

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | December 2025

Kia ora,

In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

- Towards a new Arms Act
- Firearms licence holders achieve significant milestone
- How to transfer possession of firearms in the Registry
- Safety starts with compliance
- Updated pistol endorsement obligations workbook
- New resource release: a guide to the obligations of museums possessing and displaying arms items
- Advice for travelling with firearms and ammunition on major domestic flights in New Zealand
- Health and firearms information - widely available in New Zealand
- Hunters help feed Gisborne families
- Firearms safety: secure your firearms this holiday season
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers

Ewan Kelsall

Poutaki Kōtui | Partnerships Manager

Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority

Towards a new Arms Act



Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

Towards a new Arms Act

Legislation that will rewrite the Arms Act 1983 has now been introduced to Parliament. This is the start of a long process and there is a lot of work ahead. The key thing for licence holders to remember is that the law has not yet changed. Please keep complying with existing obligations, and we are always happy to help if needed. The new Arms Bill is now at the Select Committee stage. The Committee of MPs will hear public submissions and scrutinise the proposals between now and June 2026. To keep track of the legislation, check this page on [Parliament's website](#).



Firearms licence holders achieve significant milestone

Firearms licence holders achieved a significant milestone during November with more than half of the licensed population now included in the Firearms Registry.

The **50%** mark was achieved on Wednesday 12 November when **112,242 active individual licence holders** were recorded in the Registry. There were 224,221 active individual licence holders at the time.

There were more than **548,000 firearms** and more than **16,000 firearms parts** recorded in the Registry on that date.

Angela Brazier, Executive Director of the Authority, said the strong uptake of the registry was a tribute to all licence holders involved. *“We acknowledge everyone who is doing their bit to make it harder for criminals to access firearms.”*

The Firearms Registry went live on **24 June 2023**. Licence holders have until **31 August 2028** to register their details, unless they have an activating circumstance before that time.

You can read more about the milestone [here](#)



How to transfer possession of firearms in the Registry

When a firearm changes hands, it's important to follow the correct process to keep the Firearms Registry accurate and avoid compliance issues. Duplicate entries can occur when receivers mistakenly register a firearm as new instead of completing a transfer. A transfer of a firearm that is already in the registry can only be done through the Te Tari Pūreke 0800 number. While either the supplier or receiver can now initiate the process, it's important to note that both parties must call Te Tari Pūreke to confirm the transfer before its finalised.

Here's what to do:

- **Supplier or receiver initiates the transfer** by contacting Te Tari Pūreke on **0800 844 431** (Mon–Fri, 8:30 am–5 pm). Transfers cannot be completed through MyFirearms
- **Other party calls Te Tari Pūreke to accept the transfer**

- **Check licences and permits:**
The supplier must confirm the receiver holds a valid firearms licence and any required endorsements and permits. Use the [Licence Checker](#) tool.
- For **restricted items** (pistols, prohibited magazines, etc.), ensure the receiver provides a signed Permit to Possess or emailed Police authorisation.

Following these steps ensures safe, lawful possession and accurate records.

For full guidance, visit:

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/when-firearm-changes-hands





Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

Travelling with firearms and ammunition on domestic flights in New Zealand

What you need to do before you fly

- ✓ Notify the airline that you are travelling with firearms and/or ammunition before travelling
- ✓ Carry your current New Zealand Firearms Licence while you travel
- ✓ If your licence is under renewal, use the Firearms Licence Checker to confirm validity before you travel. Be ready to show the result on your phone at check-in when asked



How to pack your firearms

- Firearms must be unloaded and made inoperable. Remove the bolt where applicable or fit a trigger or cable lock
- Transport firearms in a locked, hard-sided case (no soft bags)
- Cases must be designed for air transport with secure locks
- Only you should hold the key or combination
- Firearms must be in checked baggage only. If the bolt is removable, it must be packed in a different checked bag from the firearm

How to pack your ammunition

- Ammunition must be in the original manufacturer packaging or a purpose-built container
- Maximum allowance is 5 kg per person including packaging
- Pack ammunition (live or used casings) in a different checked bag from the firearm
- Do not place ammunition in carry-on baggage
- Declare firearms and ammunition at check-in to airline staff

Notify airline staff

- Check if your airline has additional requirements
- Declare firearms and ammunition at check-in. Airline staff may inspect your luggage to confirm compliance
- Present your firearms Licence when asked
- Airline staff may need to check the security of your checked-in luggage

Quick checklist
(before you leave home)

- ☐ Firearms unloaded and locked in a hard case
- ☐ Ammunition securely packed (≤ 5 kg)
- ☐ Inoperable firearms and ammunition in separate checked bags
- ☐ Firearms Licence ready
- ☐ Ready to declare items at check-in
- ☐ Luggage, clothing and carry-on clear of any loose ammunition or used casings

Need help?

