



Purchasing ammunition & firearm use interstate licence holders

Northern Territory Firearms Act 1997

What is happening?

The Firearms Policy and Recording Unit and Northern Territory Police Legal Branch recently reviewed the operations of the Northern Territory Firearms Act 1997 ('the Act') and Northern Territory Firearms Regulations 1997 ('the Regulations') with respect to the sale of ammunition to persons who hold an interstate firearms licence.

The review established that the Act and Regulations does not provide any automatic ability for an NT firearms dealer or NT ammunition retail permit holder to sell ammunition to an interstate firearms licence holder.

As a result the Police Commissioner has issued a temporary exemption to allow interstate firearms licence holders to purchase and possess ammunition in the Northern Territory under certain conditions. This exemption remains in effect until 30 June 2027.

What is the problem?

Sections 68A and 69 of the Act stipulate that ammunition can only be sold to, or possessed by, the holder of a licence. The definition of a licence within the Act does not include a corresponding licence (i.e. an interstate licence). This means that interstate licence holders cannot purchase or possess ammunition under these sections.

Section 92 of the Act enables the holder of a corresponding category A / B / C or H firearms licence to attend the Northern Territory for the purpose of participating in an approved shooting competition. This section allows the holder to possess and use firearms in the NT for the shooting competition, and therefore allows the possession of ammunition. However, it does not provide an avenue for the holder to purchase ammunition in the NT.

Regulation 33 of the Regulations provides that the holder of a corresponding category A or B licence may possess and use firearms in the NT for up to three months. This regulation does not provide the holder the ability to purchase ammunition. Section 58(3) of the Act permits a licence holder to use their firearms under the supervision of a NT firearms licence holder.

Section 93 of the Act further provides that the holder of a corresponding category C / D or H licence will be taken to be a 'licence' authorising the possession and use of firearms (of those categories) for 2 days, provided that the holder has notified the Commissioner in writing, and subject to any directions of the Commissioner.

What do you need to do?

As a person traveling from interstate you need to ensure you meet the following conditions. If you meet the following conditions there is no requirement for you to advise Firearms, Policy and Recording Unit.

Please ensure you have your interstate firearms licence or evidence of your participation in the approved shooting competition when purchasing ammunition.

Conditions under declaration – Shooting competition

A person who holds a corresponding category A, B , C or H licence who is in the NT to attend an approved shooting competition, and intends to be in the NT for less than 3 months, may purchase ammunition providing;

- The ammunition is only used by the person
- The ammunition, if used in the NT, is only used while participating in an approved shooting competition or practice for participating in the approved event; and
- When purchasing the ammunition, the person presents evidence of their participation in the approved shooting competition.

Conditions under declaration – Corresponding licence

- The ammunition is only used by the person;
- The ammunition, if used within the NT, is only used for the purpose for which the person is authorised to possess or use the firearm in the State or Territory that issued the corresponding licence; and
- When purchasing ammunition the person presents evidence of their firearms licence in force under a law of a State or other Territory.

Contact

For clarification or enquiries, please contact Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU) on (08) 8922 3543 between 8 am and 11am Monday to Friday excluding public holidays or email firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au.