



NSW Police Force
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Safe Storage Level Seven - Prohibited Weapons Dealer & Theatrical Armourer - Premises & Safes

Level 7

All persons possessing prohibited weapons in NSW must comply with the safe storage requirements as prescribed by the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements, as prescribed by the legislation and as approved by the Commissioner of Police, for premises and safes for Prohibited Weapon Dealers & Theatrical Armourers.

There are general requirements for the safe keeping of weapons. What are these requirements?

All persons who are authorised by a permit to possess prohibited weapons in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe keeping of weapons - section 32A of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* (the Act). Any person possessing a weapon must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the weapon 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 Prohibited Weapons Dealer/Armourer?

Prior to the issue of a permit the Commissioner of Police must be satisfied that the applicant is carrying on, or proposes to carry on, the business of a weapons dealer/armourer and that the premises are suitable for this type of business - clauses 30 (1)(b) & 35(1)(b) of the *Weapons Prohibition Regulation 2017* (the Regulation). To be considered suitable, the premises must be a permanent structure (not sheds or garages) with secure locks on all entrances.

When approving premises, consideration must be given to the nature of activities, the location of the business, the types of weapons to which the permit relates, whether adequate provisions have been made for the safe storage of weapons by means of a safe, strongroom or otherwise and the security of the premises against unauthorised entry.

The Commissioner has determined the following is applicable to the premises of a prohibited weapons dealer or theatrical weapons armourer:

- * Dealers/armourers may only operate from the premises specified on the permit.
- * The area or room of the building must have solid walls that provide a substantial barrier to forced entry.
- * Any windows in the area or room must be covered by a security screen.
- * Any doors to the area or room must be made of solid material or be reinforced with steel.
- * Any such door must be fitted with a 'dead latch' type lock or with a hasp/barrel bolt and padlock.
- * Door hinges must be concealed or the hinge pins must be welded to prevent them from being punched out.
- * The weapon must be stored in the area or room in a locked steel safe of a type approved by the Commissioner and that cannot easily be penetrated.
- * Such a safe must be bolted to the structure of the area or room where the weapon is authorised to be kept.

What about the alarm system?

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

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

What about security of weapons after hours?

All weapons must be secured in a manner to prevent their removal except by the dealer/armourer or an authorised employee - section 22(1) of the Act.

What safe storage is applicable to a Prohibited Weapons Dealer/Armourer?

Prior to approving the premises the Commissioner of Police must be satisfied that the storage and safety requirements prescribed by the Act are capable of being met - section 10(2)(c) of the Act.



Safes, Vaults and Strongrooms

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following is applicable, as a minimum, to the safe keeping of weapons for a prohibited weapons dealer/armourer.

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 in diameter and 90mm length, conforming to the manufacturer's specification.

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

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. The 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 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 at least 75mm thick. 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.

Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only. Applicants and permit holders should familiarise themselves with the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* and the associated Regulation, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

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