- Contact your airline's customer service team for airline-specific questions
- Visit our website for guidance and resources: www.firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz
- If you still need help, call us on 0800 844 431
- For international travel, visit the Firearms Safety Authority website for guidance on permits and requirements

Advice for flying with firearms and ammunition within New Zealand

A simple A4 fact sheet is now available to help firearms licence holders understand the requirements for travelling with firearms on commercial domestic flights within New Zealand. The guidance outlines how firearms and ammunition must be packaged and declared and the requirements before you fly.

We aim to provide consistent advice to support lawful transport of firearms, and help reduce delays, or issues, at check-in.

You can access more information and a copy of the factsheet [here](#)



Access and Storage

As a firearms licence holder you are responsible for controlling who has access to your firearms. You must keep the keys to your firearms and ammunition stored in a secure, separate place.

Storing firearms with other licence holders

If there are concerns about access, you may consider storing your firearms with a trusted friend or family member who is a firearms licence holder and has the required licence and/or endorsements and permits for the items.



Scan for more info, or visit: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/storage-transportation

Contacts

If there is an immediate danger to people or property:

Phone 111

More firearms information on the Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority website: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz



If you have concerns regarding your own or someone else's health and safety around firearms, please seek advice.

More health resources available at Healthily: healthily.nz/care-and-support



Health and Firearms





Being Proactive

Keeping healthy

It is important to be in the right headspace to possess and use firearms. We encourage firearms licence holders to seek help from a health practitioner if needed to keep themselves and others safe.

Make a plan

It's a good idea to make arrangements for the safe keeping or disposal of firearms in the event of physical or mental health condition or injury. This plan can be among your friends and whānau or shooting/hunting club.

You can update your will or enduring power of attorney documents to include instructions regarding wishes for your firearms and inform your next of kin of these plans.

Surrender a firearms licence

If you think your health might be impacting on your ability to safely use a firearm, you might consider surrendering your firearms licence. This can be done at any time, for any reason – even if you just don't need a licence any more.

or

To surrender a licence:

- Give your firearms and/or other arms items to a person who holds the correct licence and/or endorsement for safe keeping and contact the Firearms Safety Authority.
- Contact the Firearms Safety Authority to discuss surrendering.

Remember, if you surrender your licence you cannot possess firearms, other arms items and/or ammunition, but you can still shoot under the supervision of a firearms licence holder. Someone who has surrendered their licence can re-apply for a licence at any point.

Unwanted firearms

If you're in possession of unwanted or illegally held firearms, there are different options for lawful disposal. Find more information on our website: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/dispose-illegally-held-or-unwanted-firearms

If Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is reviewing a licence, what could happen?

If we receive information about a licence holder's fit and proper status, or concerns for people who may have access to firearms (i.e. household members), a firearms licence may be reviewed. The outcomes of a review could be:

- No further action taken
- Seek more information
- Temporary licence suspension pending possible revocation
- Prescribed conditions added to a licence.

If your licence is suspended, you will be notified, and Police will visit you to issue a Notice of Temporary Suspension.

This notice will explain the reason for suspension and next steps. You then have time to gather and submit information (e.g. providing a medical certificate) before a decision is made about revocation. Our team always works on a case-by-case basis to achieve the best outcome.



Scan for more info, or visit: firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing

Health and firearms information - widely available across New Zealand

The Health and Firearms pamphlet is currently displayed in 689 MediBoards across New Zealand. These are the in-clinic brochure display stands found in GP waiting rooms.

Te Tari Pūreke begun a trial campaign with Mediboard in August and there are currently around 9,700 pamphlets in circulation (in boards or taken from). There has been good pickup of the pamphlet, with Northland, Auckland and East having the highest average pick up rate comparative to number of sites.

We are keen to reach areas that Mediboard does not cover – for example, more sites across the South Island, particularly Canterbury and Southern where we have a significant number of licence holders. If you have any suggestions or would like to stock these, you can email

firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz

You can learn more about our Health and Firearms guidance [here](#)



Safe and lawful hunting a must

Recent court cases have highlighted the tragic consequences of ignoring firearms laws and safety rules. Incidents involving unlicensed possession, impairment, and unsafe hunting practices have resulted in fatalities and imprisonment. These tragedies can be preventable if hunters follow the 7 rules of firearms safety and their legal obligations.

Reminders for hunters and landowners:

- **Licensing:** unless under the immediate supervision of a licence holder, hunters must hold a current firearms licence and comply with fit-and-proper requirements.
- **Impairment:** never handle firearms under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or fatigue.
- **Safe hunting practices:** identify your target beyond all doubt and respect land access rules.
- **Secure storage and access:** firearms must be stored and transported according to the [secure firearms storage and transportation guide](#).

Safety and compliance are not optional - it protects lives, preserves trust, and

ensures hunting remains a safe and lawful activity.



Updated pistol endorsement obligations workbook

The Obligations of a Pistol Target shooting endorsement holder workbook has been updated. The changes are as a result of the Arms (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Amendment Regulations 2025 which updates the Arms Regulations 1992.

