



NSW Police Force
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FIREARMS REGISTRY

Ammunition Safe Storage, Acquisition & Possession

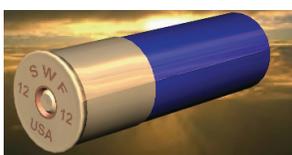
All persons owning firearms in NSW must comply with the safe storage requirements as outlined in the *Firearms Act 1996*, the associated Regulation and as recommended by the Commissioner.

This FACT sheet provides information on the possession, acquisition, supply and safe storage of ammunition.

What is Ammunition?

Section 4 of the *Firearms Act 1996* (the Act) defines ammunition as:

- * Any article consisting of a cartridge case fitted with a primer and a projectile, or
- * Any article consisting of a cartridge case fitted with a primer and containing a propelling charge and a projectile, or
- * Blank cartridges, airgun pellets, training cartridges or gas cartridges, or
- * Any other article prescribed by the regulations for the purpose of this definition.



Shotgun ammunition



Pistol ammunition



Who can lawfully possess ammunition?

Section 65(3) of the Act prescribes that a person must not possess ammunition unless:

- * The person is the holder of a licence or permit for a firearm that takes that ammunition, OR
- * The person is authorised by a permit to possess that ammunition.

Section 65(4) of the Act prescribes that a person is not guilty of an offence for possession of ammunition while carrying out duties in the business of a carrier or a warehouse operator.

Who can sell ammunition?

A licensed firearms dealer or a person authorised by a permit to supply ammunition.

What do I need to acquire ammunition?

The person acquiring the ammunition must produce to the firearms dealer, at the time of supply:

- * Identification with name and address, and
- * A current firearms licence or permit for a firearm which takes that ammunition or permit which authorises acquisition of the ammunition, and
(Sections 65 and 65A of the Act)

Where the ammunition being acquired is for a pistol, in addition to the above, the person acquiring the ammunition must produce at the time of supply:

- * The registration certificate for the firearm taking that type of ammunition, or
- * An issued permit to acquire for a firearm which takes that ammunition.

(Clause 131 of the Regulations)

Ammunition may also be acquired by the holder of an Ammunition Permit issued under clause 75 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* or other permit issued under that regulation authorising the acquisition of ammunition.

What if I want to acquire ammunition, but I don't have firearms registered in my name?

Where a person has no firearms registered in their name, and is required to acquire ammunition for business, employment or other purposes, they may make application for an Ammunition Permit under clause 75 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*. The applicant must hold a firearms licence and meet the other criteria for a permit of this type. See the FACT Sheet 'Ammunition Permit' on the Firearms Permit page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.



Example of cabinet with separate lockable ammunition storage container

Example of ammunition box



Example of cash box



What are the storage requirements in relation to ammunition?

Ammunition must be stored in a locked container, separate from the firearms - sections 40 (1)(d) & 41(1)(c) of the Act. The ammunition storage may be separate altogether, or may be a separate locked compartment or receptacle within the firearms safe storage receptacle or safe.

Ammunition kept by a firearms dealer, club armourer or the holder of a Acquire and Supply Ammunition permit must be kept in a locked container, locked display case or in a restricted area not accessible by the public.

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as the minimum standard applicable to the ammunition storage container and locking mechanisms for a licence or permit holder:

The ammunition container must be made of plastic, wood, metal or steel which is sturdy and not easily penetrated (ie cash box/ammunition box) and be fitted with a lock which is either:

1. An internal locking mechanism (ie cash box or similar) which is operated by means of a key, combination lock or other similar locking mechanism (ie pin number), OR
2. Locked by the use of a hasp and staple (or similar) and fitted with a padlock.

NOTE: The key to the lock/padlock must not be kept within the firearms receptacle, or within the immediate vicinity.

Police have the authority to seize firearms and ammunition under section 42 of the Act if they have reasonable cause to believe the firearms or ammunition are not being kept in accordance with Part 4 of the Act.

The Commissioner has not evaluated or approved any individual receptacles for safe storage of ammunition. However, any receptacle or lock meeting or exceeding the features described herein is approved for the purposes of sections 40(1)(d) & 41(1)(c) of the Act.

Related Information

See FACT Sheets:

- 'Safe Storage Level 1 - Category A & B Requirements',
- 'Safe Storage Level 2 - Category C, D & H Requirements',
- 'Transportation of 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 associated Regulation, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

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