

Firearms Licensing in Tasmania: Overview



What are the steps to get a firearms licence in Tasmania?

To get a firearms licence:

- Complete an **application** for a firearms licence and lodge it at **Service Tasmania**.
- Attend and pass an **Approved Firearms Safety Course**.
- Have a photo taken at Service Tasmania and receive a licence card through the post.

To obtain a firearm:

- Get a compliant storage receptacle for firearms, such as a safe. A Category H firearm, or 10 or more firearms, also require the premises to be equipped with an electronic security device, being an alarm or a visual recording device.
- Complete an application for a **permit to acquire** a firearm. Applying for the permit may involve police inspecting the storage receptacle.
- Once you have the permit, you may acquire / buy a firearm through a firearms dealer (the dealer will organise the **certificate of registration** for the new owner).
- Store all firearms according to the rules and only use firearms as the licence allows.

↓ **GET A FIREARMS LICENCE**
Application > Firearms Safety Course > Licence

↓ **BUY A FIREARM**
Permit to acquire > Dealer > Certificate of registration

↓ **OBEY THE FIREARMS LAWS**
Only use as allowed > Store correctly > Police will check

↓ **IF THE FIREARMS LAWS ARE NOT FOLLOWED**
Firearms seized > Suspend / Cancel licence > Criminal charges

To get a firearms licence:

1. Only a **fit and proper person** can be granted a firearms licence (see *Information Sheet 7 Fit & Proper Person*). When Firearms Services receive an application, we check the person's criminal history and for any information about criminal activities and review information including but not limited to the mental and physical health of the person, court or police orders (such as Police Family Violence Orders, Family Violence Orders, Interim Restraint Orders and Restraint Orders), firearm licencing history and police information reports. All information is carefully reviewed to ensure that it is appropriate to issue a firearms licence.
2. Only a person who has a **genuine reason** to possess and/or use firearms can be granted a firearms licence. Licences are issued for the following reasons:
 - Sport or target shooting;
 - Recreational hunting or vermin control;
 - Primary production;



- Animal population control;
- Animal welfare;
- Business or employment as a firearms dealer, security agent or security guard;
- Fishing for commercial purposes within the meaning of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 (Tas);
- Conducting a paintball business within the meaning of Part 6A of the Firearms Act 1996 (Tas); and
- Firearms collection (firearms are not allowed to be fired unless an approval is granted)
- Show or exhibition (this reason applies to a museum licence only).

A licence can be issued for one or more genuine reasons. There are different documents required as evidence for each genuine reason (for a list, see the *Information Sheet* for that genuine reason).

3. A **Category B licence** is granted when the applicant provides proof that they need that category of licence for the **genuine reason**.
4. A **Category C licence** is granted when the applicant provides proof that they need that category of licence for the genuine reason of primary production, animal population control or firearms collection. For primary producers and persons engaged in animal population control, they also need to explain why a less restricted category isn't going to meet their need (see *Information Sheet 24 Genuine Need* for information on why this is required).
5. A **category D licence** can only be granted if the persons genuine reason for possessing that category of licence is animal population control or firearms collection **and** if the genuine reason for holding the licence is animal population control, the person produces evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a category D firearm.

6. A person with a **Category H** (pistol) licence for sport or target shooting cannot be granted a permit to acquire a pistol until they have held that licence **and** been a member of an **approved pistol shooting club** both for at least 6 months. It is possible to apply to become a member of a club before the licence application is granted. **Please note:** there is a different permit to acquire form for pistols for sport or target shooting, which must be endorsed by a club official. A category H licence can only be granted if a person has one of the following genuine reasons:

- Sport or target shooting.
- Business or employment.
- Firearms collection.
- Security industry work.

and the person needs to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates in connection with that genuine reason.

A few basic firearms rules:

- A person cannot handle, be in possession of, or use a firearm unless they have a licence of the appropriate category.
- A person must have a firearms licence before they buy a firearm.
- All firearms have to be registered (there are a few exceptions).
- Firearms and firearm parts can only be bought and sold through firearms dealers.
- Firearms and ammunition must be stored according to the storage rules.
- Licence holders must comply with the conditions on their licence.
- Licence holders should be familiar with the National Firearms Safety Code (see *Information Sheet 4 Reducing Firearms Related Risk*).

Why do we have firearms laws?

1. To keep the community safe. The laws do this by:
 - Making sure only fit and proper people can get a firearms licence.
 - Making sure only people with a licence can access firearms.
 - Making sure people who get a licence are physically able, and mentally well enough, to use firearms safely.
2. To reduce firearms related crime. The laws do this by:
 - Ensuring that violent people, people who disregard the law, people who pose a risk to public safety and people who are subject to certain court or police orders can't get firearms licences.
 - Ensuring that firearms are stored safely, so criminals can't steal them and use them to commit crime.



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