



NSW Police Force
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FIREARMS REGISTRY

Probationary Pistol Licence

P 662

This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a Probationary Pistol licence for the genuine reason of Sport/Target Shooting.

In NSW, a person wishing to take up the sport of pistol shooting for the first time must hold a Probationary Pistol licence prior to being issued with a full category H firearms licence.

What is a Probationary Pistol Licence?

A Probationary Pistol Licence (PPL) is a firearms licence issued to a person who has never held a category H firearms licence for the genuine reason of Sport/Target Shooting.

A PPL authorises the licensee to possess and use a registered pistol for the purpose of participating in shooting competitions and activities at a club approved for those activities by the Commissioner.

A PPL does not authorise the acquisition of a firearm during the first six month term of the PPL.

A PPL does not authorise the possession or use of a prohibited pistol.

What is the term of the PPL?

A PPL is issued for a period of 12 months.

How much will the PPL cost?

The prescribed fee for a PPL is \$100. A pensioner is exempt from the fee for the licence. If you are claiming this exemption, you must provide a copy of your Centrelink pension card with your application.

Pistol Safe Handling Course

Applicants for a PPL are required to complete an initial 'Pistol Safe Handling Course' conducted by the pistol shooting club. The 'Pistol Safe Handling Course' completion certificate will be forwarded to the Firearms Registry by your club.

Are there restrictions on the PPL?

Yes. For the first 6 months of the term of the PPL you cannot possess or use a pistol unless:

1. You are on the pistol shooting club premises, and
 2. You are under the supervision of a person who holds a full category H Sport/Target Shooting Firearms Licence.
- Reference section 16A(2)(a)(i) of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

For the second six months of the PPL you can only be issued with two Permits to Acquire and these will only be issued if you have successfully completed the 'Pistol Safety Training Course' conducted by the pistol club for which you are a member and you have completed 3 recorded competition shoots to the satisfaction of the pistol club captain. The 'Pistol Safety Training Course' is in addition to the 'Pistol Safe Handling Course' completed during the licence application process.

What firearms can I acquire during the second six months of the PPL?

During the second six months you may acquire no more than two pistols, any one of which is:

- * A centrefire pistol, or
- * A rimfire pistol with a calibre of no more than .22 inch, or
- * An air pistol with a calibre of no more than .177 inch, or
- * A black powder pistol.

However, you must not possess a centrefire and rimfire pistol at the same time - section 31(3C) of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

When do I get my full category H firearms licence?

You must hold your PPL for the full term of the licence and you will receive licence application forms for a full category H firearms licence prior to the expiry of your PPL.

You must complete these application forms and return them to the Firearms Registry prior to the expiry of your PPL. Applications received prior to the expiry of the PPL provide for continuing authority to possess and use firearms on your PPL licence until your full category H firearms licence is issued.

When can I acquire additional firearms?

If you have already had two permits to acquire issued to you in the second six months of your PPL, you may only acquire additional firearms when your full category H firearms licence has been issued.

[What if I have previously held a category H firearms licence in NSW?](#)

If you have previously held a category H firearms licence in NSW for Sport/Target Shooting, you may not be required to obtain a PPL.

[What if I have previously held a category H firearms licence Interstate?](#)

If you have previously held a category H firearms licence for Sport/Target Shooting in another State or Territory, you may not be required to obtain a PPL.

[What if I hold a PPL in another State and I am moving to NSW?](#)

If you have held the PPL for the full term of the licence and complied fully with the requirements of that interstate licence, then you may not need to obtain a PPL prior to being issued a full category H firearms licence in NSW.

[What if I am moving to NSW during the course of my interstate PPL?](#)

If you are moving to NSW and you hold a PPL in another State or Territory that has not run the full term of the licence, you will need to apply for a PPL in NSW.

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

You may request licence application and genuine reason forms online from the Home Page of the Firearms Registry Internet site, or you may call the Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562 to make application.

You must provide your name, address, NSW drivers licence and date of birth details and you will need to select your genuine reason for obtaining a firearms licence and the categories of licence for which you wish to make application.

Further information on genuine reasons and the requirements to meet can be found on the relevant FACT Sheets on the Licence and Genuine Reason page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

Please make sure that you supply your full legal name, not your nick name or preferred name and correctly enter your name and address details or your application will be delayed.

Your application will be printed and posted to you with other relevant information. You must complete your application, sign it and return it with all supporting documentation to the Firearms Registry, Locked Bag 1, Murwillumbah NSW 2484.

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

[How long will it take to obtain my PPL?](#)

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

[Where do I pay?](#)

Fees for licences are paid at the Roads and Maritime Service when your photo licence is produced. Fee exemptions apply to a pensioner applying for a PPL licence.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, see the 'Schedule of Fees' available on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

[Related Information](#)

See FACT Sheets:

- 'Information on obtaining a Firearms Licence in NSW',
- 'Schedule of Fees',
- 'Sport/Target Shooting Genuine Reason',
- 'Safe Storage Level 2 - Category C, D & H Requirements',
- 'Participation Requirements for Club Members',
- 'Transportation of Firearms',
- 'Ammunition Safe Storage, Purchase and Possession'.

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

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