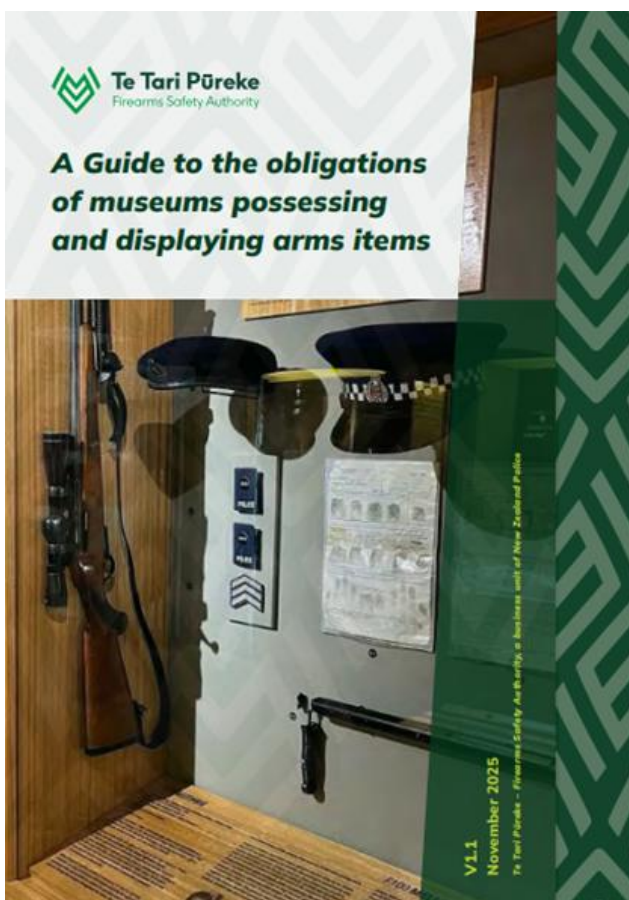
This workbook is used by pistol club members to learn about their obligations as a pistol endorsement holder.

Key updates include:

- Clarifying what shooting activities count towards the required 12 minimum per year.
- Amended regulation references to align with requirements for pistol shooting clubs and ranges and non-pistol shooting clubs and ranges.
- Minor wording improvements.
- Reference table updated to include all Arms Act and Arms

Regulations references used in the workbook.

The updated workbook can be accessed [here](#)



New resource release: a guide to the obligations of museums possessing and displaying arms items

This resource has been created in partnership with museums throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. The guide aims to provide support for bona fide museum personnel when navigating their obligations under the Arms Act and Regulations.

The guide features information regarding dealer licence holder obligations, licence endorsements, and firearm and ammunition display requirements.

You can read the new guide in full on our website [Information for museums possessing and displaying arms items | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



Hunters help feed Gisborne families

Gisborne hunters have combined deer population control with community support, with over two tonnes of processed venison donated to The Salvation Army's Gisborne foodbank. This initiative reduces problem deer numbers, protecting farmland and native bush, while supplying high-quality protein to families in need.

This is part of *Hunt for Good*, a volunteer-led trust connecting hunters, landowners, and charities. Since its launch, the trust has provided more than eight tonnes of venison to foodbanks across several regions.

This example highlights how hunters can deliver wider benefits:

- Supporting agriculture and biodiversity through wild animal population management
- Sharing wild harvested game meat with those who need it
- Strengthening community partnerships

For hunters and landowners interested in contributing, visit huntforgood.co.nz.

Firearms safety



Secure your firearms this holiday season

As the weather warms up and holiday plans begin, take a moment to check your firearms storage. Whether you're heading away or expecting visitors, make sure firearms and ammunition are securely stored when not in use.

A secure firearm is a safer firearm.

Read our [storage and transportation guidance](#) for tips.

Keep up to date on the latest numbers

On our website we proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the licence holder community, and aspects of the performance of New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. We have provided a snapshot of this data below.

This section contains:

- Active firearms licences summary by type - Individual, Visitor and Dealer
- Firearms licensing completion summary - Individual, Visitor and Dealer. *This section now has the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and broken down into different licence types.*
- Firearms Registry update - including total firearms, parts and licence holders registered

Find more information here: [Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Active firearms licences summary

1 December 2025

Individual	223,718
Visitor	102
Dealer*	440
Total	224,260

A person who has a dealer licence must also have an individual licence.

Firearms licensing completion summary

1 December 2025

	Oct 2025	Nov 2025
Individual	2,252	1,716
Visitor	55	81
Dealer	47	31

Firearms Registry Update

1 December 2025

Total Firearms Registered	567,516
Total Firearms Parts Registered	16,705
Total Licence Holders Registered	119,923

Total licence holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part.

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz

Te Tari Pūreke

Firearms Safety Authority

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz

Te Tari Pūreke

Firearms Safety Authority

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz

Te Tari Pūreke

Firearms Safety Authority



If you have feedback on this pānui or there is anything you would like to see in future editions, please email firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[YouTube](#)

Know someone who might want to subscribe or benefit from this pānui? Please **feel free to forward it on to anyone who might be interested.** To subscribe, they can email firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz
