

This information sheet contains information about the requirements for conveying firearms.

For information on conveying **prohibited** firearms, see *Information Sheet 30 Conveying Prohibited Firearms*.

Meaning of Convey

The word “convey” is not defined in the *Firearms Act* or *Firearms Regulations*. Its ordinary meaning is “to carry or transport from one place to another” (Macquarie dictionary). Conveying a firearm may occur in a range of contexts. Whether or not a firearm is being conveyed, depends upon the individual circumstances.

The requirements for conveying firearms

Under Section 104 of the *Firearms Act 1996*, a person who conveys a firearm or ammunition must comply with the prescribed safety requirements. For firearms other than prohibited firearms, these requirements are outlined in Regulation 18 of the *Firearms Regulations 2016*. They are:

- The firearm must be unloaded;
- Ammunition is to be in a closed container and completely separate from any firearm;
- **At least one** of the following:
 - The firearm is to be in a **locked receptacle**; and/or
 - The bolt of the firearm is to be in a

closed container and completely separate from the firearm; and/or

- The firearm is to be fitted with a mechanism that locks or disables the trigger or action and prevents the firearm from being used.

THE LOCKED RECEPTACLE:

- A receptacle includes things such as a box, bag, carry case etc.
- The receptacle should be robust and strong, for example: a professionally manufactured firearm receptacle made of high-density plastic, Kevlar, metal or hardwood.
- Depending upon the construction of a vehicle, the boot may constitute a “receptacle”.
- As a precaution, it should not be obvious from looking at the receptacle whether there is a firearm inside.
- If a receptacle is outside the body of the vehicle (for example, in the tray of a utility), it is recommended that it be welded, bolted, screwed, locked or otherwise secured to the vehicle.

Conveying ammunition

All ammunition must be in a closed container and completely separate from any firearm.

The **closed container**:

- A container can be anything that can hold the ammunition securely.
- It can be a part of the vehicle, like the glove box, provided that it closes.



- It is recommended that new ammunition is transported in its original packaging from the manufacturer, in the closed container.
- **If your firearm is in a locked receptacle**, then you can store the ammunition next to the receptacle, but not in the same receptacle.

Staying overnight while conveying firearms

Licence holders are responsible for how they convey and store any firearms in their possession.

If a licence holder needs to stay overnight somewhere whilst conveying a firearm/ammunition to, or from, a shooting event/activity, there are numerous options for dealing with the firearms/ammunition. The appropriateness of the option depends upon the particular situation. For example, you may choose to:

- Store them with another licence holder;
- Store them with a firearms dealer; or
- Store them in your vehicle and comply with the requirements for conveying a firearm as stated in the Firearms Regulations.

Conveying firearms while shooting on private property

If a licence holder is charged with breaching the requirements for conveying a firearm/ammunition, under Section 104 of the Act they will have a defence if they can establish the following:

- That at the relevant time the firearm/ammunition was being conveyed in connection with their employment or livelihood; and
- The firearm/ammunition was being conveyed no further than reasonably necessary in the circumstances; and
- In the case of a primary producer (or employee or person engaged with the primary producer) - the firearm/ammunition was being conveyed on a road that bounds/bisects/immediately connects the primary producer's property/properties.

Contact Firearms Services or see Section 104(2) of the *Firearms Act 1996* for more information.

Other considerations

Whether the **storage** requirements for firearms apply in a particular situation, or the requirements for conveying firearms, depends upon the individual circumstances as they exist at a particular point in time. It is important for licence holders to remember that under Section 84 of the *Firearms Act*, if they are in possession of a firearm, firearm part or ammunition, they are required to take **all reasonable precautions** to ensure they are:

1. Kept safely
2. Not stolen
3. Not lost and
4. Do not come into the possession of a person who is not authorised to possess them.

Licence holders should ask themselves:

- Is there anything else I can do to ensure that my firearms are secure?
- What precautions are necessary to prevent their theft/unauthorised access?
- If my firearms are stolen, can I say that I had taken all reasonable precautions in the circumstances?

If there is a need to park your vehicle whilst conveying a firearm:

- Always lock it;
- Consider using off street parking;
- Preferably park the vehicle in a secure car park or garage, if that option is available;
- Ensure there are no identifiers of the presence of a firearm inside the vehicle;
- Ensure that the receptacle in which the firearm is being stored within the vehicle, is not visible to persons outside of the vehicle;
- Do not leave the firearm in the vehicle for any longer than is necessary in the circumstances; and
- If you do need to leave the firearm in a vehicle, consider checking on it at regular intervals.



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