

NT Firearms Training Guide



Contents

Introduction.....	4
Firearms accidents	4
NT <i>Firearms Act 1997</i>	4
Overview of the Act.....	4
Introduction to the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU).....	4
Requirements for Firearm Registration, Firearms Licences and Permits to Acquire	5
Firearms Information	5
What is a firearm?	5
Categories of firearms.....	5
Genuine reasons for holding a firearm	7
Licensing Requirements.....	8
Types of Firearm Licences in the Northern Territory.....	8
Detailed steps for obtaining a firearms licence.....	10
Firearm Operation.....	11
Types of firearms and firearm actions.....	11
Firearms	12
Ammunition.....	14
The operating steps in loading and firing a firearm.....	14
Firearm Safety Rules.....	15
Introduction to Firearm Safety Rules.....	15
Explanation of Each Safety Rule and Its Importance.....	15
Personal Safety	18
Carrying your firearm safely.....	18
Purchase of Firearms.....	19
Steps for Purchasing a Firearm	19
Steps for purchasing ammunition.....	19
Firearm Storage	20
Safe Storage Requirements for Category A & B Firearms.....	20
Safe Storage Requirements for Category C, D, and H Firearms.....	20
Storage of Ammunition	21
Before You Go Shooting.....	21
Environmental responsibility and animal welfare ethics.....	21
Transportation of Firearms.....	21
Guidelines for Firearm Transportation in Motor Vehicles.....	22
Special Considerations for Sending Firearms via Mail.....	22
Firearms Offences.....	22
Overview of Common Firearms Offences.....	22

Firearms Training Guide

Consequences of committing offences under the Act	23
Responsible firearm ownership and legal obligations	23
Disposing of Firearms.....	23
Procedures for surrendering, selling, or giving firearms.....	23
Firearm Loss, Theft or Destruction	24
Change of Details.....	24
Reporting Changes in Address, Name or Storage details with the Police.....	24
Conclusion	24

Introduction

Welcome to the Firearms Training Guide. This guide provides you with the knowledge and skills to understand the responsibilities and requirements of being a firearms licence holder. The training focuses on safety, legal aspects, handling, and storage of firearms.

Firearms accidents

The main objectives of firearms safety training is to reduce firearm accidents and improve public safety. There are few incidents that are identified as a firearms accident; however, most are due to a breach of the National Firearms Safety Code.

If you want to own and use firearms you must be aware of your responsibilities to:

- Keep yourself safe
- Keep your family safe
- Keep the community safe

If you are using, transporting and storing firearms you must know and follow the safety rules.

NT Firearms Act 1997

Overview of the Act

Firearms and their possession, use and control are governed by the law. In the Northern Territory they are controlled by the Act 1997 (the Act). The Commissioner of Police oversees the firearms registry and licensing / permit processes. Understanding the legislation is important for anyone involved in firearm-related activities.

The primary objectives of the Act include:

Public Safety: To protect the public from potential harm linked to the use of firearms.

Control and Regulation: A legal framework for the ownership, possession and use of firearms.

Record-Keeping: To maintain accurate records of all firearms within the Northern Territory.

Introduction to the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU)

The Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Act within the Northern Territory. This includes the firearms registry, ongoing management of licences and permits, and ensuring compliance with legislation.

Requirements for Firearm Registration, Firearms Licences and Permits to Acquire

Firearm Registration

In the Northern Territory all firearms must be registered with the NT Police. Registration captures essential details about the firearm and its ownership. This process ensures accountability and traceability of firearms within the region.

Licences

A valid firearms licence is required to own, carry, or use firearms within the Northern Territory. Different types of licences exist for various purposes, including sports shooting, recreational shooting, occupational requirements, and more.

Permit to Acquire

Obtaining a firearm requires a Permit to Acquire, issued by the FPRU. The holder of a licence may apply to the Commissioner for a permit to purchase or acquire a firearm. A separate permit to purchase or acquire a firearm is required for each firearm.

Firearms Information

What is a firearm?

