

All persons wishing to obtain a firearms licence in NSW must have a genuine reason to obtain the licence.

This FACT Sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a firearms licence for employment as a Security Guard in the Security Industry.

[Who can apply for this genuine reason?](#)

You must have been employed by an 'Approved Master Licensee' and worked under the Provisional Licensing Scheme for a 12 month period. For further information in relation to this, please refer to the Provisional Pistol (Business/Employment) Licence FACT Sheet available on our Security Industry Firearms page of our website.

However, should you have already undergone the Provisional Licensing Scheme or you have either previously held a Category H (Business/Employment) Licence or equivalent interstate Category H (Business/Employment) Licence within the last 3 years and can provide the relevant evidence of working within the armed sector you may not be required to undergo the Provisional Licensing Scheme.

In order to work as an armed security guard you must hold a class 1F licence issued under the *Security Industry Act 1997* to allow you to carry out prescribed activities as a security guard. You may then make application for a firearms licence to work as an armed security guard.

[What categories of licence can I have for this Genuine Reason?](#)

Categories A (shotgun) & H only.

[What requirements must be met for this Genuine Reason?](#)

You must supply details of your employment including your employer's name and Master Licence number and have the employer sign the certification on the genuine reason form confirming your employment.

You must also supply an Accreditation Approval Certificate issued by an approved instructor for the category of licence for which you are applying.

[Are there any restrictions on this Genuine Reason?](#)

Yes. A firearms licence issued to a security guard does not allow the acquisition of any firearms. Only firearms from the employers store of firearms are used for work purposes. Firearms acquired from any other genuine reason must not be used for armed security work.

A security guard may possess only one firearm at any one time. Only pistols or shotguns are authorised by this licence.

The security business acquires the firearms used by armed security guards and all firearms are stored for safe keeping by the employer and returned to the employers safe storage at the end of any period of duty.

All details of access to firearm are recorded in a Register kept by your employer.

Ammunition used by the Security Firm or guard must be of a type recommended by the manufacturer of the firearm and must not be re-loaded for any purpose. Firearms must retain readily identifiable and individual characteristics.

Note: A licence issued to a security guard does not cover personal protection or the protection of another person as a bodyguard.

[What if circumstances prevent the return of firearms to the employers store at the end of my shift?](#)

In certain circumstances, a security guard may make application for an Off Duty Pistol Permit to safe keep a firearm between periods of duty. There are stringent requirements to be met for this permit. For further information see the Off Duty Pistol Permit FACT Sheet on the Firearms Permit page of our website.

There is a provision to retain a firearm between periods of duty without committing an offence under the firearms legislation:

- * In an emergency situation where a security guard is not at their normal place of work, AND
- * Due to reasons of distance or public safety they were unable to return the firearm to the employer's store, AND
- * Due to the urgency of the situation it was not reasonably practical to apply for an Off Duty Pistol Permit.

In any of the above circumstances, compliance with the Safe Keeping requirements of Part 4 of the *Firearms Act 1996* must be met.

[Are there any special requirements for the carriage of pistols & shotguns?](#)

There are specific requirements for the carriage of pistols & shotguns. Refer to Clause 76 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006*.

Pistols must be carried in an approved holster of a type suitable in size and shape for the pistol and be secured firmly to a belt (when worn). The holster must be designed with a thumb break safety strap with either the trigger not exposed or a complete covering flap to conceal the pistol from view.

Shotguns must only be used for duty in an armoured car or similar vehicle or on enclosed land prior to entering or leaving an armoured car or similar vehicle.

[Are there any requirements once I have obtained my firearms licence?](#)

Yes. You must complete your firearms safety accreditation course at least once a year and provide a copy of this certificate to the Firearms Registry & to your employer. Failure to complete your yearly accreditation will result in the revocation of your firearms licence.

Yes. You must maintain your current class 1F security licence in order to continue to hold your firearms licence.

There are other general legislative requirements to be met by all licence and permit holders. You are advised to familiarise yourself with these.

[What about interstate security guards working in NSW?](#)

An interstate security guard who is licensed in the State or Territory in which he or she resides to carry on security activities and who is authorised to possess and use a pistol or shotgun under that other State or Territory for the purposes of Business or employment is authorised to possess and use the pistol or shotgun in NSW, but only while carrying on those security activities.

Interstate security guards must also contact the Security Licensing Enforcement Directorate (SLED) on 1300 362 066 to confirm mutual recognition of their security licence.

NSW security guards wishing to work interstate must seek information from the relevant interstate registry.

[How do I make application for a firearms licence?](#)

Call the Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562. You will be transferred to the Security Industry Firearms Unit where the application process will be discussed with you.

[How long will it take to obtain my Category H \(Business/Employment\) Licence?](#)

A new licence application has a mandatory waiting period of 28 days from the date of receipt before the licence can be issued.

Once received, your application will be reviewed and you will be informed of the outcome usually within 6-8 weeks.

[How much will my firearms licence cost?](#)

A personal firearms licence is issued for 2 or 5 years.

* 2 year licence = \$100

* 5 year licence = \$200

[Where do I pay?](#)

Fees for licences are paid at the Roads and Maritime Services (previously known as: the RTA) when your photo licence is produced.

Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 1996* and the *Firearms Regulation 2006*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

Firearms Registry

Address

Locked Bag 1
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Telephone

1300362562

Interstate

02 66708590

Fax

02 66708558

Email

firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au

Website

www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms



NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au

