



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

# FIREARMS REGISTRY

## Safe Storage Level Two - Category C, D & H Requirements

SS2

All persons owning firearms in NSW must comply with the safe keeping & storage requirements as outlined in the Firearms Act 1996 (Act), the Firearms Regulation 2006 (Regulation) and as recommended by the Commissioner of Police.

This FACT Sheet provides information on safe storage applicable to all Category C, D & H licence holders.

### What are the general requirements in relation to safe keeping of firearms ?

All licence holders in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe storage of firearms under Part 4 - Section 39 of the Firearms Act 1996. Any person in possession of a firearm must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

There are specific legislative requirements for the safe keeping and storage of firearms for Category C, D & H licence holders, in addition to the general requirement.

### What are the legislative requirements for Category C, D and H safe storage?

Section 41 of the Act provides mandatory minimum requirements for the safe keeping and storage of firearms held under a Category C, D & H licence as follows:

- \* When a firearm is not actually being used or carried, it must be stored in a locked steel safe of a type approved by the Commissioner and that cannot be easily penetrated.
- \* The safe must be bolted to the structure of the premises where the firearm/s is authorised to be kept.
- \* Any ammunition for the firearm must be stored in a locked container of a type approved by the Commissioner and that is kept separate from the safe containing the firearms.

Failure to meet these requirements is punishable by a fine of in excess of \$5,500 and/or 2 years imprisonment.

### Do I have to secure my safe to the premises?

Yes. The safe must be secured to the structure of the premises - Section 41 (1)(b) of the Act.

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as the minimum standard applicable for the safe and locking mechanisms for Category C, D & H safe storage.

The mounting and positioning of the safe is important and consideration should be given to the positioning of the safe. The safe should be positioned in a way that makes it difficult to jemmy open. For example a safe placed in a corner with the lock closest to the wall would be more difficult to cut or jemmy open.

The safe must be bolted to the premises by way of internally fitted bolts or screws through the base or back of the safe.

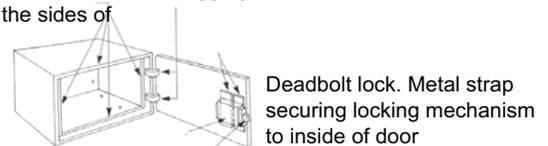
The securing points should not be visible or accessible externally to the safe.

- \* When mounted onto brick, stone or concrete, it should be attached by at least four (4) masonry anchors 90mm in length and 10mm in diameter internally fitted through holes in the rear and base of the container, securing it to the floor and/or wall. In the case of level 1 floor containers the floor of the safe should also be flush with its base.

- \* When mounted onto main wall studs or wall bearers, it should be fitted flush against the wall and secured to the wall studs and floor bearers by four (4) galvanized hexagon head coach screws, not less than 65mm in length and 8mm diameter. In the case of level 1 containers ensure that the container is flush with its base.

Steel length rebate welded to the sides of the safe

Dogging bolts welded to inside of door



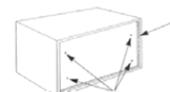
Front View

Externally fitted hinges (sealed ends) and welded to container body



10mm recess with a clearance round the door of not more than 1mm

Rear View



Back plate recessed 10mm from the outer edges of the top, bottom & side plates

Preferrably four (4) bolt holes as specified

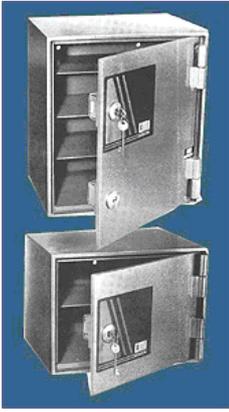
### What are the approved safes and locking mechanisms for Category C, D and H firearms ?

The Commissioner of Police has determined the following as the minimum standard applicable for the receptacle and locking mechanisms for Category C, D & H safe storage.

Any receptacle or lock must meet or exceed the following features to comply with Section 40 (1) of the Act. A list of safes & receptacles that have been considered and approved by the Commissioner of Police is available on the NSW Police website - www.police.nsw.gov.au.

Whilst some individual receptacles and safes have been evaluated and individually approved by the Commissioner, the Commissioner does not endorse or recommend any particular manufacturer, wholesalers, retailer or brand of firearms receptacle. Rather, the Commissioner will accept any safe or lock meeting or exceeding the following features to have met or exceed the requirements of Section 41 (1) of the Act.

To see a list of safes/receptacles that have been considered and approved by the Commissioner of Police, go to the police website. www.police.nsw.gov.au



Example of basic container which would comply with the requirements of the Act in respect of Category C, D and H firearms.

**NOTE:** A & B firearms may be stored in this safe as the security level exceeds that of lower level containers.

### **What are the minimum standards for safes for C, D & H safe storage?**

The minimum standards, as determined by the Commissioner of Police for the safe to be approved are as follows:

- \* The safe should be constructed of structural grade 250 mild steel conforming with AS3679 and be not less than 6mm in thickness for pistols and 3mm for longarms and be constructed with continuous welding on all external edges; and
- \* It should be fitted with a door not less than 6mm thick, swung on either concealed pivots, or externally mounted sealed end hinges welded to the door and body of the safe, with a clearance round the door of not more than 1mm; and
- \* If hinged, have a locking bar or dogging bolts welded to the inside face of the door near the hinge edge, which engages in a rebate in the container body when the door is closed; and
- \* Be fitted with a pick resistant deadbolt locking mechanism that is activated by either a six lever key, or pin/combination lock or biometric scanning (ie: fingerprint etc). The lock should be securely affixed to the rear face of the door and a metal strap overlapping the lock case with each end welded to hardened steel anti drill plates (3mm mild case hardened to 60 Rockwell CO) which will in turn be welded to the door; and
- \* Be constructed with a full length rebate welded to the side of the container body. Locking edge to receive the deadbolt of the locking mechanism; and

- \* A pistol safe should be constructed to leave a 10mm skirt formed by the recessing of the back plate from the outer edges of the sides, top and bottom wall plates to prevent jemmying.

### **Can I make alternative arrangements for safe storage?**

**Yes.** Provided the Commissioner of Police is satisfied that the alternative arrangements for the safe keeping & storage of firearms in the licensee's possession are of a standard not less than the requirements as outlined for Category C, D & H licence holders.

### **When do I need to have my safe storage inspected by Police?**

Inspections may be conducted by police at any reasonable time, by prior arrangement - Section 19(2)(c) of the Act.

If your safe storage requires inspection, police will contact you to arrange a time for the inspection and they will issue you with a certificate upon successful completion of the inspection.

### **What if I change the address where my firearms are being stored ?**

You must notify the Firearms Registry in writing within 14 days of any change to a safe storage address.

The notification should include the particulars of the arrangements that have been made to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation in relation to safe keeping and storage of firearms.

Police will contact you if the new safe storage address needs to be inspected.

### **Related Information:**

See FACT Sheets:

- 'Ammunition Safe Storage, Purchase & Possession',
- 'Transportation of Firearms',
- 'Level 1 Safe Storage - Category A & B Requirements'.

### **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](http://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](mailto:firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au)

### **Website**

[www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms)



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