

# Firearms Pānui



## Welcome to the Firearms Pānui

Kia ora koutou

We have a lot of changes happening in the next few weeks and months, as NZ Police moves from an administrator to the lead Regulator of the Arms Act. We posted some information on some of the changes happening, which [you can read about on our website](#).

In addition, we have some legislative changes also coming into effect. You can read more about below the Clubs and Ranges regulations that have been gazetted, below.

You also may have read about Arms (Licence Holders' Applications for New Licences) Amendment Bill that was introduced in early November. The Government is introducing legislation to enable firearm licence holders to continue to lawfully possess and use firearms and ammunition, while their application for a licence is being processed, as long as they submit their application prior to expiry of their current licence. We will keep you updated as this Bill moves through the legislative process.

Ngā mihi

**Mike McIlraith**

Director Partnerships

Arms Safety and Control

## Updates

### Regulations for shooting clubs and shooting ranges have been published

The [regulations for shooting clubs and shooting ranges have been published](#) and will come into effect on 15 December 2022. The regulations implement amendments made in 2020 to the Arms Act 1983 that established a regulatory framework for shooting clubs and shooting ranges.

The regulations require:

- Shooting clubs and operators of shooting ranges that existed before 24 June 2022 must apply to Police for approval or certification by 24 June 2023 to continue operating, (with exception of pistol shooting clubs and ranges that have already been recognised or approved). If they do not apply by this date, they must cease operating.
- A new shooting club or shooting range that was not in operation at 24 June 2022 may not operate until it has been approved or certified by Police.

Applications for shooting club approval or shooting range certification can be formally accepted by Police from 15 December 2022, when the regulations come into effect.

Earlier this year, Police held a six-week public consultation on a proposed regulatory approach for shooting clubs and shooting ranges. Police analysed the 1,038 submissions received and conducted workshops with established advisory groups.

Police listened to the feedback and has addressed the key themes in the final regulations, including changing proposed age restrictions, reducing fees, reducing the burden of compliance, removing the requirement for committee members to hold a firearms licence, and removing the requirement to record details of when individual duty officers are on duty.

Shooting range operators are encouraged to engage with a Police trained and recognised shooting range inspector now to understand what may need to be addressed on their range to successfully apply for range certification. Contact details for shooting range inspectors by location and discipline are available on the Clubs and Ranges page.

For further detail on what this means for clubs and ranges, and contact details of shooting range inspectors, please see the Clubs and Ranges information page and the [frequently asked questions](#).

## **We are launching a new website – does this impact your organisation?**

I mentioned in the last Firearms Panel, the new regulator will be launched by Minister Hipkins in the next few weeks. At the same time, we will release our new website.

The website will be in the name and brand of the regulator and will look a little different. We are adding some new information about who we are and our role and updating all our forms to our new branding.

We are aware a number of organisations link to the current Firearms and Safety pages on Police's website. We have been getting in touch with these organisations to notify them they may need to make changes to link to the new regulator website.

If you have not received an email from us but think this impacts you or your organisation, please do not hesitate to contact [firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz).

## Firearms Safety Code update

The new Firearms Safety Code is coming and there are some differences between the old code and the new code.

It's important that all firearms partner organisations, educators, licence holders and applicants, understand these differences. Incorrect handling, storage or transportation of firearms or ammunition could leave a licence holder exposed to physical danger or legal consequences.

### What's different with the rules?

**Rule three** of the seven basic rules has changed to: **chamber a cartridge** only when ready to fire.

- Why? This change has been made to clarify the actual meaning of the rule, as "load" could be interpreted in different ways leading to confusion, especially for a new firearms owner. It also aligns the rule with the training delivered at the Firearms Safety Courses.

**Rule six** has changed to: **store and transport** firearms and ammunition safely.

- Why? Recently, Police released new guidelines to support changes to the Arms Regulations relating to the storage and transportation of firearms. This rule was changed to align with those updated Regulations.
- [These videos](#) help demonstrate how to comply with the new Regulations, and should be used in conjunction with the 'secure storage guide for firearms and ammunition' document, found [here](#).

OLD SAFETY CODE	NEW SAFETY CODE
<b>3</b> Load a firearm only when ready to fire.	<b>3</b> <b>Chamber a cartridge</b> only when ready to fire.
<b>6</b> Store firearms and ammunition safely.	<b>6</b> <b>Store and transport</b> firearms and ammunition safely.

We look forward to launching it on the Regulator website very soon and will be in touch with our partner and educator organisations over the coming weeks, to work through the changes with them.

Thank you to our community members, such as the Firearms Community Advisory Forum, who have contributed their time to this mahi.

If you have any questions about the new code and how the changes might affect you or your organisation, please get in touch with [Amanda.Jongeneel@police.govt.nz](mailto:Amanda.Jongeneel@police.govt.nz) for more information.



## Community Engagement

### New job opportunities across Arms Safety and Control

In mid-October, the Arms Leadership Team released the final decisions on a revised organisational structure for Arms Safety and Control. The decisions empower us to recruit to over 180 new positions in the next 6-9 months, and will enable us to further build, stabilise and strengthen our regulatory activity across the unit.

We understand how important our people are to achieving our goals. Having a dedicated focus on building both the capability and capacity of our people will enable us to embed the functions of an effective regulator - and we need good people!

If you're keen to be part of an organisation whose purpose you can get behind and you want to make a difference by improving community safety, then come join us and play a part in making Aotearoa safer. There will be a number of new positions being advertised in the next few months right across the Firearms unit. In Partnerships, these have a focus on building high-trust, sustainable relationships with iwi, our communities and the firearms community. There are also positions right across the unit in business services, service improvement, compliance and resolutions and our general operations as well.

A lot of the vacancies will be advertised in late January and onwards, so if you know of someone who is passionate about what we do, you can find any current job advertisements on our [careers page](#).

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