

# Secure storage and display guide for firearms dealers and ammunition sellers



Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority, a business unit of New Zealand Police

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## Section 1 Storing and Displaying Safely



### Purpose

All firearms dealers and ammunition sellers are subject to conditions that require the safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition stored and displayed in their premises.

This is a new document that is being progressively developed in consultation with firearms dealer representatives. Section two below is the first section to be developed and released and further sections will be added in 2023.

### Section 2 Storage and Display of Ammunition by Firearms Dealers and Ammunition Sellers



References: Arms Regulations 1992: Regulation 8A, 9H, 19

### **Overview**

Police recognise that there are four general areas that a firearms dealer or ammunition seller might display or store ammunition. In this section, guidance is provided to assist firearms dealers and ammunition sellers on how to meet their obligations under s8A(1)(e). Unless ammunition is in the possession of the dealer or an employee of the dealer (or ammunition seller) then ammunition must be stored in a locked container or display case that is soundly constructed and secured to the building to prevent its removal. The only time a customer may handle ammunition is when it is under the immediate and continuous supervision of the dealer or an employee of the dealer (or ammunition seller).

#### 1. Display or storage on a shop floor

Ammunition can be stored and displayed on shop floors. The storage and display may be permanent or temporary (such as during duck season).

For display and storage on shop floors:

- (a) Ammunition must be locked in secure storage which is soundly constructed and only accessible by store staff.
- (b) Locks must be of suitable quality to prevent easy breaching.
- (c) Storage must be fully enclosed.
- (d) Ammunition displays and cages:
  - i. Display or cage mesh must prevent someone putting their hand through it and taking ammunition out. It is recommended that cage mesh be no more than 75mm x 75mm.
  - ii. Displays may be made of metal, toughened glass, strong Perspex or other transparent material that is not easily breakable using standard hand tools such as a hammer.
  - iii. Where the display or cage is constructed of **light** material and **can be lifted** by two

people, the display or cage must be fixed to the building floor or walls.

- iv. Where the display or cage is constructed of heavy material and can't be lifted by two people, the cage weight meets the requirement of securing the storage to the building and need not be fastened.
- v. Fix to the building at two or more points with at least 6mm fasteners, to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support. Use heavy gauge coach screws anchored by at least 50mm and a large washer placed under each coach screw head into the framing. If secured into concrete, use similar gauge chemical or expanding bolts. Floor fixing to a wooden floor should be completely through the floor. The bolts should have a stout backing plate or sufficiently large washers to prevent them from being pulled through the floor.

# 2. Display or storage in or behind a counter

Large or small quantities of ammunition can be stored and displayed in or behind a shop counter. The storage and display may be permanent or temporary.

For display and storage in or behind counters:

- (a) Ammunition must be locked in the counter or display and the counter or display must be soundly constructed and only accessible by store staff.
- (b) Locks must be of suitable quality to prevent easy breaching.
- (c) The counter or display where ammunition is presented or displayed:
  - i. Display counter, stand or shelving must be fully enclosed.
  - ii. Display counter, stand or shelving must be of sound construction.
  - iii. Display area must be made of toughened glass, strong Perspex or other transparent material that is not easily breakable using standard hand tools such as a hammer.

- Where the counter or display stand is constructed of light material and can be lifted by two people, the counter or display stand must be fixed to the building floor or walls.
- v. Where the counter or display stand is constructed of heavy material and can't be lifted by two people, the counter or display stand's weight meets the requirement of being fixed to the building and is not required to be fastened.
- vi. Fix to the building at two or more points with at least 6mm fasteners, to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support. Use heavy gauge coach screws anchored by at least 50mm and a large washer placed under each coach screw head into the framing. If secured into concrete, use similar gauge chemical or expanding bolts. Floor fixing to a wooden floor to be completely through the floor. The bolts should have a stout backing plate or sufficiently large washers to prevent them from being pulled through the floor.

#### 3. Ammunition Storage Areas

Large or small quantities of ammunition can be stored in areas that the public do not have access to. The storage may be permanent or temporary.

For storage in areas not accessible by the public:

- (a) Ammunition is to be stored in either a locked steel box, steel cabinet, a stout, locked storeroom, or strong room.
- (b) Where a locked container is used:
  - i. Ammunition must be locked in container storage which is soundly constructed and only accessible by store staff.
  - ii. Locks must be of suitable quality to prevent easy breaching.
  - iii. Storage must be fully enclosed.
  - iv. A shelving unit can be used where it has metal and wire grills or mesh cage surrounding, and over it. The surrounds and cage must prevent someone putting their hand through it and taking ammunition out. The metal and wire grills or cage mesh should be commensurate with the size of the ammunition being stored, either individual packets or larger boxes of bulk ammunition. For individual packets it is recommended that the wire grill or cage mesh be no more than 75mm x 75mm.
- (c) Where a locked storeroom is used.
  - i. Ammunition must be locked in the storeroom which is soundly constructed and only accessible by store staff.
  - ii. Locks must be of suitable quality to prevent easy breaching.

