



NSW Police Force  
www.police.nsw.gov.au

# FIREARMS REGISTRY

## Safe Storage Level One - Category A & B Requirements

SS 1

All persons owning firearms in NSW must comply with the safe keeping & storage requirements as outlined in the Firearms Act 1996 (Act), the Firearms Regulation 2006 (Regulation) and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT Sheet provides information on safe keeping & storage applicable to all Category A and B licence holders.

### What are the general requirements in relation to safe keeping of firearms?

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. 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.

There are specific legislative requirements for the safe keeping and storage of firearms for Category A & B licence holders, in addition to the general requirement.

### What are the legislative requirements for Category A and B safe storage?

Section 40 of the Act provides mandatory minimum requirements for the safe keeping and storage of firearms held under a Category A & B licence as follows:

- \* When any firearm is not actually being used or carried, it must be stored in a locked receptacle of a type approved by the Commissioner of Police and that is constructed of hard wood or steel and not easily penetrable.
- \* If the receptacle weighs less than 150 kilograms when empty, it must be fixed in order to prevent its easy removal.
- \* The locks of such a receptacle must be of solid metal and be of a type approved by the Commissioner.
- \* Any ammunition for the firearm must be stored in a locked container of a type approved by the Commissioner and that is kept separate from the receptacle containing any such firearm.

Failure to meet these requirements is punishable by a fine in excess of \$2200 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

### Do I have to secure my receptacle to the premises?

**Yes.** If the receptacle used for storing the firearms weighs less than 150kg (when empty), the receptacle must be secured to the structure of the building. The receptacle should be secured by way of expanding anchor bolts (or similar) fixed internally through the base and/or back of the receptacle. The securing points should not be visible or accessible externally from the receptacle.

- \* When mounted onto brick, stone or concrete, it should 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 floor and/or wall. In the case of level 1 floor containers the floor of the safe should also be flush with its base.
- \* When mounted onto main wall studs or wall bearers, it should be fitted flush against the wall and secured to the wall studs and/or floor bearers by four (4) galvanized hexagon head coach screws, not less than 65mm in length and 8mm diameter. In the case of level 1 floor containers ensure that the container is flush with the floor.

### What are the approved receptacles for Category A and B safe storage?

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as the minimum standard applicable for the receptacle and locking mechanisms for Category A & B safe storage.

Any receptacle or lock must meet or exceed the following features to comply with Section 40 (1) of the Act. A list of safes & receptacles that have been considered and approved by the Commissioner of Police is available on the NSW Police website - [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au).



The above represents an example of a steel container which would comply with the basic storage requirements for firearms held under a Category A & B licence.

### **What are the minimum standards for locking mechanisms?**

The minimum standards for the locking mechanisms of a safe/receptacle are as follows:

- \* The locks must be solid metal lock/s have a minimum of 100 key changes; or be PIN activated; or have biometric (fingerprint) activation; and
- \* The door should be fitted with a minimum three point locking mechanism (or similar) which secures the door to the receptacle at various points around the door to prevent entry to the receptacle.
- \* If the safe requires the fitting of an external lock (ie padlock), the lock must have a minimum body width of 40mm, a hardened steel shackle and have a minimum of 100 key changes.

### **Can I make alternative arrangements for safe storage?**

**Yes.** Provided the Commissioner of Police is satisfied that the alternative arrangements for the safe keeping & storage of firearms in the licensee's possession are of a standard not less than the requirements as outlined for Category A & B licence holders.

### **When do I need to have my safe storage inspected?**

Inspections may be conducted by police at any reasonable time, by prior arrangement - Section 19(2)(c) of the Act.

If your safe storage requires inspection, police will contact you to arrange a time for the inspection and they will issue you with a certificate upon successful completion of the inspection.

### **What if I change the address where my firearms are being stored?**

You must notify the Firearms Registry in writing within 14 days of any change to a safe storage address.

The notification should include the particulars of the arrangements that have been made to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation in relation to safe keeping and storage of firearms.

Police will contact you if the new safe storage address needs to be inspected.

### **Related Information:**

See FACT Sheets:

'Ammunition Safe Storage, Purchase & Possession',  
'Transportation of Firearms',  
'Level 2 Safe Storage - Category C, D & H Requirements'.

## **Firearms Registry**

### **Address**

Locked Bag 1  
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

### **Telephone**

1300362562

### **Interstate**

02 66708590

### **Fax**

02 66708558

### **Email**

firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au

### **Website**

[www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms](http://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 *Firearms Regulation 2006*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).



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