

Hunting in Aotearoa New Zealand

Welcome to Aotearoa New Zealand

If you are thinking of choosing New Zealand for your next hunting adventure please read on to learn about when you need a visitor firearms licence and other obligations while in New Zealand.

Under New Zealand law, the possession and use of firearms is a privilege. This means all firearms users must comply with the relevant legislation and regulations.

Do I need a Visitor firearms licence?

Visitors need a visitor's firearms licence to possess and use firearms in New Zealand without immediate supervision. You also need a permit to import to bring your own firearms and ammunition with you.

NOTE: You do not need a Visitor firearms licence if you will be shooting under the immediate supervision of a firearms licence holder, for example a hunting outfitter/guide.

A visitor's firearms licence:

- may be granted to a person who is fit and proper as outlined in the Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992.
- is granted for the length of time that you are in New Zealand.
- has a maximum term of twelve months from arrival date.

New Zealand law requires that you must apply for a new licence for each separate visit to New Zealand.

When to apply

Application for a Visitors licence should be made at least four months before your planned arrival date.

The Firearms Safety Authority does not accept applications made more than six months before your planned arrival date.



Preparing to apply

You will be asked for information about yourself, your home country licence or permit to possess firearms and your planned shooting activities in New Zealand.

You are also required to provide copies of documents that confirm the details provided in your application.

Have PDF copies or images of the following available before you start your licence application:

- **Passport (identifying details page)**
- **Firearms Licence, Permit, or equivalent document for your country of residency**
- **Confirmation of guided hunting experience or details of planned hunting destination**
- **Department of Conservation hunting permit (if applicable)**
- **Passport style photo (head and shoulders only).**

As part of the application process, you must complete a test about the safe use and possession of firearms. You should review New Zealand's Firearms Safety Code as well as the Transport and Storage Guide.

Apply for your visitor's firearms licence

All applications **must** be made using our online application portal.

Use the Visitor's firearms licence application form accessible from the Apply for a Visitors Firearms Licence web page.

RealMe: We use RealMe, a **New Zealand government secure login service** to manage access to Visitor Licensing. If you don't have a RealMe login you will be guided through the process to create a login at the start of your application.

First time users must complete their Registration User Profile before starting their licence application. This process includes receiving a verification code to your email address and entering the code in the Registration confirmation page.

New and returning users start their new visitor licence application at the 'Manage my Firearms' page. Select 'Visitor Firearms Licence' under the heading 'Apply'.

Complete all fields on each page. Provide an answer for all questions.

If the question is not relevant to your visit you can answer with 'Not applicable' (or N/A).

You must upload all requested documents or images for a page before you can proceed to the next page of the form.

Important Information

If you have a firearms related emergency or other issue while in New Zealand.

If there is an immediate danger to people or property:

- Phone 111 (New Zealand's 3-digit emergency telephone number) and ask for Police

If you have non-urgent concerns that require Police attention:

- Phone 105 (this is New Zealand Police's **non-emergency contact telephone number**)

Your licence application is completed in the following order:

- 1. Licence eligibility** – confirm you are eligible to apply for a visitor licence.
- 2. Firearms Safety Test** – basic safe handling theory test.
- 3. Identification (passport details)** – details of your passport, image of the details page and a passport style photo.
- 4. Travel details (arrival and departure flights)** – Details of how you will get to New Zealand, and how you will travel home.
- 5. Visit details** – details of your travel plans, hotels / accommodation, planned hunting trips.
- 6. Licence details** – the details of your home country licence or permit to possess firearms, or in some cases your club and national association membership, and safe hunting course certification. An image of your documentation is required.
- 7. Details of firearms you wish to bring** – this is required if you wish to bring hunting rifles and shotguns into New Zealand.
- 8. Security** – information about storage for your firearms when they are not in your personal possession. This will usually be storage with a New Zealand licence holder. Otherwise, you must provide details of how you will securely store your arms and ammunition at your accommodation, and while travelling or in the bush.

If we need further information before we grant your licence, we will contact you using the email address you provide in your personal details.

We will advise you of the approval or refusal of your application to the email address you provide in your personal details.

Application Fee

The application fee is **NZD25**. The fee is non-refundable.

Queries For queries about visitor licensing and permits to import email: **firearms@police.govt.nz**

Resources

RESOURCE	LINK
Our website	www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz
New Zealand's Firearms Safety Code	www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/firearms-safety-code
Transport and storage guide	www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/storage-transportation/storage-and-transportation-firearms-and-ammunition
Licence Application Form	www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/visiting-or-moving-new-zealand/apply-visitors-firearms-licence
New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association	www.nzphga.com/