The Act defines a firearm as a device or part of a device designed or adapted to discharge a shot, bullet, or other projectile. Discharge can occur through expanding gases, igniting combustible material, or by compressed air or other gases. The definition also includes firearm parts, such as rifle or shotgun actions and pistol or revolver frames.

Categories of firearms

The Act categorises firearms into five categories, each with specific characteristics and permissions to use.

Category A

- Air rifles
- Rimfire rifles (other than self-loading)
- Shotguns (other than pump action or self-loading)
- Shotgun and rimfire rifle combinations

Air Rifles



Single Barrel Shotguns



Rimfire Rifles



Double barrel Shotguns



Category B

- Muzzle-loading firearms
- Centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading)
- Shotgun and centre-fire rifle combinations
- Lever action shotguns 5 shot or less

Lever Action Centre-fire Rifle



Pump Action Centre-fire Rifle



Category C

- Self-loading rimfire rifles with magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds
- Self-loading shotguns with magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds
- Pump action shotguns with magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds
- Firearms designed to discharge tranquilisers
- Paintball firearms

Self-loading Shotgun



Pump Action Shotgun



Paintball Firearms



Category D

- Self-loading centre-fire rifles
- Self-loading shotguns with capacity of more than 5 rounds
- Pump action shotguns with capacity of more than 5 rounds
- Self-loading rimfire rifles with magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds
- Firearms, other than pistols, less than 70 cm in length and capable of being concealed on or about the person
- Inoperable machine guns
- Lever action shotgun – more than 5 shot

Self-loading Centre-fire rifle



Self-loading shotgun



Category H

- Pistols and air pistols



Genuine reasons for holding a firearm

When applying for a firearms licence, all applicants must have a **genuine reason**.

For category C, D & H firearm licences the applicant must also have a **genuine need**. This means that the applicant must demonstrate that the use of the firearm is essential and necessary.

Genuine need requires the applicant to produce evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that he or she needs to possess or use category C, D or H firearms and the need cannot be met by any other means (including by the possession or use of another category of firearm).

There are different genuine reasons for different licence types. The genuine reasons for possessing firearms are as follows:

Genuine Reasons:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| A. Sports Shooting | G. Animal Protection |
| B. Recreational Shooting or Hunting | H. Firearms Collection |
| C. Primary Production | I. Museum Display |
| D. Vertebrate Pest Animal Control | J. Inheritance |
| E. Business or Employment | K. Instruction in Firearms Use & Safety |
| F. Occupational Requirements | L. Paintball Operator or Employee |

Acceptance Criteria:

- Categories A&B Firearms: Reasons A-K are accepted.
- Category C Firearms: Reasons A, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K & L accepted.
- Category D Firearms: Reasons C, D, E, F, H, I, & K are accepted.
- Category H Firearms: Reasons A, E, F, H, I, J & K are accepted.

Different proof is required for different reasons.

For example:

- An applicant wants a category A and B shooting licence
- Their genuine reason is recreational shooting or hunting

They can provide:

- A crown land permit; or
- A parks and wildlife hunting permit; or
- A letter from the owner or occupier of rural land (6000 acres or more) providing approval to shoot / hunt on that land; or
- A letter from the traditional owner of aboriginal land to hunt on that land (on appropriate letterhead and endorsed by the relevant land council).

Licensing Requirements

Types of Firearm Licences in the Northern Territory

Anyone in the NT who wants to own or handle a firearm unaccompanied needs to have a valid firearms licence. In the NT, there are various kinds of firearm licences for various uses. The kinds of licences for firearms are as follows:

Shooters Licence

The most common type of licence. People holding this licence can own and use firearms for sports shooting, recreational shooting, or hunting.

Category H Sports Shooters Licence

Specifically for individuals interested in sports shooting with pistols and air pistols. The applicant must be the member of an approved firearms club.

Club Junior Licence

Issued to junior members (aged between 12 and 18) of recognised shooting clubs, allowing supervised participation in shooting activities.

Employees Licence

For individuals employed in roles where firearms are required (employed under a Corporate, Dealer or Museum licence), subject to specific conditions and restrictions.