Cage mesh example in bottom shelves and toughened glass example in upper shelves



Display and storage using toughened glass example



Ammunition cage example



## Section 3 Storage and Display of Firearms by Firearms Dealers



To be developed in 2023

### Section 4 Firearms Dealer and Ammunition Seller Premise Security



To be developed in 2023

### Section 5 Extracts from the Arms Regulations 1992



#### 8 Conditions of dealer's licence: security of place of business

A dealer's licence is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the building in which the dealer's place of business is located must be, and be maintained, in a structurally sound condition:
- (b) the doors that can give access to the dealer's place of business, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings, must be strong and stout and must be maintained in good condition:
- (c) the windows, skylights, or other things intended to cover openings to the dealer's place of business, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings, must be maintained in good condition:
- (d) all such doors and all such windows, skylights, and other things must be capable of being secured against unlawful entry, in a manner approved for the time being either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police:
- (e) whenever the dealer's place of business is left unattended or unoccupied, the dealer must ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to secure the place of business from unlawful entry.

#### 8A Conditions of dealer's licence: security of firearms, etc, at licensed dealer's place of business

- (1) A dealer's licence is subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) the dealer must ensure that all firearms (other than miniature replica cannon) at the dealer's place of business that are not in the physical possession of the dealer or an employee of the dealer or that are not being demonstrated to a customer or handled by a customer under the immediate continuous personal supervision of the dealer or of an employee of the dealer are—
    - (i) dismantled, rendered inoperable, or immobilised (which includes securing them in a display cabinet or rack so that they cannot be readily removed), in a manner approved for the time being either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police, so that none of them can be fired; or

- (ii) locked up in a steel box, steel cabinet, or steel safe, that is secured to the building, or in a steel and concrete strongroom or stout storeroom, and the box, cabinet, safe, or strongroom must be of sound construction and of a type approved for the time being either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police:
- (b) where vital parts are removed from a firearm for the purpose of complying with paragraph
  (a)(i), those parts must be locked up in a different box, cabinet, safe, or strongroom in the premises that complies with paragraph (a)(ii), or in a secure place in different premises:
- (c) all pistols (other than air pistols), prohibited items, magazines, restricted weapons, pistol carbine conversion kits, and major firearm parts at the dealer's place of business that are not in the physical possession of the dealer or an employee of the dealer or that are not being demonstrated to a customer or handled by a customer under the immediate continuous personal supervision of the dealer or an employee of the dealer must be locked up in a box, cabinet, safe, or strongroom that complies with paragraph (a) (ii):
- (d) all airguns at the dealer's place of business that are not in the physical possession of the dealer or an employee of the dealer or that are not being demonstrated to a customer or handled by a customer under the immediate and personal supervision of the dealer or an employee of the dealer must be secured in a manner so that they cannot be readily removed:
- (e) all ammunition at the dealer's place of business must be stored in storage facilities that are approved for the time being either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police and,—
  - (i) if the ammunition is not on display or being handled by a customer, be stored—
    - (A) in an area not accessible to the public in a steel cabinet or container that is soundly constructed and secured to the building to prevent its removal; or
    - (B) in a locked storeroom or strongroom:

- (ii) if the ammunition is on display, be stored in a locked container or a locked display case that is soundly constructed and secured to the building to prevent its removal and may be handled by a customer only under the immediate and continuous supervision of the dealer or an employee of the dealer.
- (2) If a director or curator of a bona fide museum keeps any firearms or ammunition that are on display to members of the public, the director or curator must ensure that they are not able to be handled by members of the public and that—
  - (a) the firearms are rendered inoperable; and
  - (b) the firearms and ammunition are adequately secured in a manner approved in each case by a member of the Police to prevent unlawful removal.

#### 9H Secure storage of ammunition

- (1) An ammunition seller must store ammunition in accordance with this regulation.
- (2) If the ammunition is not on display on the seller's premises, the ammunition must be stored—
  - (a) in an area not accessible to the public; and
  - (b) in a locked steel box, steel cabinet, or steel safe, that is secured to the building, or in a steel and concrete strongroom or stout storeroom.
- (3) If the ammunition is on display on the seller's premises:
  - (a) in an area that is accessible to the public, the ammunition must be stored in a locked cabinet, locked container, or locked display case that must be soundly constructed and fixed to the building to prevent its removal:
  - (b) in a locked display case outside opening times, the premises must be secured against public access. removal and may be handled by a customer only under the immediate and continuous supervision of the dealer or an employee of the dealer.