



NSW Police Force
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FIREARMS REGISTRY

Declaration - Range Use by Unlicensed Persons

P 650

In NSW, an exemption exists for unlicensed persons to possess and use firearms without the authority of a licence or permit while shooting on an approved range or while participating in an approved firearms safety training course.

This FACT sheet provides information on the exemption requirements as outlined in section 6B of the Firearms Act 1996 and clause 110 of the Firearms Regulation 2006.

What does the exemption allow ?

The exemption allows an unlicensed person to possess and use a firearm, other than a prohibited firearm:

- * At an approved shooting range and while under the direct supervision of a person authorised by a licence to possess and use a firearm of that kind, or
- * While participating in an approved firearms safety training course and while under the direct supervision of a firearms instructor approved by the Commissioner of Police.

Who would need an exemption?

1. An unlicensed person who wishes to try out the sport of shooting on an approved shooting range, or
2. A person making application for a firearms licence or permit who is required to complete a course in safety training for firearms before they can be issued with a licence or permit.

Why do I need an exemption?

It is an offence in NSW to possess and use a firearm without the authority of a licence or permit, unless you are exempt from this requirement.

How do I obtain an exemption?

You must complete a P650 'Declaration - Person Shooting on an Approved Range or undertaking a Firearms Safety Training Course' form before you are permitted to possess and use firearms.

This form is available from the club or range official at the shooting range where you are intending to shoot or from an approved firearms instructor.

You may also access the form from the Clubs page on the Firearms Registry Internet Site.

The form is completed and returned to the club or range official or the instructor, whichever is applicable.

How do I complete the form?

Section A - Personal Details

The 'Name' box should show your full legal name. This should be the name on your birth certificate, marriage certificate, change of name certificate or passport. Complete address and date of birth.

Insert the details of the photographic identification supplied and photo ID number. In the case of a Minor photo identification of the parent or legal guardian completing the consent in Section D must be supplied.

Section B - Personal History

The questions in Section B of the form relate to your personal history. It is an offence to provide information which is false and misleading, therefore you must answer all the questions honestly and correctly.

Section C - Declaration

The declaration form must be signed and dated by the applicant.

By signing the declaration you are confirming that:

- * You understand it is an offence to supply false or misleading information and you certify that all the information contained in the declaration is true and correct; AND
- * You agree to the NSW Police Force making enquiries to establish that the information you have supplied in relation to the application is true and correct.

Section D - Minor

This section must be completed by the parent or legal guardian of a person aged between 12 - 18 years (a Minor) as written consent is required. The parent or legal guardian of the Minor supplies the photographic identification to the club official, range official or instructor and this is written in Section A.

Section E - Certification

Section E is completed by the club official, range official or instructor.

The box will be marked showing whether the applicant is authorised to shoot and the section is completed and signed by the official or instructor.

What if I want to shoot on a range and also complete a safety training course?

Then you will need to complete two forms, one for each separate purpose.

The forms are required to be kept by the club official, range official or instructor as a record of who is shooting on the range or participating in a safety training course. Therefore if you are doing both activities, two records need to be completed by you and retained by the appropriate person.

What happens if I responded 'Yes' to any of the questions in Section B?

Any person responding 'Yes' to a question in this section cannot be permitted to possess and use firearms.

If you have responded 'Yes' and you still wish to undertake a Firearms Safety Training Course or shoot on the range, a copy of your declaration form will be forwarded to the Firearms Registry for further consideration.

You can only proceed if you have written approval from the Firearms Registry and provide a copy to the club/range official or instructor.

Is this exemption process new?

Yes. The *Firearms Amendment Act 2008* introduced an exemption to the licensing requirements under the *Firearms Act 1996* for persons wishing to possess and use firearms on an approved range.

Previously, persons wishing to possess and use firearms on an approved range for the purpose of a firearms safety training course or to try out the sport of shooting, made application for an exemption to the Firearms Registry.

Now, application is made directly to a club/range official and/or instructor by completing the P650 form.

Does everyone need to complete the P650 form to practice on a range?

No. An approved range may be used by any person who holds a firearms licence with club membership supporting the genuine reason of sport/target shooting. Such persons regularly take part in activities and competitions as a club member and are authorised to do so by their firearms licence or minors permit.

What about non-club members?

Clause 31 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006* provides for persons holding a firearms licence for the genuine reasons of:

- * Recreational Hunting/Vermin Control, or
- * Primary Production, or
- * Vertebrate pest animal control, or
- * Animal Welfare.

to use an approved range for sighting in or patterning shotguns or familiarisation with ammunition and practice.

These persons must be supervised and are not permitted to participate in competitions or activities, involving the use of a firearm, conducted by the shooting club.

The name and licence number of these persons using the range must be recorded by the range/club official.

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

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.



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