

What is a Firearms Safety Awareness Certificate and how do I obtain one?

If your application is for a first time issue (original) Firearm Licence, you must complete a firearm safety awareness test. The test is designed to ensure you understand the basic requirements for the safe handling of firearms and is conducted through approved Clubs/Association and Firearms Dealers.

» SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Once submitted to Australia Post, your application is transmitted to Police Licensing Services Firearms where it is processed.

A 28 day cooling-off period will apply to first time (original) applicants for a Firearms Licence. Police Licensing Services will request that you confirm your intention to proceed with your application at the conclusion of 28 days. This is a requirement under the Firearms Act and allows the first time applicant time to reconsider their application and determine if they wish to proceed.

Note: Failure to advise Police Licensing Services within the next 28 days of your intention to continue with your application will result in your application lapsing and being declined.

The applicant will receive notification of acceptance or refusal of their licence application in the mail. If successful, you will be issued a licence (via post).

For a first time issue (original Firearms Licence, this notification will also include a request for you to attend a post office to have your photograph taken for a Firearms Extract of Licence/Identification Card, which incurs a fee. This card will be mailed to you and is re-issued every 5 years

» DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

Community facilities, such as libraries and Community Resource Centres can provide internet access. If you are unable to utilise these facilities, contact Police Licensing Services on 1300 171 011 and a handwritten application form can be posted to you.

DO NOT TAKE ANY FIREARMS TO THE POST OFFICE

» YOU MUST HAVE APPROVED STORAGE FACILITIES.

If you are applying as a first time applicant (original licence), before the licence is approved you will be required to provide further information regarding the installation of a security cabinet. This is done via a Statutory Declaration and photographs clearly showing the firearms storage cabinet and fittings. Refer to "www.police.wa.gov.au/our services/firearms/firearms storage"

If you are applying for an addition to your Firearms Licence, there is a provision within the application to certify that you have a storage cabinet that meets the required standard and there is sufficient space for the "new" firearm.

Your cabinet MUST comply with Schedule 4 of the Firearms Regulations 1974.

CONTACT POLICE LICENSING SERVICES

Website: www.police.wa.gov.au

Email: licensingervicesfirearms@police.wa.gov.au

Postal Address: Locked Bag 9, East Perth WA 6892

Telephone: 1300 171 011

Fax: (08) 9454 1522

WA POLICE



WA POLICE

POLICE LICENSING
SERVICES FIREARMS

» LICENCE
APPLICATION
PROCESS

FIREARMS CALL CENTRE

TEL: 1300 171 011

Office Hours: 8:30am – 3:30pm

LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

» FIREARM LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

It is a requirement in Western Australia that a Firearm Licence is required to possess, carry, and lawfully use a firearm and ammunition. Both firearms and firearm users are licensed. One user may be licensed to use and possess multiple firearms and similarly several users may be co-licensed to use the same firearm.

The approval to licence a firearm is determined by the category or type of firearm applied for and the reason for which it is required. There are a number of categories of firearms, all of which have differing levels of assessments that must be met prior to a licence being used.

Before an application to licence a firearm is made it is suggested that you discuss your requirements with your local firearms club or Licensed Dealer to determine exactly what you require, this will assist you in preparing your application.

» GENUINE REASON AND NEED

Genuine reason under Section 11A of the Firearms Act sets out what is accepted at a legislative level as to who or what is deemed to be considered to be a genuine reason.

A person has a genuine reason for acquiring or possessing a firearm or ammunition only if:

- It is for use by the person as a member of an approved shooting club and the person is an active and financial member of the club;
- It is for use by the person as a member of an approved organisation;
- It is for use in hunting or shooting of a recreational nature on land where the owner has specifically given permission for that purpose;
- It is required by the person in the course of the person's occupation;

- It is to form of a genuine firearm collection or genuine ammunition collection.

Finally, genuine reason must also show that the application for a particular firearm is reasonably justified (Section 11A (3) Firearms Act).

If your application is for a firearm other than a Category A (commonly referred to as low powered firearm) you will need to establish that you have a genuine need, for that firearm.

Genuine need is based upon why a particular firearm is required over the above one of a lower calibre. You must show why a firearm of a lower calibre would be inadequate or unsuitable to meet your needs.

If you already have a firearm that will address these needs, then you will have to show why you need an additional firearm to undertake the same activities. You must provide this information in your application.

» PROPERTY LETTER AND SUITABILITY

A letter from the property owner is required where you are applying to use your firearm for recreational hunting/shooting. It must support your application, in addressing a genuine reason and also supports your "genuine need" as it must outline the size of the property and describe what the firearm is to be used for, justifying why a particular calibre is required.

Whilst property size is not defined under the Firearms Act, significant consideration is given to its size and the suitability of the firearm to be used on it. Safety is always the primary consideration when licensing firearms.

A template property letter is available online via the Police website, refer: www.police.wa.gov.au/onlineforms and follow the links.

» CO-LICENSING A FIREARM?

If you are making an application to co-licence a firearm with an existing firearm licence holder, you will be required to provide a co-user permission form. This form can be obtained online via the Police website, refer: www.police.wa.gov.au/onlineforms and follow the links.

» HOW TO APPLY FOR A FIREARM LICENCE

Your application form for a firearm licence is completed online via the Police website, refer www.police.wa.gov.au and follow the links.

Once completed and printed out, you will need to attend an Australia Post outlet with your application, supporting documentation and the relevant fee.

The term "supporting documents" may include, but is not limited to:

Property Letter
Club Support Letter
Occupational Requirement Disclosure
Proof of Property Ownership

You will also require a Serviceability Certificate for each firearm being applied for, a Safety Awareness Certificate (for first time applicants only) and Proof of Identity - 100 point check similar to that required at banks.

What is a Serviceability Certificate and how do I obtain one?

The Serviceability Certificate is provided by the person selling the firearm. It includes detail of the firearm, such as its make, serial number and calibre and certifies the firearm meets the safety requirements. The certificate is issued by approved Firearm Dealers, repairers, Manufacturers and Clubs/ Association.