Corporate Licence

Granted to companies or organisations that need firearms for specific purposes, such as security or pest control.

Collectors Licence

Individuals with a genuine interest in collecting firearms can apply for a Collectors Licence, subject to stringent storage and usage conditions.

Antique Licence

For individuals interested in possessing and collecting antique firearms, subject to specific criteria.

Heirloom Licence

Allows the inheritance and possession of firearms, subject to legal requirements.

Museum Licence

Issued to museums for the display and preservation of firearms as part of their collections.

Dealers Licence

Granted to firearm dealers, allowing them to engage in the business of selling and purchasing firearms and ammunition.

Armourers Licence

For individuals engaged in the repair, modification, or maintenance of firearms.

Instructors Licence

Issued to qualified individuals who provide firearms training and safety courses.

Club Licence

Granted to recognise shooting clubs, to allow for them to deliver shooting activities.

Paintball Operator or Employee Licence

Specific to individuals involved in paintball activities.

Understanding the purpose and requirements of each type of licence is important for applicants to ensure they apply for the appropriate licence based on their needs and activities.

Detailed steps for obtaining a firearms licence.

Obtaining a firearms licence in the Northern Territory involves an application process. There is no licence renewal process. Every time a firearms application is made under the Act, it is a new application and all information, including storage information, must be submitted.

The steps include:

Application Submission: Submit a completed application form to the Commissioner of Police, along with the required fee.

Identification: Provide 100 points of identification as per the approved identification process.

Safe Storage Declaration: Submit proof of safe storage facilities, which may include a declaration for storage or for a new category C, D or H application, a police inspection.

An applicant can request an inspection by police where a self-declaration cannot be completed. Police may also conduct an inspection if a self-declaration is not suitable in the circumstance.

Genuine Reason or Need: Clearly demonstrate a genuine reason or need for possessing firearms, aligned with the categories mentioned in The Act.

Eligibility Criteria: Ensure compliance with eligibility criteria, including age (at least 18, unless applying for a firearms club junior Licence), being a fit and proper person, completion of an approved firearms training and safety course, residency in the Northern Territory, and a clean record regarding disqualifying offences.

Domestic Violence Order Check: Confirm that the person has not been subject to a domestic violence order within the previous five years.

Personal Violence Restraining Order Check: Confirm that the person has not been the subject of a personal violence restraining order in the previous 5 years.

Application Processing: The application is processed by the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU), and the licence is either granted or refused.

Issuing of Licence: If approved, the applicant receives a photographic licence by mail, stipulating any conditions.

All first-time applicants are subject to a mandatory 28-day waiting period, known as a 'cooling-off' period.

Detailed licence information is available at www.police.nt.gov.au.

Firearm Operation

Types of firearms and firearm actions

There are many different types of firearms available in Australia. It is important that you have some knowledge of the different types of firearms and their basic parts.

Lock, Stock and Barrel

This commonly used expression very clearly names the three basic parts of a firearm.

- The lock is the mechanism which fires the cartridge. It is now more commonly referred to as “the action”.
- The stock is the part by which the firearm is held - the butt and the fore-end.
- The Barrel is the steel tube through which projectiles are fired.

There are seven basic functions of a firearm, which can be generally applied to every type of firearm. Each of the seven steps is employed each time a firearm is fired regardless of its type.

- Feeds: Inserts a live round or cartridge into the chamber.
- Cocks: Compresses the firing pin main spring and engages the firing pin to trigger the mechanism.
- Locks: Locks the bolt tight, ready to fire when the trigger is pulled.
- Fires: Discharges (or shoots) one round.
- Unlocks: Unlocks the bolt from the breech face.
- Extracts: Removes the case (fired or unfired) from the chamber.
- Ejects: Throws the case clear from the firearm.

Safety Catches

Safety catches are mechanical devices designed to prevent firearms from discharging accidentally, however they can fail and be accidentally released.

Never rely solely on the safety catch. Remember that safety catches simply supplement safe handling practices.

