

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 Section 15D of the *Police Offences Act 1935* ("the POA"), *Firearms Act 1996* ("the Firearms 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.

A person must not use, carry or have possession of a crossbow unless he or she is authorised in writing by the Commissioner to do so.

Crossbow means a device, consisting of a bow fitted transversely on a stock that has a groove or barrel, designed to direct an arrow or bolt.

To apply for an authority

A person may apply to the Commissioner for a permit to use, carry or have possession of a crossbow. An application for a permit is to include details of the following:

- the type of crossbow
- the reason for its possession, carriage or use
- the means by which it is to be stored when not in use.

The Commissioner must not grant an application unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the applicant:

- is at least 18 years old,
- is a fit and proper person to use, carry or have possession of a crossbow,
- is able to safely store the crossbow, and
- has a legitimate reason for using, carrying or possessing a crossbow, including for the purpose of conducting research, hunting vermin or another purpose the Commissioner considers appropriate.

Note: Other legitimate reasons the Commission may consider appropriate include target shooting and collection.



Legitimate reason	Firearms Services requests that the following information be provided with an application
Hunting vermin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written authorisation from the owner or occupier of land giving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> permission to use a crossbow on that land the address of the property the size of the property description of the vermin. Vermin are vertebrate pest animals including rats, rabbits and feral cats. For more information in relation to vermin contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environment nre.tas.gov.au.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting documentation which details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for the use of the crossbow, including the project to which it relates the address where the crossbow will be used how the crossbow will be stored the time period during which the research is to be conducted.
Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of membership to a club or society whose members are particularly involved in the collection of crossbows or similar items, or A signed statement to the effect that the applicant is a bona fide collector, which also details the theme of the collection.
Target shooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of membership to a club or society whose members are involved in the recreational use of crossbows at an approved range.

General crossbow information

The holder of an authority must:

- Carry a copy of the authorisation at all times while he or she has possession of, or is carrying or using, a crossbow; and
- Comply with any conditions of that authority.

Most authorities will include a condition that a crossbow be stored in the same manner as a Category A firearm. See: Information Sheet 25 - Storage of Category A & B Firearms.

A police officer may seize and detain any crossbow used, carried or kept in contravention of section 15D of the POA.



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