

Genuine Reason I – Sport or Target Shooting

Note: This information sheet does not constitute legal advice and is for general information purposes only. Applicants and licensees are required to understand and comply with the *Firearms Act 1996* (“the Act”) and associated Regulations, which are available on the Tasmanian legislation website – www.legislation.tas.gov.au. This document was prepared in April 2023 based on the relevant legislation at that time.

A person needs to have a ‘genuine reason’ to possess or use a firearm to apply for a firearms licence. The Act includes sport or target shooting as a genuine reason to possess or use a firearm. This information sheet explains how to apply for a firearms licence for sport or target shooting.

Which categories of firearms licence are available to a sport or target shooter?

- Category A, Category B and/or Category H licence.
- See *Information Sheet 3 Firearms Licence Categories* for more detail on categories.
- See *Information Sheet 41 Acquiring a Pistol* for information on which pistols (Category H) you may be able to acquire for this genuine reason.

To obtain a firearms licence for sport or target shooting you must be:

An applicant whose genuine reason for possessing or using a firearm is sport or target shooting and you must be a current member of an approved shooting organisation that conducts competitions or activities involving the use of that firearm.

Which documents are required to apply for a licence with this genuine reason?

Category A:

- Evidence of current membership with an approved shooting organisation is required to accompany the application for the licence. Firearms Services requests that this evidence be provided in the form of a letter from the shooting organisation (on the club letterhead if possible) containing the following information:
 - confirmation that the applicant is a current financial member of the club;
 - the expiry date of membership;
 - how long the applicant has been a member of the club; and
 - information in relation to the competitions and/or activities that the club runs involving the use of firearms relevant to the applicant.

Category B and H:

All Category A documents plus:

evidence to the Commissioner of Police’s (the Commissioner) satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates.



Category H firearms licence additional conditions:

- The holder must not possess or use a prohibited pistol without the approval of the Commissioner.
- The holder must comply with minimum annual participation rates relating to sport or target shooting as specified in the conditions of the licence and provide evidence to the Commissioner of his or her compliance with those annual participation rates unless exempted from doing so by the Commissioner.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ):

Can a person without sport and target shooting on their licence shoot at a range?

YES

- A person with a firearms licence which does not include sport and target shooting can shoot at an approved range if:
 - the firearm is only used for orientation purposes, which means one or a combination of the following:
 - sighting the firearm
 - testing the firearm or its components or ammunition
 - acquiring familiarity with the firearm
 - acquiring greater proficiency (skill) in the use of the firearm

AND

- they have permission from the club or person in charge of the range

AND

- they have not used that firearm, for orientation purposes, at any range on more than three occasions in the six month period immediately preceding the day the person is attending the range.



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