

Genuine Reason 3 – Primary Production

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. This information sheet explains how to apply for a firearms licence for the purpose of primary production.

What firearm licence categories are available to a primary producer?

- Category A, Category B and/or Category C licence.
- See *Information Sheet 3 Firearms Licence Categories* for more detail.

What does a primary production licence enable the licence holder to do?

A primary production licence enables a person who is regularly engaged in the business of primary production on land owned, managed or leased by the person, or someone employed by such a person, to:

- suppress vertebrate pest animals on the land; and
- destroy animals to avoid pain and suffering.

To obtain a firearms licence for the purpose of primary production, a person must:

Be regularly engaged in the business of primary production on land owned, managed or leased by the person **OR** be an employee of such a person.

AND

Produce evidence to the Commissioner of Police’s (the Commissioner) satisfaction that the person intends to use the firearm solely in connection with the suppression of vertebrate pest animals on the land and for the destruction of animals to avoid pain and suffering.

What documents are required to apply for a licence for the purpose of primary production?

Category A:

Evidence that the person is regularly engaged in the business of primary production on land owned, managed or leased by the person, or someone employed by such a person.

AND

Evidence in relation to the person’s intention to use the firearm solely in connection with the suppression of vertebrate pest animals on the land and for the destruction of animals to avoid pain and suffering.



Firearms Services encourages evidence to be provided in the form of a statutory declaration made by the applicant and accompanied by supporting documentation. Helpful information and documentation to evidence these requirements may include:

- Information in relation to the requirement that the applicant intends to use the firearm solely in connection with the suppression of vertebrate pest animals on the land and the destruction of animals to avoid pain and suffering, including:
 - the type of animal/animals that may be required to be destroyed to avoid pain and suffering; and
 - the vertebrate pest animals that are intended to be suppressed.
- Information in relation to the applicant (or their employer) being regularly engaged in the business of primary production:
 - the type of plant or animal that is cultivated or farmed;
 - a statutory declaration made by the primary producer's certified accountant;
 - current ABN;
 - past tax returns (within past three years);
 - business records; and
 - a Crop Protection Permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).
- Property details:
 - size (acres/hectares);
 - address;
 - property identification code (PIC); and
 - a copy of a lease document or statutory declaration certified by the landowner if the applicant leases the land.
- Employment information if the applicant is an employee seeking a licence in connection with their employment. Firearms Services requests that this be provided in the form of an employment contract (if available) and an additional statutory declaration made by the applicant's employer confirming:
 - the applicant's employment status (full time, part time, casual etc);
 - role/job title and responsibilities and duties related to that role; and
 - information in relation to them (the employer) being regularly engaged in the business of primary production and details in relation to the property (see above in relation to evidence to satisfy this requirement).

Note: an independent contractor is generally not considered an employee for the purposes of a primary production licence by Firearms Services on the basis that a person is required to be **regularly** engaged in the business of primary production on the relevant land.

Category B:

All the Category A documents plus: evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates.

Category C:

All of the Category A and B documents plus: evidence that your need is not met by:

- a Category A or B firearms licence; or
- any other means.

Tasmania Police provide a document titled *Category C for Primary Production Statutory Declaration* for use in relation to this requirement.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ):

What are 'vertebrate pest animals'?

- Vertebrate pest animals (also known as 'vermin') include rats, rabbits and feral cats. Contact DNRE for more information: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/>.

Important note:

A licence or permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment is usually **also** required for activities involving shooting animals. Check their website and contact the department for more information: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/>.

