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## Firearms Licence Categories

**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](http://www.legislation.tas.gov.au). This document was prepared in June 2024 based on the relevant legislation at that time.

To acquire a firearm you need to have a firearms licence of the category appropriate to that firearm (and a permit in respect of that firearm).

The Act includes five firearms licence categories, being:

- Category A firearms licence
- Category B firearms licence
- Category C firearms licence
- Category D firearms licence
- Category H firearms licence

This information sheet provides information in relation to these categories.

### Category A firearms licence

A Category A firearms licence applies to any –

1. air rifle; and
2. rim-fire rifle, other than self-loading; and
3. shotgun, other than pump action or self-loading; and
4. shotgun and rim-fire rifle combinations.

A Category A firearms licence authorises the holder to possess or use only a firearm referred to from 1-4 for the particular purpose specified in the licence.

### Category B firearms licence

A Category B firearms licence applies to any –

1. muzzle-loading firearm; and
2. centre-fire rifle, other than self-loading; and
3. shotgun and centre-fire rifle combinations.

A Category B firearms licence authorises the holder to possess or use only a firearm referred to from 1-3 for the particular purpose specified in the licence.



## Category C firearms licence

A Category C firearms licence applies to any –

1. self-loading rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds of ammunition; and
2. self-loading shotgun with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds of ammunition; and
3. pump action shotgun with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds of ammunition.

A Category C firearms licence authorises the holder to possess or use only one firearm referred to at 1 and one firearm referred to at 2 or 3, as specified in the licence and for the particular purpose specified in the licence (except in respect of a Category C firearms licence that is specified as being issued only for the genuine reason of firearms collection).

## Category D firearms licence

A Category D firearms licence applies to any –

1. self-loading centre-fire rifle; and
2. self-loading shotgun with a capacity of more than 5 rounds of ammunition; and
3. pump action shotgun with a capacity of more than 5 rounds of ammunition; and
4. self-loading rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

A Category D firearms licence authorises the holder to possess or use only a firearm referred to from 1-4 that is specified in the licence for the particular purpose specified in the licence (except in respect of a Category D firearms licence that is specified as being issued only for the genuine reason of firearms collection).

## Category H firearms licence

1. A Category H firearms licence for a purpose other than sport or target shooting applies to any –

- a. pistol; and
- b. air pistol.

A Category H firearms licence for a purpose other than sport or target shooting authorises the holder to possess or use only a pistol referred to from 1 (a) and (b) for the particular purpose specified in the licence.

2. A Category H firearms licence for sport or target shooting authorises the holder to possess or use any of the following:

- a. a pistol that does not exceed .38 inch calibre;
- b. a semi-automatic pistol that has a barrel length of 120 millimetres or more;
- c. a revolver that has a barrel length of 100 millimetres or more;
- d. a single-shot pistol that has a barrel length of 100 millimetres or more;
- e. a pistol that has a magazine capacity of 10 rounds of ammunition or less.

A Category H firearms licence for sport or target shooting authorises the holder, with the approval of the Commissioner, to possess or use a prohibited pistol for the purpose of training for, and participating in, a prescribed event where pistols that have a calibre not exceeding .46 inch may be used.

3. A Category H firearms licence for use in the security industry authorises the holder to possess a registered pistol that:
  - a. does not exceed .38 inch calibre or 9 millimetre calibre; and
  - b. is owned by, and has as its registrant, the holder's employer; and
  - c. factory-manufactured or factory-loaded ammunition for a registered pistol of the kind referred at 3 (a) and (b).



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Current as at June 2024

**For further information please refer to the following information sheets:**

- Information Sheet 1 Firearms Licensing in Tasmania Overview
- Information Sheet 2 Firearms Licence Application Process
- Information Sheet 14 Genuine Reason 1 – Sport and Target
- Information Sheet 15 Genuine Reason 2 – Recreational Hunting and Vermin Control
- Information Sheet 16 Genuine Reason 3 – Primary Production
- Information Sheet 17 Genuine Reason 4 – Animal Population Control
- Information Sheet 18 Genuine Reason 5 – Animal Welfare
- Information Sheet 21 Genuine Reason 6B – Paintball Business
- Information Sheet 23 Genuine Reason 8 – Show or Exhibition
- Information Sheet 40 Permit to Acquire Firearms
- Information Sheet 41 Acquiring a Pistol

Genuine Reason	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D	Category H
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)	✓	✓			
Conducting a paintball business (within the meaning of the Part 6A of the Act)	✓ (for paintball firearms)				
Firearms collection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

