

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 June 2024 based on the relevant legislation at that time.

To acquire a pistol a person must have a Category H firearms licence and purchase the pistol from a licensed firearms dealer with a permit to acquire (PTA) for that pistol (see Information Sheet 40).

There are limitations on the number and types of pistols which can be acquired, depending on the genuine reason for which the Category H licence was granted and the period of time for which the licence has been held. The pistols which are available for each genuine reason are listed below.

A separate permit is required for each pistol to be acquired. To apply for a permit, the Category H licence holder is required to complete and lodge an approved form.

A permit to acquire a pistol will not be granted unless the applicant has a 'sufficient reason and need' to acquire the firearm.

Genuine reason: sport or target shooting

Note: that there is a **separate approved permit form** to acquire a pistol for sport or target shooting.

To be granted a permit to acquire a pistol, the applicant must have held their Category H licence and been a member of an 'approved pistol shooting club' for a period of at least 6 months. There is a section in the permit application form which needs to be completed by an official of the pistol shooting club of which the applicant is a member. This is to certify that the club offers a shooting discipline for the type of pistol sought to be acquired by the applicant.

To acquire a pistol the licence holder must have held a Category H licence and been a member of an approved pistol shooting club, for at least 6 months. Initially they can acquire no more than 2 pistols from the following list of categories and the 2 must be of different categories:

- a .22 inch calibre pistol
- a .177 inch calibre air pistol
- a centre-fire pistol
- a black-powder muzzle loader.



After the Category H licence holder has held a Category H licence, and been a member of an approved pistol shooting club, for at least 12 months, the licence holder can acquire:

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

A Category H licence holder can apply for a permit to acquire a prohibited pistol for the purpose of training for, and participating in, a prescribed event. An application for prohibited pistol form should be submitted with the permit to acquire application form. A prohibited pistol is:

- a pistol that has a calibre exceeding .38 inches
- a semi-automatic pistol that has a barrel length of less than 120 millimetres
- a revolver that has a barrel length of less than 100 millimetres
- a single-shot pistol that has a barrel length of less than 100 millimetres
- a pistol that has a magazine with a capacity of more than 10 rounds.

Genuine reason: business or employment – security industry

Pistols which can be acquired by an employer:

- a pistol (other than a prohibited pistol) that does not exceed .38 inch calibre or 9 millimetres calibre

Genuine reason: business or employment – firearms dealer

A firearms dealer does not need to complete a permit to acquire for pistols for their business.

Genuine reason: firearms collection

There are no restrictions on the timing, number or type of pistols which can be acquired by firearms collectors. However, each application for a permit is subject to the usual checks (see *Information Sheet 22 Genuine Reason – Firearms Collection & Information Sheet 40 Permit to Acquire*).

How long does it take for a permit to acquire?

- If the licence holder does not already possess a registered firearm under a licence, 28 days must pass before the permit to acquire can be granted by the Commissioner.
- In any other case, 14 days after the application is lodged.
- Before a permit to acquire can be granted, the Commissioner must be satisfied that the applicant can meet the storage and safety requirements of the Act. If the licence holder has not already had a storage inspection which confirmed they can follow the rules for storing pistols, then they must **pass a storage inspection** in order to possess a pistol. When Firearms Services receive an application for a licence holder's first permit to **acquire a pistol**, they will check the applicant's storage inspection history and see if a storage inspection should be arranged. Licence holders do not need to provide any additional information for this to occur.