Firearms

Rifles

- A rifle normally fires a single bullet and generally range in calibre from .17 to .45. All are used for target shooting.
- The .17 and .22 rimfire is suitable for small animals such as rabbits and hares.
- The centre-fire .22 is suitable for hunting goats and foxes.
- Some cartridges such as the .308 Winchester, .270 Winchester, 30.06, and the .303 British are popular for hunting pigs and deer.

Shotguns

Shotguns are used for clay target shooting and to hunt small animals such as rabbits. There are a number of pellets in a 12-gauge cartridge that spread out when they leave the muzzle.

Different sized animals require different sized shot to ensure effective pellet penetration for a humane kill. All hunters are prohibited from using a shot gun with a gauge greater than 12 gauge to hunt game birds.

Some recommended shot sizes are:

- 7, 8 and 9 for smaller birds
- 4, 5 and 6 for rabbit
- 3 and 2 for foxes
- Buckshot, or a single solid slug, for pigs

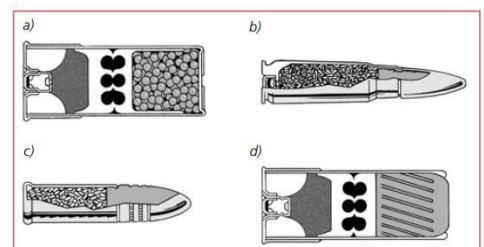
Types of actions

All cartridge firing firearms used for target shooting or hunting have the following things in common:

- The cartridge (ammunition) is fed into the chamber
- The ammunition is secured in place by locking the action
- The firearm is discharged by pulling the trigger
- The action is unlocked; and
- The empty cartridge case is extracted and ejected.

Cutaway drawings of four different types of cartridges.

- a) A shotgun cartridge
- b) A centre-fire cartridge
- c) A rimfire cartridge
- d) A rifled slug for use in a shotgun (single projectile)



Bolt Action

The bolt action is one of the simplest and most trouble-free firearm actions. Starting from the unloaded condition, the action is unlocked by lifting the bolt handle and pulling it back. A cartridge is fed into the chamber by pushing the bolt forward. The bolt handle is then turned downwards, locking the bolt and cartridge in place. A firing pin is usually cocked by movement of the bolt or bolt handle, and when the trigger is squeezed the pin is released, firing the cartridge. The empty cartridge case is then ejected by lifting the bolt handle again and pulling the bolt back.

Lever Action

The lever action works on the same basic principle, except that a lever is pushed down to unlock the bolt and move it backwards. This movement also cocks the action. When the lever is pulled upwards again it feeds a cartridge into the chamber and locks, ready to be fired by pulling the trigger. After the cartridge is fired the empty case is ejected by pushing the lever down again.

Pump Action

A pump action is also similar. A pump slide is pulled backwards to open the action and cock it. When the slide is pushed forward the action feeds a fresh cartridge, locks, and is ready to fire.

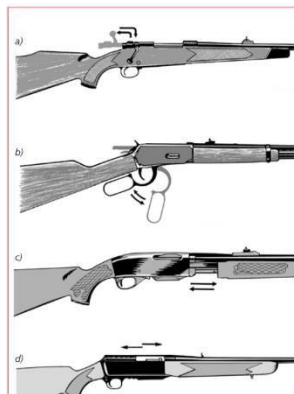
Self-loading

A self-loading action is also known as a semi-automatic action and operates in the same way as the above firearms. However, ejection and loading is carried out automatically by the force of either the recoil or by gas pressure. Because of the automatic reloading, a cartridge is ready to be fired each time the trigger is squeezed.

The most common shotguns in Australia are the break open variety where the barrel(s) hinge downwards. There are over-and-under, side-by-side and single barrel shotguns. Some shotguns are self-loading or pump action.

Common firearm actions.

- a) A bolt action
- b) A lever action
- c) A pump action
- d) A self-loading



.22 Rimfire rifles

A .22 rimfire rifle has been the traditional first rifle of many shooters. It is regarded as a safe and inexpensive firearm for a young person. This rifle can be just as deadly as any other firearm and must be handled with respect, caution and care.

