

## **ACQUIRING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND AIRGUNS VIA MAIL ORDER AND INTERNET**

# **IMPORTANT CHANGE TO THE MAIL ORDER PROCESS (S. 43A, ARMS ACT 1983)**

### **Mail Order Sales:**

From 22 October 2015, NZ Police will supply the verification (endorsement) of a mail order sale direct to the seller rather than to the purchaser (applicant for the verification) as has been the case.

This change in process will:

- Reduce the opportunity for fraud
- Provide adequate physical identification of the purchaser
- Give greater confidence that the purchaser is a “fit and proper” person
- Provide confidence in maintaining Firearms Licence holder records

## Purchasing Firearms, Ammunition and Airguns by Mail Order

**Firearms Licence:** You require a firearms licence to possess firearms, or ammunition for them, and some special categories of airgun. You must be of or over the age of 18 years to possess (standard) airguns if you do not hold a firearms licence. Firearm licence holders are required by section 34 of the Arms Act 1983 to advise Police of any change of address. Licence holders are also required to observe the secure storage conditions of Regulation 19 of the Arms Regulations 1992.

**Sales:** Sellers / suppliers of firearms, ammunition and airguns are required by the Arms Act 1983 to ascertain that the purchaser / recipient is the holder of a firearms licence or is of or over the age of 18 years in the case of airguns. The only methods of ascertaining this which are acceptable to NZ Police are:

- a) The seller meets the purchaser face to face and personally examines their firearms licence (or photo identification of proof of age issued by the NZ Government, in the case of airguns), and compares the photo therein with the person in front of them.

Sellers, as a prudent additional step\*, may also request verification of a firearms licence number (sighted by them) from NZ Police by phone or email to a Police Arms Office – <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms/firearms-licensing-contact-details> or the National Arms Control Section of the Police National Headquarters – email: [firearms@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearms@police.govt.nz).

- b) In the case of a non-face to face transaction, the seller / supplier receives direct from NZ Police (by email or post) advice that the purchaser / recipient holds a firearms licence or is of or over the age of 18 years (in the case of airguns) and that they are entitled to possess the firearms, ammunition or airguns listed in the purchaser's written (purchase) order in favour of the seller / supplier.

*\*NB: This step is in addition to, and is performed in conjunction with, method a) listed above.*

## Applying for Verification of a Firearms Licence, Written (Purchase) Order or Proof of Age

*The following process relates to the non-face to face transfer (sale or supply) of standard sporting rifles and shotguns ("A-cat firearms"), ammunition, and airguns. Restricted firearms (pistols, MSSA firearms and restricted weapons) have their own process (permit to procure and the issuing of an endorsement for the firearm).*

Ask the Police Arms Officer at your nearest district police station for further advice if required.

**Step 1:** Take a completed form into the Police Station: Use the Police mail order on-line form, or a form provided to you by the NZ Police and deliver it in person once completed.

The accepting Police Member will:

- Satisfy themselves that you have supplied sufficient information, otherwise verification will not proceed. This includes enough detail for Police to identify the seller / supplier for firearms / ammunition sales. A minimum of their firearms licence number, first name and surname (or the licensed firearms dealer name which matches the licence number), and an exact description of the goods is required.
- Verify your details on the form with your firearms licence card and the police licence database.
- Forward the form to the District Arms Officer for completion and transmission direct to the retailer.

**Step 2:** The District Arms Officer will then:

- Verify the sellers identity.
- Verify your details.
- Verify your delivery address – if the address is different on the form in comparison to your firearms licence record, the form will not be completed until Police has carried out the appropriate residential security checks.

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- Verify that you do not have any convictions or incidents which have occurred since your licence was issued that will influence your status as a “fit and proper person”.
- Endorse the Form.

**Step 3:** If you meet all of the requirements of section 43A Arms Act 1983, the Police will email your form **direct to the seller**\*.

*\*NB: Only a “Police Form” from a Police email address, or the original, certified by the Police District Arms Officer and mailed direct to the seller, will satisfy the Arms Act requirement for the seller to take reasonable steps to ascertain whether you are a holder of a firearms licence, or in the case of an airgun, are of or over the age of 18 years.*

