



***Secure Storage
Requirements for
Firearm Licence
Holders***

***New Zealand Firearms Licence
Safe Storage: Police Policy and
Practice.***

November 2017



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Summary of Security Conditions and Requirements for Firearm Licences and Licence Endorsements

Firearms and Safety

Background

This information booklet provides guidance in relation to the legislated storage requirements for those who hold a firearms licence, the safe storage of firearms held pursuant to a Firearms Licence and any endorsement of that firearms licence, and the conditions for carriage of restricted firearms. The Booklet is a guide to assist a license holder with their firearms licence application and to prepare their security requirements and will not in itself constitute an approval of security by the Police pursuant to Regulations 19 and 28 of the Arms Regulations 1992. Meeting the security requirements of the Arms Regulations will remain subject to the Police security inspection.

The Arms Act 1983, and the Arms Regulations 1992 and orders authorised by this Act governs the use and possession of firearms in New Zealand. The Act specifies both the safe use and the control of firearms and other weapons. The New Zealand Police (the Police) administers the provisions of the Act and delivers services and enforcement to meet the intent of the Act. A core component of the safe use requirement of the Act is the safe and secure storage of firearms that the licence holder is entitled to possess by virtue of their licence and endorsements of that licence.

As the administering authority, the Police is required to establish procedures and processes for licensing and gun control to ensure the safe use and control of firearms authorised under the Act. Such a framework ensures that the intentions of the Act are carried out by the Police consistently throughout New Zealand. In the course of achieving the effect of the Act and Regulations consistently and fairly, the Police is required to interpret the intentions of the Act and Regulations. The Police publishes information for the public on the processes, and policies pertaining to the safe use and security of firearms in New Zealand, such as the Arms Code (firearms safety booklet) and this document, to ensure that the public are aware of their obligations under the Act and Regulations.

Although this booklet provides guidance in relation to the secure storage of firearms, the licence holder is responsible for demonstrating that the storage of their firearms and ammunition complies with the requirements of the Arms Act and Arms Regulations. The principle compliance requirement that is required to be met under the Arms Regulations relates to the materials and the method of construction of the cabinet/receptacle/safe, and its locking mechanism, door and hinges, and anchoring procedures. Where materials, method of construction or locks do not comply with the Police published standards, remedial action is required to comply.

Checks on the storage of firearms

In its Administration of the Arms Act, the Police are required to conduct a number of security inspections. These may occur in the following circumstances:

- Inspection of security prior to issue of a firearm's license.
- Inspection following application for an endorsement licence.
- Inspection following change of the licence holder's address.
- Inspection as part of a firearm's licence renewal process.

- Inspection following any event that may bring into question a licence holder’s suitability to hold a firearms licence.

Police Employees Performing Inspections

Licensing interviews and secure storage checks are carried out by a Police employee (Police Officer, Police member or contractors) all of whom will produce to you a Police issued identity card.

Assessment of Secure Storage

The Police will assess a licence holder’s secure storage against the three criteria set out in Regulation 19. The purpose of the storage is to:

- Ensure that young children do not have ready access to any firearms.
- Preventing the theft of any firearm.
- Ensure that ammunition is not stored in such a way that a person who obtains access to the firearm also obtains access to the ammunition, or, that if the ammunition is stored with the firearm, the firearm is not capable of being discharged.

Note: Section 27(b) (iv) of the Arms Act provides that a licence may be revoked if access is reasonably likely to be obtained by a person who is not fit and proper. This infers that Firearms Licence holders are required to secure their firearms to prevent such access.

Alarms

The police encourages the use of an intruder alarm system. Such intruder warning devices should be monitored and audible, but other arrangements may be suitable, depending on the particular circumstance.

FIREARMS SECURITY FOR FIREARMS (Other than those requiring an endorsement)

There are currently three options that the Police consider meet Regulation 19, Arms Regulations (1992) for the secure storage of firearms that do not require an endorsement. These options are racks, wooden cabinets and steel cabinets. As to whether the specific secure storage option will meet the requirements of the Regulations will depend not only on its construction and fixing to the dwelling, but also on other security factors, such as whether it is concealed from outside observation, difficult to locate by an opportunist burglar, visitor or family member, and internal residential security such as strong rooms, internally locked doors, proximity of neighbouring residences, whether there is a burglar alarm and whether the alarm is monitored.