Shotguns

Firing a rifle in the air carries the danger of some person or property being struck when the bullet falls back to earth. Although shotgun pellets fall too, they do not travel so far and are much lighter. This means they are less likely to endanger someone.

The shotgun is used for fast moving game on the ground and in the air. A shotgun is also used for competitive shooting at clay targets.

Centre-fire rifles

Centre-fire rifles in various calibres are suitable for a whole range of game and target shooting. There is such a variety of calibre, projectile type and weight, however, that no single firearm or cartridge is suitable for every purpose. It is important, therefore, to think about where you can use your firearm before buying one. Ask someone who is involved in that sport.

Ammunition

Keep your ammunition separate. Only the ammunition for the gun you are currently using should be carried. It is easy to confuse centre-fire rounds of different calibres and shotgun cartridges of different gauges. When a firearm is loaded with the incorrect ammunition, it may explode, injuring the user.

Make sure you are able to distinguish between the various types of ammunition in order to prevent combining them.

Centre-fire and Rimfire Ammunition

Ammunition can be centre-fire or rimfire.

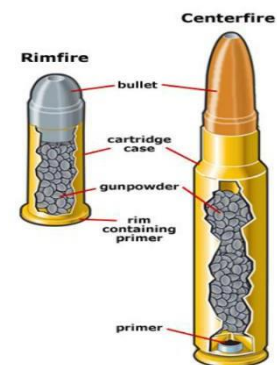
Centre-fire ammunition is used for rifles, shotguns, and handguns. In this type of ammunition, the primer is located in the centre of the casing base. Most centre-fire ammunition is reloadable.

Rimfire ammunition has the primer contained in the rim of the ammunition casing. Rimfire ammunition is limited to low- pressure loads. Rimfire cartridges are not reloadable.

Muzzle loaded ammunition consists of a measured amount of gunpowder followed by an appropriate sized round lead ball, shaped projectile or a shot load along with any patch, card or wad necessary for the specific type of muzzle loading firearm being used.

The operating steps in loading and firing a firearm

Every firearm is different and shoots differently. You should consult with the person you are purchasing / receiving the firearm from to ensure you understand how to safely use the firearm.



Firearm Safety Rules

Introduction to Firearm Safety Rules

Firearm safety is of paramount importance to prevent accidents, injuries, and fatalities.

The Firearm Safety Rules ensure responsible firearm handling and use. Every individual engaged with firearms must understand and follow these rules.

Explanation of Each Safety Rule and Its Importance

Treat Every Firearm as Loaded:

- Always assume a firearm is loaded, even if you believe it to be unloaded.
- Ensure your finger is outside the trigger guard
- Point the muzzle in a safe direction and back drop
- Open bolt or action and inspect the chamber/magazine
- Don't know how to open it? Seek help. Don't attempt to open

Always Point Firearms in a Safe Direction:

A safe direction ensures that, if the firearm is accidentally discharged there would be no loss of life, no injury to another person, or minimal damage to property.

- Keep the firearm pointed in a direction where an unintentional discharge would cause minimal or no harm.
- A safe direction will depend on where you are.
- Never point a firearm at or near another person (or yourself).
- Concentrate on the safe handling of your firearm.
- Don't lean a firearm against a vehicle or place where it could slide or fall

Load a Firearm Only When Ready to Fire:

- Only load a firearm in an area where it can be safely and legally discharged.
- Carry the firearm with the bolt half open or in semi readiness
- DO NOT load the chamber until you are ready to shoot.
- Unload the chamber when not firing.

Unload the firearm completely ensuring there are no rounds in the chamber or magazine before you leave a shooting area or enter a building or camp.

If you drop your firearm you should immediately check the barrel for obstructions. If a cartridge produces an unusual or soft sound when fired, you should check the barrel for an obstruction before firing again. ALWAYS unload the firearm before checking for obstructions.

Identify Your Target Beyond All Doubt:

People can be mistaken to look and sound like game animals.

- Be certain of the target and what lies beyond it before firing.
- Never fire until you have positively identified your target.
- Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until your sights are on target and you have decided to fire.

