by demonstrating that a special need exists to possess or use such firearms and an explanation as to why the special need cannot be met by any other means.

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, AND

Contracts or agreements 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.

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 describe the animal/pest to be controlled/suppressed, the property location and size and the category of licence required to carry out these activities.

Prescribed Government Agencies for the purpose of the genuine reason of Vertebrate Pest Animal Control are:

- * Department of Primary Industries;
- * Office of Environment and Heritage;
- * Local Land Services;
- * Border Fence Maintenance Board.

Primary Producer - Authorised Eradication Campaign

Proof of your participation in an authorised eradication campaign, which includes: the location of the campaign, the type of animals to be eradicated, that the pest control method will involve the use of firearms and the category of firearms being used in the campaign, AND

Proof of Primary Producer status, eg. Primary Producer Declaration or letter on official letterhead signed by a registered tax agent or qualified accountant.

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 3 x category D firearms only.

NOTE: This licence is issued for 1 year only and documentation must be supplied with each application.

Vertebrate Pest Animal Control (VPAC) Genuine Reason

What else do I need to obtain a firearms licence?

With your online application you must provide one of the following:

- * Details of your previously held NSW firearms licence under the *Firearms Act 1996* for the same category of licence for which you are now applying, or
- * Details of your currently issued interstate firearms licence for the same category of licence for which you are now applying, or
- * Upload a copy of the certificate obtained when you successfully completed the firearms safety training course.

For training providers contact:

- * Firearms Safety Training Council - Phone: 02 9486 3077, or
- * Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) - Phone: 1300 746 683, or
- * Department of Primary Industries Game Licensing Unit - Phone: 0263913750, or
- * Your nearest firearms club.

How do I make application for a firearms licence?

You can apply for a firearms licence online at Service NSW (www.service.nsw.gov.au).

To complete your online application you will need:

- * A MyServiceNSW Account linked to NSW Police Force
- * Supporting documents for your Genuine Reason and Special Need
- * Firearms Safety Training Course Certificate (if applicable)
- * Credit card for payment of the licence fee (if applicable)

Further information about each genuine reasons can be found on the relevant FACT Sheets on the Licence and Genuine Reason page on the Firearms Registry website.

How much will my firearms licence cost?

A personal firearms licence is issued for a period of 2 or 5 years.

2 year licence = \$100

5 year licence = \$200

Payment is made by credit card at the time of completing the online application.

A primary producer with the sole genuine reason of Primary Production is exempt from the fees for a licence application and registration of any firearm.

A licence issued to a primary producer for VPAC eradication campaign will be issued for one year only and this type of licence is fee exempt.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, see the Fee Schedule available on the Firearms Registry website.

RELATED INFORMATION

See FACT Sheets:

'100 Point Identification'

'Safe Storage Level One - Category A and B Requirements'

'Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D and H Requirements'

'Transportation of Firearms'

Firearms Registry

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Email

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