Rack Specifications

The Regulations allow for “a display cabinet of rack in which firearms may be immobilised and locked so that none of them may be fired; ...”. Below are examples of firearm racks that may be considered for securing firearms.

Example of a gun rack:



Although the total security of the residence will be considered, racks will only be considered for approval in the following circumstances:

1. Used only for shotguns and bolt action rifles.
2. Not being used for the secure storage of centre-fire or rim-fire semi-automatic rifles.
3. When they are bolted to a solid floor and in a concealed location, such as a wardrobe which has a solid door with a strong locking mechanism.
4. When they are bolted to a reinforced roof strut or supporting beam in the roof cavity.
5. They are able to withstand violent pushing and tugging and not wobble, become loose or welded points becoming fatigued.

Wooden Cabinet Specifications

Wooden cabinets must meet the standard of “stout” as applied by the. The following requirements are the minimum that will meet that standard:

- The cabinet and door must be constructed of 16mm plywood (or thicker). The Police define “stout” as being able to withstand an attack by hand tools (not power tools) for at least ten minutes.
- All joints must be glued and secured with appropriate strength screws. Screw heads must be secured so that the screws cannot be removed.
- A sturdy hinging system such as a ‘piano’ hinge (continuous hinge installed inside the cabinet) is required.
- A locking system that is compatible with the overall strength of the cabinet is required. If a ‘Hasp and Staple’ is used, then these must be of the type known as ‘Security Hasp and Staple’. This locking system (and all fittings) must be bolted through the cabinet and not screwed.

Examples of a wooden cabinets



Although the total security of the residence will be considered, wooden cabinets will only be considered for approval in the following circumstances:

1. Only being used for shotguns and bolt action rifles.
2. Not being used for of centre-fire or rim-fire semi-automatic rifles.
3. When they are bolted to a solid floor and wall studs/dwangs and in a concealed location within the residence with the door leading to the room that they are of solid construction, with a strong locking mechanism
4. When they are bolted to a reinforced roof strut or supporting beam in the roof cavity.
5. When they are able to withstand violent pushing and togging and not wobble or become loose.

Steel Storage Box, Cabinet and Safe Specifications

Steel cabinets must meet the standard of “stout” construction. The Police consider the following requirements are the minimum that will meet that standard:

- A continuous resting/bracing plate inside the doorframe to prevent the flexing of the walls and from the door being pushed in.
- A door which has an internal bracing frame of angle steel to prevent flexing or bending when closed. Alternatively, the door edge is continuously folded in such a way as to prevent flexing or bending when closed.
- Fixed to the building on two surfaces with at least 6 mm fasteners and fastened to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support. Use heavy gauge ‘coach’ screws anchored by at least 50mm and a large washer placed under each coach screw head into the framing. If secured into concrete, use similar gauge chemical or expanding bolts. Floor fixing to a wooden floor must be completely through the floor. The bolts will require a stout backing plate or sufficiently large washers to prevent them from being pulled through the floor.
- Internal or protected hinges that are sturdily constructed of at least 3mm mild steel.
- Locks and hinges should be located no more than 300 mm from the edge of the door and the longer sides and no more than 600 mm spacing between the locks or hinges. The intent of the hinge and locks spacing is to prevent the door from being opened or bent using jemmy bars or screw drivers. If the risk can be minimised through other mechanical means then it will be considered by the Arms Officer.
- With either all seams continuously welded or that the cabinet body is formed by bend construction

Although the total security of the residence will be considered, steel cabinets will only be considered for approval in the following circumstances:

1. Used for the secure storage of shotguns and any bolt action rifles, centre-fire and rim-fire semi-automatic rifles.
2. When they are secured in a manner stipulated above.
3. When they can withstand violent pushing and tugging and not wobble, become loose or have welded points becoming fatigued.

Note: Steel cabinets are not clothing lockers converted for firearms storage.

Examples of steel cabinets



Transition of Not Endorsed Firearms Security Requirements (from Date to Date – five years)

From **DATE**, the Police approach to the secure storage for all not-endorsed firearms will emphasize an improvement in the safety of the secure storage of such firearms. The Police will consider the retained use of racks and wooden cabinets but will emphasize the use of steel storage boxes, cabinets and safes.