If in doubt DO NOT SHOOT. Never shoot at:

- Movement only
- Colour only
- Sound only
- Shape only

Check Your Firing Zone:

Ensure there is nothing between you and your target and only shoot from a stable position as rough or unstable terrain may cause unexpected movement of your muzzle direction.

Shotguns: The shot pattern of a shotgun becomes wider at longer distances.

Rifles: Create the additional risk of both projectiles travelling over a long distance and over penetration

Check your firing zone

- 303/30-06 centre-fire – distance 4000 meters
- 22 rimfire – distance 1500 meters
- 12 gauge shotgun – distance 300 meters
- Air rifle– distance 150 meters

When using spotlights or telescopic sights you limit your field of view. You must take special care when using these tools.

Store Firearms and Ammunition Safely:

- Secure firearms in an approved safe when not in use.
- Ammunition must be stored in a locked container, separate from any firearms.
- If you are travelling with firearms, you must ensure they are unloaded, kept out of public sight and not left unattended.
- Firearms must be fully unloaded when being stored.

Avoid Alcohol or Drugs When Handling Firearms:

- It is illegal to carry or use a firearm under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Good judgement is the key to safe handling and use of firearms.
- Alcohol and drugs (including prescription drugs) can affect how you respond to situations, putting you and those around you at risk.
- If in doubt check with your prescribing doctor

Never Have Loaded Firearms in the Car, Camp, or Home:

Only load a firearm when in your shooting area. Before entering the home, a car or camp you should:

- Point the muzzle in a safe direction or back drop and unload.
- Ensure that there are no rounds in the chamber or magazine.
- Remove any detachable/external magazine.
- Where possible, remove bolts, open the action, or use trigger locks.
- Immediately return firearms to storage when not in use.

Never Fire at Hard Surfaces or Water:

- Avoid shooting at surfaces where bullets may ricochet or skip.
- Ricochets can endanger lives.
- If you're not sure that your shot will NOT cause a ricochet, DO NOT FIRE.
- All rounds can ricochet.

Don't Climb Fences or Obstacles with Loaded Firearms:

- An 'obstacle' is defined as any situation that may cause you to lose control of the muzzle direction.
- Make sure that your firearm is unloaded before attempting to climb through a fence or negotiate an obstacle.
- Where possible, place the unloaded firearm on the ground before negotiating the fence or obstacle and retrieve the firearm once safely clear.
- Don't rely on the safety catch, they are only a supplement to safe handling.

Understanding and following these safety rules will protect yourself and those around you.

Personal Safety

Tell somebody where you are going and when you expect to return.

Carry personal safety equipment in your day pack in case of an emergency. Things like:

- Blaze orange safety vest and/or cap
- Compass
- GPS
- First Aid Kit
- Knife
- Lighter
- Mobile phone and charged power bank
- Spare batteries
- Torch or headlamp
- Water
- Wet weather jacket

Carrying your firearm safely

It is dangerous and illegal to carry loaded firearms in any type of transport or in a public place. When carrying or transporting a firearm in public you must:

- Ensure that the firearm is not loaded.
- Ensure that the firearm is carried in a manner that does not expose it to the view of other members of the public.
- Ensure that the firearm is carried or used in a manner that is secure and is not dangerous.
- Take reasonable precautions to ensure that the firearm is not lost or stolen.

When handling a firearm you must make sure the muzzle is pointing in a safe direction, and that you do not touch the trigger.

- Always carry your firearm in such a way that you can control the direction of the muzzle should you stumble.
- Be aware where your muzzle is pointing, especially when with other shooters
- Never let the muzzle cover or point at anything you are not willing to destroy

Duty of Care and Obligations - Firearms Accidents and Incidents

All persons have a duty of care, a legal obligation to avoid doing harm to another person. A person must exercise a reasonable standard of care while undertaking an act where it is reasonably foreseeable that the act may harm another person.

A licenced firearms holder must ensure that their use of firearms does not result in the unintentional harm of another person.

