Northern Territory Police Force

Firearms Shooters' Licence Information Sheet

Northern Territory Firearms Act 1997

Read the information sheet before completing your application.

Where to lodge your application

Application for a NT firearms Licence must be lodged in person at a NT Police station. An application cannot be mailed or emailed to the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU).

All NT firearms licence applications within the greater Darwin and Palmerston area (Darwin, Casuarina, Palmerston, and rural areas) are to be lodged at the Palmerston Police Station during business hours (8:00am–5.00pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays). All applications for a licence outside this area can be lodged at any NT Police station.

There is no renewal system in the NT

Every application is assessed as a new application under the NT *Firearms Act 1997* (the Act), and all supporting documentation must be provided on each occasion.

Any application for a re-issue of an expiring licence should be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the licence expiration date.

General information

- category C shooter's licence is valid for 5 years (for sports shooting only)
- category A & B shooter's licence is valid for 10 years
- all sections of the application must be completed
- incomplete applications will not be accepted
- provide all supporting documentation at the time of submission
- payment must be made at the time the application is submitted.

Waiting periods for licence

For new applicants there is a mandatory 28 day cooling off period as per Section 10 (2) of the NT Firearms Act 1997. No waiting period applies for a re-issue of Shooter's Licence or interstate transfers

Genuine reason

Applicants can apply for a Shooter's licence for the genuine reason of

- Recreational shooting and hunting; or
- Sports shooting

Recreational shooting and hunting

- An applicant for a licence whose genuine reason for possessing or using firearms is recreational shooting or hunting must either:
- be the owner or occupier of rural land;
- produce proof of permission given by the owner or occupier of rural land to shoot on the rural land;
- produce proof of permission given by an employee of an agency, to shoot on crown land; or
- produce proof of permission given by the clerk of a local government council to shoot on land owned or occupied by the council.

Sports shooters

An applicant for a licence whose genuine reason for possessing or using firearms is sports shooting must be a member of an approved firearms club.

Permission to shoot

The applicant must provide details and evidence that they have permission to shoot prior to applying for a Shooter's licence.

Permission to shoot on crown land

Applicants require a Crown land permit issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

Note: Crown land permits are valid for 10 years and it is the applicant's responsibility to apply for a new permit once it expires and provide a copy to the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit.

Permission to shoot on rural land

The applicant must provide a letter from the owner of the land providing:

- owners name
- contact details
- address where permission is granted to shoot e.g. NT Portion, section
- permission commencement date
- permission expiry date
- size of the land
- letter to be signed and dated

Permission to shoot on aboriginal land

The applicant must provide a letter granting permission from the relevant land council to hunt on Aboriginal land. The letter should include:

- printed on letterhead
- name of person granting permission
- contact details of person granting permission
- address where permission is granted to shoot e.g. NT Portion, section
- permission commencement date
- permission expiry date
- size of the land
- letter to be signed and dated

Note: Letters from individual Traditional Owners and Community or Local Councils are not accepted unless they are endorsed by the relevant Land Council (Northern or Central or Tiwi or Anindilyakwa Land Councils – as applicable)

Shoot on own land

When shooting on your own land, the applicant must provide details:

- address where applicant will shoot e.g. Lot no, NT Portion, section
- size of land
- Evidence the land belongs to the applicant

Other NT Government issued hunting permits

Applicants require a permit by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security. Refer to Hunting and shooting for further details.

Note: Hunting permits are valid for different periods and it is the applicant's responsibility to apply for a new permit once it expires and provide a copy to the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit.

Shoot on local government land

The applicant must provide a letter granting permission from the relevant local government council to hunt on council land. The letter should include:

- letter from the local government land allowing the applicant to shoot on council land
- name of person granting permission
- contact details of person granting permission
- address where permission is granted to shoot e.g. NT Portion, section
- permission commencement date
- permission expiry date
- size of the land
- map of area where permission has been granted (if available)
- letter to be signed and dated

Proof of NT residency

To be eligible for a NT firearms licence, you must

- be a permanent resident of the NT; and
- provide proof of residency:
  - current NT driver licence
  - utility bill issued within the previous three months
  - electoral enrolment with current residential address displayed.

Firearms categories

The licence category you are applying for is dependent on the type of firearm that you own, propose to acquire, or use. Select the firearms category relevant to your 'Genuine Reason' and/or need. More information on firearm categories can be found at Firearms Categories.

Storage and safekeeping of firearms

Applicants must comply with the storage requirements outlined in the NT *Firearms Regulations 1997* (Schedule 2 and 3). Ensure you are aware of what is required for the storage and safekeeping of your firearms. More information can be found at Firearm Storage Requirements.

Applicants must include a storage form with their firearm application.

- self-storage (Category A and B (C and H if previously inspected))
  (Attach PF491 Self declaration for storage/safekeeping of firearms)
- Permission to inspect (Category C and H)
  (Attach PF482 Permission to inspect premises (First time applicants/new safe/new location)
- storage with the dealer or another licence holder
  (Attach PF492 Permission to store firearms notice)

Photos of your storage/safe should include

- exterior of storage/safe
- interior of storage/safe showing location of all securing bolts or welds
- any internal compartments, doors and the locking mechanism or locks

Training

It is a requirement that you must complete a Firearm Training and Safety Course and provide a copy of your certificate.

For firearm category A or B you may sit the firearms Training and Safety examination at the Police Station where you are lodging your application.

- read the Firearms Training Guide
- you must get 100% correct on the firearms safety examination
- if 100% is not achieved you will need to re-sit the examination another day
- if you have difficulty reading and/or writing, an oral examination can be organised. Please contact the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit to make an appointment.

For firearm categories C or H. a current Firearms Training and Safety Certificate must be provided.

Interstate residents moving to the Northern Territory

Refer to the interstate residents travelling to the Northern Territory fact sheet on the website

Information disclosure

All applicants must answer all questions about any criminal history, mental health history, and domestic violence in which you were involved.

- you must answer all questions truthfully
- you must disclose all DVOs/PVOs/AVOs, even if they have been withdrawn or are no longer in force
- you must disclose all court outcomes where there has been a finding of guilt, even where no conviction was recorded
- if you have been 'fined' as a result of a court appearance, this must be disclosed
- disclose all history including youth offences and all adult charges including spent convictions.

If you are unsure about any of these questions select 'Yes'. National checks will be undertaken during the adjudication process and if you are found to have answered the questions untruthfully your application will be refused and you may face criminal charges.

How long it may take to process your licence

It may take up to 4 to 6 weeks for your application to be processed. To avoid delays:

- ensure your application is complete
- confirm all information is correct
- check all required supporting documents are provided

What you need to bring

- must provide 100 points of identification proof of identity
- evidence of NT residency
- evidence of Australian residency (if applicable)
- copy of current FTSC certificate (or successfully complete exam at Police Station)
- certificate of firearms club membership - PF474 (Sports shooting)
- supporting documents relating to permission to shoot
- documents relating to information disclosure section
- storage and safekeeping form.

Need an Interpreter service?

You can use an interpreter service if you are having difficulty understanding these questions. You can contact the 'Interpreting and Translating Service NT' by phoning: (08) 8999 8506 or 1800 676 254

Need assistance with your application?

For clarification or enquiries, please contact the 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