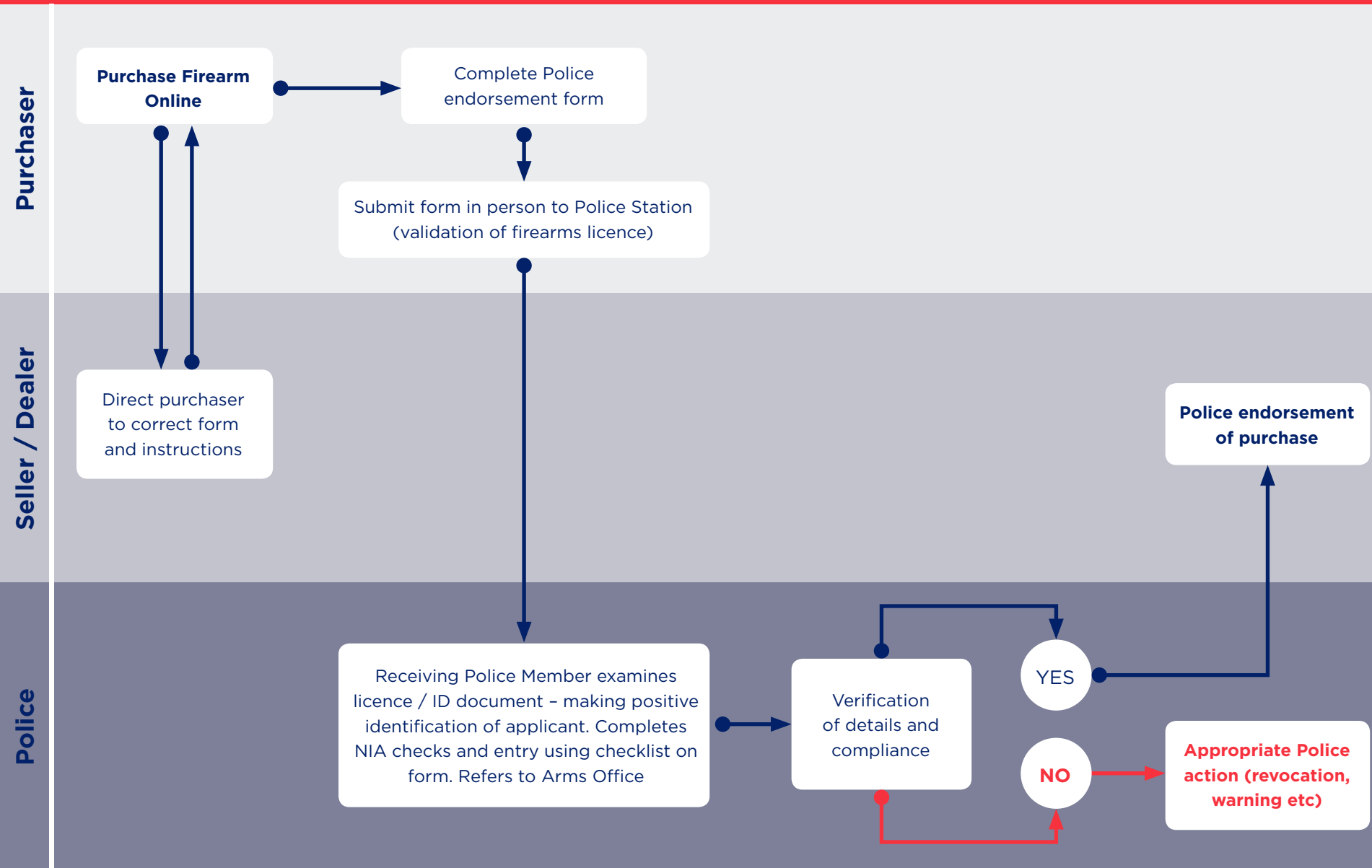
### Definition:

The term “Mail Order” is to be taken to apply to any sale / transfer (supply) of firearms, airguns or ammunition which does not take place face to face. It includes any transaction where the seller is unable to view **and handle** the purchaser’s (receiver’s) physical firearms licence (or evidence of age in the case of standard airguns) and to simultaneously compare the photo likeness to the person. It applies to sales arranged over the internet, for example, as well as to transactions by physical mail and other remote means.

## Police Requirements in Respect of Endorsement of Mail Orders:

- Application may be made at any attended Police Station.
- Each and every firearm / airgun / ammunition transaction will require Police verification. Verifications will be valid for seven (7) consecutive days from the date upon which they are approved / completed by Police.
- The verification is valid **only for the items listed therein and the named supplier** and does not apply to any subsequent order/s, whether similar in content and for that supplier or not.
- Application is made by the purchaser / receiver **in person** at a Police Station by letter or form letter. **There is no exception to this.**
- The address for delivery of the items **must be** a physical address. In the case of firearms or ammunition, the address **must be** either the purchaser's recorded and verified firearms security location address or the recorded and verified place of residence. i.e. the address values recorded by Police against the firearms licence number, which have been inspected by police. A licensed firearm dealer's address is also acceptable.
- The purchaser **must be** present at the address to receive the delivery, or the goods are to be held at the premises of the mail / courier company which is making the delivery. Sellers are to give this instruction to the mail / courier company which they engage for the delivery.
- All firearms and ammunition are to be fully and correctly described. In the case of firearms: Make; Model; Calibre are required.

## S43a - Mail Order Sale of Firearms, Airguns and Ammunition



**Contact details:**