Transition of Not Endorsed Firearms Security Requirements (from Date to Date – ten years)

From **DATE**, the Police will require all not-endorsed firearms to be stored in steel cabinets and safes that should meet the British standard for gun cabinets (BS7558). The current recommended steel storage box, cabinet and safe specifications that meet the requirements of Regulations 19 and 28, Arms Regulation 1992 meet the British standard, with the addition of the following:

- That the steel is a minimum **Xmm** thick; and
- With either all seams continuously welded or that the cabinet body is formed by bend construction.

FIREARMS SECURITY FOR ENDORSED FIREARMS

Security Specifications – Endorsement Firearms Licence Holders

Anyone possessing pistols, restricted weapons or military style semi-automatic firearms (MSSA) is required to have security of a higher standard than that which is required for the possession of sporting firearms (A category).

This section outlines the required standards for the secure storage of endorsed firearms. The security precautions are to be in place, inspected, and approved by a member of the Police before any pistol, MSSA firearm, or restricted weapon can be possessed.

Endorsed Firearms Security Checklist

The Police consider that there are two requirements involved in Regulation 28 of the Arms Regulations (1992), for securing endorsed firearms (category B, C & E): a strong room or a room of stout and secure construction, and steel safe, box or cabinet.

Steel Safe, Box or Cabinet Minimum Standards

The minimum specifications for endorsed firearms a steel safe, box or cabinet is identified in the Arms Regulations 1992 28(1)(c), which states:

“locked in a steel safe or steel box or steel cabinet (being in every case a safe, box, or cabinet of sound construction and of a type approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) bolted or otherwise securely fixed (in a manner approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) to the building within which the pistol or military style semi- automatic firearm or restricted weapon is kept.”

ROOMS OF STOUT AND SECURE CONSTRUCTION

Doors of Buildings

- Doors must be constructed of a material equal in security rating of 6 mm mild steel strength. For example, solid wood construction, no less than 40 mm thick, covered on the outside with a sheet of steel no less than 16 gauge (applied to fully cover the door and bent to afford fixing to all edge surfaces), or armour coated or laminated glass protected by substantial grilles or other shutter covering. The doors, where practicable, should be hung on the inside with three heavy duty hinges. Hinge security bolts must be fitted. Where doors are required to be hinged on the outside, componentry shall be fitted or adapted to prevent the removal of hinge pins or component parts. Door framing should include a rebate and be of a substantial construction to resist splitting or forcing and fitted to prevent prising or stretching.

Locks of Buildings

- A locking mechanism of no less strength and security performance than a five-lever mortise dead lock shall be fitted to entry doors of the premises. Where mechanisms other than mortise locks are used, internally operated drop bars or shooting bolt mechanisms retained by a lock to the same standard are required. If padlocks are used, they must be of a key retaining variety of a high security rating with hardened steel closed shackles. Pad bars or hasp and staples with a similar high security rating to the padlock must be used with the padlock. Where closed shackle padlocks are not used,

the mechanism must be completely shielded by being enclosed within a tunnel welded to the body of the door. In the case of double opening doors, penetrating bolts should be used on the top and bottom of the first leaf, or flush bolts should be fixed in the edge of the first leaf. The second leaf shall be securely locked, as described above.

Walls, Ceilings and Floor Structure of Buildings

- The existing walls, ceiling and floor structure must be strengthened by internally fixed, substantially gauged steel mesh to the framing, or the addition of 16 mm construction ply or a panel product of similar security rating should be securely fixed through the existing lining to the frame. New structures must have a similar construction if framed, or of a similar resistance to attack if constructed of other materials.

Windows of Buildings

- The police do not accept the installation of Louvre windows. All windows and skylights must be affixed with substantial steel grilles with a performance-rating equal to 19 mm mild steel rod erected at 127 mm centres, which incorporate welded cross ties, 305 mm apart to prevent spreading. The grille must be secured with coach bolts, burred or counter sunk to prevent removal, or secured with substantially gauged, one-way screws, commensurate with the gauge of the bars. Where there are other security measures that are of a high standard, such as an intruder alarm with a suitable response, or where laminated or armour coated window glass are used, substantial steel grilles, as described above, may be dispensed with or substituted with lesser grilles, as agreed with police

ARMS REGULATIONS 1992 (SR 1992 / 346)