In the event of an accidental discharge or firearm malfunction or an accident or incident involving a firearm (i.e. – someone has been wounded) you must:

- Assess the risk to ensure the safety of yourself and others.
- Check that the firearm is safe.
- Administer first aid if applicable.
- Call an ambulance if required.
- Call the local police.

Purchase of Firearms

Steps for Purchasing a Firearm

The key steps to purchasing a firearm in the Northern Territory are:

Determine your needs: Before applying for a firearm, assess your needs and the intended use of the firearm. Different types of firearms are designed for specific purposes or have different capabilities.

Apply for a Permit to Acquire: Obtain a Permit to Acquire from the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU).

Select a firearm: Choose a firearm that aligns with your intended use and preferences. Consider factors such as calibre, action type, and ergonomics. Firearms dealers or experienced shooters can help you make an informed decision.

Complete the purchase: Take the Permit to Acquire, along with any required documentation, to a firearms dealer.

Steps for purchasing ammunition

Ammunition can be purchased from a firearms dealer or another person who is authorised by a permit to sell ammunition.

To purchase ammunition:

- You must be the holder of a firearms licence for the category of firearm that takes the ammunition or:
- You must be authorised by a permit or in writing by the Commissioner.

Firearm Storage

It is a condition of a firearms licence that the holder of the licence must permit a police officer to inspect the holder's storage arrangements at any reasonable time.

Safe Storage Requirements for Category A & B Firearms

- Firearms and ammunition must be stored separately
- When the firearm is not in use it must be stored in a safe that meets the requirements below
- If the safe weighs less than 150kg it must be bolted to the floor or a wall

Safe Requirements

- It must be constructed with 3mm solid steel
- All edges are to be rolled or folded
- The door is to be recessed or flush-fitted and is to be sized to prevent leverage points
- All hinges are secured to prevent the door from being detached by removing the pins
- There are at least 2 bolt-down points
- There is to be at least one locking point
- The door must be reinforced to prevent distortion
- If it is padlocked the padlock is to be covered

Safe Storage Requirements for Category C, D, and H Firearms

Firearms and ammunition must be stored separately

- When the firearm is not in use it must be stored in a safe that meets the requirements below
- The safe must be bolted to the floor or a wall regardless of weight

Safe Requirements

- The safe must be constructed with 6mm solid steel
- The hinges are to be non-removable
- Category C & D safes must have at least 2 locking bolts operated by one or more locks.
- Locks are to be internal and may be a combination of key locks or electronic locks or a mixture of 2 or more of those locks
- Category H safes must have at least one lock, or if the swinging edge of the safe is greater than 50mm – at least 2 locking bolts operated by one or more locks.

Storage of Ammunition

Ammunition must be stored in a locked container that is separate from where the firearms are being stored, including a separate locked container within the firearms safe so long as a different key is required for access.

Before You Go Shooting

A firearm licence does not entitle you to shoot on private property. You must have express permission from the owner of the land to shoot on private property. You must also ensure that firearms are unloaded and safe before transporting.

Environmental responsibility and animal welfare ethics.

If you are a recreational shooter you are required to abide by the Animal Protection Act 2018 and Animal Protection Regulations 2022 ensuring you do not inflict any unnecessary pain on an animal and consider the treatment of animals that are hunted.

At times when hunting your first shot may not be fatal. If this happens, it is your responsibility to handle the matter swiftly and ethically. This means locating the wounded animal and ensuring that it is dispatched quickly and in a humane way.

Responsible behaviour on private property means appreciating and respecting the rights of landowners or managers. If you have been given permission to hunt on private property, you should ask the landowner where they want you to hunt and if there are any areas you should avoid.

You should always respect their decisions. Leave gates as you find them and be sure to hunt well away from people, livestock, buildings and crops.

Transportation of Firearms

Approved Methods

Firearms can be transported by registered post, commercial freight carriers, or common carriers such as a courier.

Owners or licenced individuals can personally transport firearms.

Ammunition Transportation

Ammunition must be in a lockable compartment or container, separate from any firearm.

Guidelines for Firearm Transportation in Motor Vehicles

Ensure that the firearm is not loaded.

