Storage and safekeeping of firearms

Transporting firearms in motor vehicles

(*NT Firearms Regulations 1997* - Regulation 32 (2)

Where -

(a) a firearm is being conveyed in a motor vehicle; and
(b) the motor vehicle is left unattended at a place away from where the firearm is normally stored or secured.

Then -

(c) the firearm is to be placed in the boot, the cargo carrying area or some other lockable compartment of the vehicle or is to be secured by means of a firearm securing device;
(d) the firearm is to be completely hidden from open view;
(e) ammunition for the firearm is to be placed in a lockable compartment of the vehicle (other than the compartment in which the firearm is placed) or in a locked container secured in or on the vehicle; and
(f) the person in charge of the vehicle must take all reasonable steps to ensure that, while the vehicle remains unattended, the firearm -
    (i) is kept safely in the vehicle;
    (ii) is not stolen or removed from the vehicle; and
    (iii) does not come into the possession of a person who is not licenced to be in possession of the firearm

Supplementary Advice

Once your destination is reached the normal rules of storage apply. For NT licence/permit holders: the firearms and ammunition must be returned to their normal storage or similar. i.e. – firearms returned to a gunsafe, ammunition returned to a locked container - not left in the car.

For interstate visitors: If remaining for an extended period in one place you must seek to store your firearms in someone's compliant gunsafe or with a dealer.

LOCAL POLICE ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE IN THE NT.



The storage and safekeeping of firearms is every firearm owner's responsibility. This is reflected in the requirements under the *NT Firearms Act 1997* and *NT Firearms Regulations 1997* that detail the minimum standard of how firearms are to be stored, the specifications of storage cabinets and safes and storage requirements when carrying firearms in motor vehicles.

When firearms are not actually being used or transported they must be stored in a locked receptacle that complies with the firearms act and regulations.

Ammunition for firearms must be stored in a locked container that is separated from the safe or other receptacle that contains the firearms.

Specifications for Category A and B firearm cabinets

(*NT Firearms Regulations 1997* - Schedule 2 / Regulation 21)

If the receptacle weighs less than 150kg when empty, it must be fixed to a wall or floor in a manner that prevents its easy removal.

1. The sides and door are to be constructed of solid steel-
   (a) that has a minimum thickness of 3mm; or
   (b) that has a minimum thickness of 2mm if the method of construction used ensures rigidity or additional reinforcing to prevent distortion has been included.
2. All edges are to be rolled or folded.
3. The door is to be recessed or flush fitted and is to be sized to prevent leverage points.
4. All hinges are to be secured so that the door cannot be detached by removing the pins, internal or trap-type hinges being preferred.
5. There are at least 2 bolt-down points.
6. There is to be one locking point.
7. There is to be sufficient reinforcing to prevent distortion of the door if a forced entry were to be attempted.
8. If a padlock is used, it is to be covered so as to prevent the lock being cut or broken off.

Specifications for Category C, D and H firearm safes

(*NT Firearms Regulations 1997* - Schedule 3 / Regulation 22)

1. The safe or other receptacle is to be constructed of solid steel-
   (a) that has a minimum thickness of 6mm in the sides and the door, or
   (b) that, subject to inspection and approval by the Commissioner, has minimum thicknesses of 3mm in the sides and 6mm in the door.
2. All hinges are to be non-removable and are to be constructed in the same manner as safe-style hinges.
3. Locks are to be internal and may be combination locks, key locks or electronic locks or a mixture of 2 or more of those kinds of locks.
4. A safe or other receptacle for the storage of category C or D firearms is to have at least 2 locking bolts operated by one or more locks.
5. A safe or other receptacle for the storage of category H firearms is to have-
   (a) at least one lock; or
   (b) if the swinging edge is greater than 500mm – at least 2 locking bolts operate byone or more locks.
6. Alternatively, category H firearms may be stored in a compartment inside a receptacle that complies with the requirements specified in Schedule 2 (a "Schedule 2 receptacle") if the compartment-
   (a) is a separate box inside the Schedule 2 receptacle;
   (b) has a thickness of solid steel that is at least equal to the thickness of the steel inthe Schedule 2 receptacle;
   (c) can only be accessed if the door to the Schedule 2 receptacle is opened first; and
   (d) is designed so that, in combination with the Schedule 2 receptacle, it provides adouble thickness of steel on all sides.

Ammunition storage requirements

(*NT Firearms Regulations 1997* - Regulation 22A)

When ammunition is not being used or carried, it must be stored in a sturdy locked container and kept separate from firearms.

The ammunition container may be:

- Stored inside a firearm safe;
- Attached to a firearm safe;
- Built as a separate locked compartment within a firearm safe; or
- Stored separately from the firearm safe.

The ammunition container must:

- Have its own lock; and
- Use a different key, code or electronic access system to that used for the firearm safe.

Important

Keys, codes or other access devices used to open the ammunition container must be stored separately from those used to open the firearm safe.

Examples of compliant storage:

- Firearm safe opened by keypad, ammunition box opened by key.
- Firearm safe opened by one key, ammunition box opened by a different key stored elsewhere.
- Ammunition compartment within a safe secured by a separate lock or code.