19 Conditions relating to security precautions

(1) Every firearms licence shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the holder shall not put a firearm in such a place that a young child has ready access to it:
- (b) the holder, where he or she has both a firearm and ammunition for it in his or her possession, either –
 - (i) shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the ammunition is not stored in such a way that a person who obtains access to the firearm also obtains access to the ammunition; or
 - (ii) shall ensure that, where the ammunition is stored with the firearm, the firearm is not capable of being discharged:
- (c) the holder shall take reasonable steps to ensure that any firearm in the holder's possession is secured against theft:
- (d) the holder shall, where he or she has possession of a firearm that is –
 - (i) a flare pistol, or ; or
 - (ii) a humane killer; or
 - (iii) a stock marking pistol – keep it in a locked container, except where it is under the holder's immediate and personal supervision.

(2) On and after 1 July 1993 the reasonable steps required by subclause (1)(c) shall include–

- (a) keeping on the holder's premises –
 - (i) a lockable cabinet, container, or receptacle of stout construction in which firearms may be stored; or
 - (ii) a lockable steel and concrete strongroom in which firearms may be stored; or
 - (iii) a display cabinet or rack in which firearms may be immobilised and locked so that none of them may be fired; and
- (b) keeping locked or immobilised and locked in the cabinet, container, receptacle, strongroom, display cabinet, or rack required by paragraph (a) every firearm which is on the holder's premises and which is not under immediate and personal supervision of the holder or some other holder of a firearms licence; and
- (c) ensuring that no firearm in the holder's possession is left in a vehicle that is unattended.

28 Security precautions in relation to pistols, military style semi-automatic firearms, and restricted weapons

- (1) Every person who is lawfully entitled to possession of a pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon other than an air pistol by virtue of a permit under section 18 of the Act or a firearms licence endorsed under section 30 or section 30B of the Act shall ensure that, except when the pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon is in his or her immediate physical possession or is being used, in accordance with section 31 of the Act, for the purpose of making a broadcast or producing or staging a play or filming a cinematic production or television film or is in the custody of a licensed dealer or a member of the Police, it is –
- (a) kept in a steel and concrete strongroom of sound construction and of a type approved for the time being in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police; or
 - (b) kept in a room of stout and secure construction capable of being adequately secured against unlawful entry, being in every case a room which is approved for the purpose by a member of the Police and which meets the following requirements:
 - (i) the room shall be in structurally sound condition:
 - (ii) the doors that give access to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings shall be in good condition:
 - (iii) the windows, skylights, or other things intended to cover openings to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings shall be in good condition:
 - (iv) the doors referred to in subparagraph (ii) and the windows, skylights, and other things referred to in subparagraph (iii) shall be capable of being secured against unlawful entry; or
 - (c) locked in a steel safe or steel box or steel cabinet (being in every case a safe, box, or cabinet of sound construction and of a type approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) bolted or otherwise securely fixed (in a manner approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) to the building within which the pistol or military style semi-automatic firearm or restricted weapon is kept.
- (2) Where a pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon is kept in a steel box, steel cabinet, or steel safe in accordance with sub clause (1)(c), ammunition for that firearm shall not be kept in that steel box, steel cabinet, or steel safe.
- (3) Where the governing body of a bona fide museum keeps a pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon in a room in accordance with sub clause (1)(b), that governing body shall ensure, if the room is one to which members of the public have access, that the pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon is adequately secured, in a manner approved in each case by a member of the Police, to prevent unlawful removal.
- (4) The Commissioner may, by writing, exempt any person from compliance with any of the provisions of sub clauses (1) to (3) where the Commissioner is satisfied that the precautions being taken by that person are sufficient to prevent unlawful removal of the pistol or restricted weapon; and any such exemption may in like manner be revoked.