When unattended, firearms must be stored in the boot or a lockable compartment. Ammunition must be in a lockable compartment or container, separate from any firearm.

Ensure the firearm is hidden from open view, not exposed to public visibility (not stored in a location where the public can see the firearm, for instance, not in a gun rack where the firearm is in view).

Ensure firearms are properly secured during transportation.

Take reasonable steps to prevent theft or unauthorised access.

Special Considerations for Sending Firearms via Mail

Limited Occasions

Firearms can only be sent via mail to or from a person with an armourers or dealer's Licence or to and from a police station.

Declaration to Carrier

Always declare firearms being sent to carriers (e.g., Australia Post, StarTrack) as they may have specific requirements for transport.

Firearms Offences

Overview of Common Firearms Offences

Understanding common firearms offences is crucial for responsible firearm ownership. Some common offences include:

Illegal manufacturing: Is the unauthorised creation of firearms without proper permits.

Unauthorised modification: Is illegally altering or modifying firearms without proper authorisation.

Illegal purchase or sale: Means engaging in the sale or purchase of firearms without the required permits.

Unsafe firearms: Means possessing a firearm that is in an unsafe condition (i.e. safety catch does not function).

Possession of illegal firearms: Means owning firearms prohibited by law.

Failing to comply with licence conditions: Means not to comply with conditions that are printed on the reverse of your licence and that were also sent as a hard copy when your licence was initially granted. These include failure to provide change of details (refer section 11), failure to maintain current crown land or hunting permits and failing to comply with any other condition of your licence.

Consequences of committing offences under the Act

Committing offences under the Act can result in severe consequences, including:

Fines: Heavy monetary penalties for violations.

Revocation of licence: Loss of firearms licence and permits and being disqualified for being able to reapply for a firearms licence for a minimum period of 2 years.

Confiscation of firearms: Police may seize, and confiscate firearms involved in offences.

Imprisonment: Offenders may face imprisonment, depending on the severity of the offence.

Responsible firearm ownership and legal obligations

Responsible firearm ownership entails adhering to legal obligations, such as:

- Strictly following the rules and regulations outlined in the NT Firearms Act and the NT Firearms Regulations.
- Ensuring firearms are securely stored and inaccessible to unauthorised individuals.
- Adhering to the conditions specified in the firearms licence.
- Refraining from engaging in any activities that may constitute an offence against the Act or a disqualifying offence.

Disposing of Firearms

Procedures for surrendering, selling, or giving firearms

Surrender to Police

- Visit a local police station.
- Complete necessary paperwork for surrendering firearms.
- Firearms will be safely disposed of by the police.

Sale or gift to dealers

- Contact licenced firearms dealers.
- Arrange the sale or transfer of firearms.
- Dealers will manage the necessary paperwork.

Sale or gift to licence holders

- Ensure the buyer holds a valid firearms licence.
- Ensure the buyer obtains and holds a valid permit to acquire the firearm.
- Complete necessary paperwork, including updating the Certificate of Registration.
- Conduct the transaction in the presence of a licenced firearms dealer or at a police station.

Note: If advertising a firearm for sale through any means the advertisement MUST contain the serial number of the firearm (this does not apply to the holder of a Firearms Dealers Licence).

Firearm Loss, Theft or Destruction

You must notify police within 2 working days if a firearm is lost, stolen or destroyed.

Change of Details

Reporting Changes in Address, Name or Storage details with the Police

Firearms licence holders must report changes of any of the particulars of their licence, including storage locations to the police.

Notification Form

- Obtain and complete the Change of Particulars form from the police.
- Provide accurate information regarding the change in the particulars.
- Notify the police of any change in storage location.
- Provide updated storage details, including any new safe installations.

Timeline

- Report changes within 10 working days of them occurring.

Conclusion

Congratulations on completing the Firearms Training Guide. Remember that responsible firearm ownership is crucial for the safety of yourself and others. Regularly review the provided information and stay informed about any changes in regulations. If you have further questions or concerns, consult local authorities or firearms experts. Stay safe and enjoy responsible firearm use!