- (5) Every permit under section 18 of the Act and every firearms licence that is endorsed under section 30 or section 30B of the Act shall be deemed to be issued subject to the condition that every person who is lawfully entitled to possession of a pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon by virtue of that permit or firearms licence (as so endorsed) will observe the provisions of this regulation to the extent that they are applicable to that person.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ARMS ACT 1983

31 Possession of firearm, pistol, military style semi-automatic firearm, or restricted weapon for stage, film, or television purposes

Notwithstanding anything in this Act, a person who is not entitled under this Act to have possession of a firearm or pistol or military style semi-automatic firearm or restricted weapon may have possession of that firearm or pistol or military style semi-automatic firearm or restricted weapon for the purpose of making a broadcast or producing or staging a play or filming a cinematic production television film if –

- (a) that person is under the immediate supervision of a person who is entitled under this Act to have possession of that firearm or pistol or military style semi-automatic firearm or restricted weapon; and
- (b) that person has possession of that firearm or pistol or military style semi-automatic firearm or restricted weapon only during the broadcast or the production or staging of the play or the filming of the cinematic production or television; and
- (c) that person is not in possession of any ammunition (other than blank ammunition) for the firearm or pistol, or military style semi-automatic firearm or restricted weapon.

32 Conditions of endorsements

- (1) It is a condition of every endorsement made under section 30 that the holder of the firearms licence—
- (a) observes, in respect of every pistol or restricted weapon or part of a restricted weapon in his possession, such security precautions as are required by regulations made under this Act; and
 - (b) ensures that every restricted weapon in his possession is both rendered inoperable by the removal of a vital part and maintained, by reason of the removal of a vital part, in an inoperable condition.
- (2) Any member of the Police may, on the direction of the Commissioner, impose, as conditions of an endorsement made by that member of the Police under section 30, such conditions with regard to the use or custody of the pistol or restricted weapon (being conditions additional to those specified in subsection (1)) as that member of the Police thinks fit.

33A Conditions of endorsement in respect of military style semi-automatic firearms

- (1) It is a condition of every endorsement made under section 30B that the holder of the firearms licence observes, in respect of every military style semi-automatic

firearm or part thereof in that holder's possession, such security precautions as are required by regulations made under this Act.

- (2) Any member of the Police may, on the direction of the Commissioner, impose, as conditions of an endorsement made by that member of the Police under section 30B, such conditions with regard to the use or custody of a military style semi-automatic firearm (being conditions additional to that specified in subsection (1)) as that member of the Police thinks fit.

Conditions of endorsements in respect CARRIAGE of pistols and RESTRICTED WEAPONS

22 Conditions of endorsements in respect of pistols and restricted weapons

- (1) Where an endorsement made under section 30 of the Act permits a person to have possession of a pistol in his or her capacity as a member of an incorporated pistol shooting club for the time being recognised by the Commissioner for the purposes of section 29 of the Act, that endorsement shall be subject to the following conditions:
- (a) a condition that that person may use the pistol only for target pistol shooting on a pistol range approved by the Commissioner for the purpose;
 - (b) a condition that that person participate actively in the affairs of the pistol shooting club by taking part in its activities, on the pistol range used by that club, on at least 12 days in each year.
- (2) Where an endorsement made under section 30 of the Act permits a person to have possession of a pistol or a restricted weapon in his or her capacity as –
- (a) a bona fide collector of firearms; or
 - (b) a person to whom the pistol or restricted weapon has special significance as an heirloom or memento; or
 - (c) the Director or Curator of a bona fide museum; or
 - (d) an approved employee or approved member of any body, being—
 - (i) a broadcaster within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act 1989; or
 - (ii) any bona fide theatre company or society or cinematic or television film production company or video recording production company,—that endorsement shall be subject to the condition that that person shall not under any circumstances use live ammunition in the pistol or restricted weapon.
- (3) The conditions imposed by sub clauses (1) and (2) are in addition to any other conditions imposed by or under the Act or these regulations.

DETACH RECEIPT AND PLACE IN APPLICANTS FILE

APPLICANT DETAILS

Surname

Forename(s)

Preferred name

Date of birth

I acknowledge receipt from the New Zealand Police of a copy of "SECURITY CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREARMS LICENCES AND ENDORSEMENTS" (Police Form POL67N). I understand that the Police may revoke the licence or endorsement(s) if I fail to observe any of the conditions imposed by the Arms Act 1983, the Arms Regulations 1992 and the New Zealand Police as set out in the document.

I further understand that my security precautions must be inspected and approved by a member of the police before I can receive my firearms licence or possess any **firearm**, military style semi-automatic firearm, pistol, **or restricted weapon**.

Licence holder's signature

Date

Witnessed by Licensing Vetting Officer / Police Employee name

Signature

Designation
QID

Date