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Dealer Pānui

The latest information for firearms dealers

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships | Dealer Pānui December 2025

Kia ora,

In this pānui you can find:

- **Bulletin** - updates and information for licensed dealers
- **Quick fire** - common topics we are hearing from our licensed dealers community
- **Keep up to date on the latest numbers**

Ewan Kelsall

Poutaki Kōtui | Partnerships Manager

Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority

Bulletin

Firearms Safety Code

The Firearms Safety Code has been updated

What's changed in the new version?

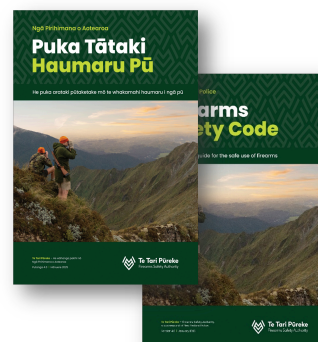
- Examples for rule 3, chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire, has been clarified, with a new example for duck hunting
- The advice for hunting safely at night has been expanded
- The Te Reo version has been revised and made more succinct.

If you'd like to stock this guide for all firearms users, you can order from our distributor Upstart Press by emailing

orders@upstartdist.nz

Alternatively, copies are available free to download from our

[website](#), to borrow from many libraries, or to buy from bookstores or



Code can be used to prepare for the firearms safety test.

Changes to the Arms Act and firearms regulator

The Government has announced details of the next stages of its firearms reform programme. There will be changes to the Arms Act, and to the structure and operations of the Firearms Safety Authority - Te Tari Pūreke.

Please be aware that you must keep complying with your legal obligations during this period, as the law has not yet changed.

The reforms are being led by the Ministry of Justice, and its website has more details of the changes and the next steps in the process throughout 2026. More information is at this page on the [MoJ website](#)



When a dealer takes possession of a firearm to work on

There have been questions from the dealer community on registry obligations when a dealer takes possession of a licence holders' firearm to be worked on.

The following outlines two common scenarios:

Scenario one: licence holder brings an arms item to dealer for modification

- The licence holder brings their firearm to a dealer for work (e.g., fitting a scope, suppressor etc).

Response:

- The dealer must complete the online dealer transaction form when they receive the item. The dealer must also complete the dealer transaction form when they return the item to the licence holder.
- This may trigger an activating circumstance if licence holder has not previously had one. However if the transaction is less than 30 days, and the dealer processes the return to the licence holder through the dealer transaction form within 30 days, then this may not result in an activating circumstance.

Scenario Two: licence holder purchases an arms item but leaves it with dealer for modification

- The licence holder purchases a firearm but leaves it with the dealer for work (e.g., fitting a scope, suppressor etc).

Response:

- This may trigger an activating circumstance if the licence holder hasn't had one previously. Importantly the dealer is not required to enter the sale into dealer transaction form until the licence holder takes possession. If the dealer sends the item by mail, then dealers should record the transaction on the date the item is dispatched.

Dealer transaction form or dealer book? Which one to use?

When to use the dealer transaction form

Dealers must use the dealer transaction form for all registerable arms items* they sell and receive and for ammunition sales to licence holders.

There is no requirement for sales of these items to also be recorded in your dealer book (or electronic variant of the book). Arms items received, where the owner's licence is unknown or the licence has expired, must be surrendered to Police within 5 working days as per section 59A of the Arms Act 1983. Surrendering items to Police within 5 working days means a dealer does not need to record information about the item in their dealer book. In this situation we would advise the dealer to contact Te Tari Pūreke first.

Dealers must use the dealer transaction form for registerable items that they receive from licence holders.

*Arms items which must be registered are: non-prohibited firearms, including specially dangerous airguns, prohibited firearms and magazines, pistols, restricted weapons, major firearm parts (that are not integrated into a firearm) and pistol carbine conversion kits (PCCKs).

When you must use your dealer book

You must use your dealer book (or electronic variant of the book) to record the following information:

- Dealer to dealer transactions, including ammunition. Ammunition received from licence holders must also be recorded in the dealer book.
- Transactions involving items that are not registerable, such as airguns.
- Arms items manufactured by a dealer, as described in Regulation 7(3) of the Arms Regulations 1992.
- Imports and exports.
- Arms items held by a dealer who is a director or curator of a museum, as described in Regulation 7A of the Arms Regulations 1992.
- Auction records as described in Regulation 7B of the Arms Regulations 1992.
- Firearms hired to broadcasters or theatrical companies. Regulation 7C of the Arms Regulations 1992.
- Firearms and airguns supplied for shooting and hunting activities. Regulation 7D of the Arms Regulations 1992.
- Airguns supplied for airsoft or paintball sports, etc. Regulation 7E of the Arms Regulations 1992.

Obligation to arrange a Permit to Possess before transferring an item in the Firearms Registry that is held under an endorsement

Licence holders must arrange a Permit to Possess before taking possession of a pistol, restricted weapon or prohibited item and only then complete their obligations for the Firearms Registry.

The implementation of the Firearms Registry did not remove the legal requirement for the person acquiring an endorsed item to arrange a Permit to Possess first.

The obligation is described in Arms Act 1983, s19A Restriction on possession of prohibited firearms and prohibited magazines and s19C Restriction on possession of pistols and restricted weapons.

When Te Tari Pūreke calls you

Te Tari Pūreke take security and privacy seriously. When we ring you, we need to know it is you who has answered the phone. This is how a call from Te Tari Pūreke will proceed:

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- The agent will ask you to confirm your full name.
- The agent will ask for the last 4 digits of either your firearms licence or driver's licence. If you do not have a recent firearms licence or driver's licence, the agent may ask further questions to establish your identity. For example, your date of birth, address, or the referee you used for your last licence renewal.

If you have concerns over the authenticity of the call you can confirm the number contacting you matches the 0800 number on our website, or you could choose to call us back. We will give you the agents name and their ID number which you can reference in that call back.

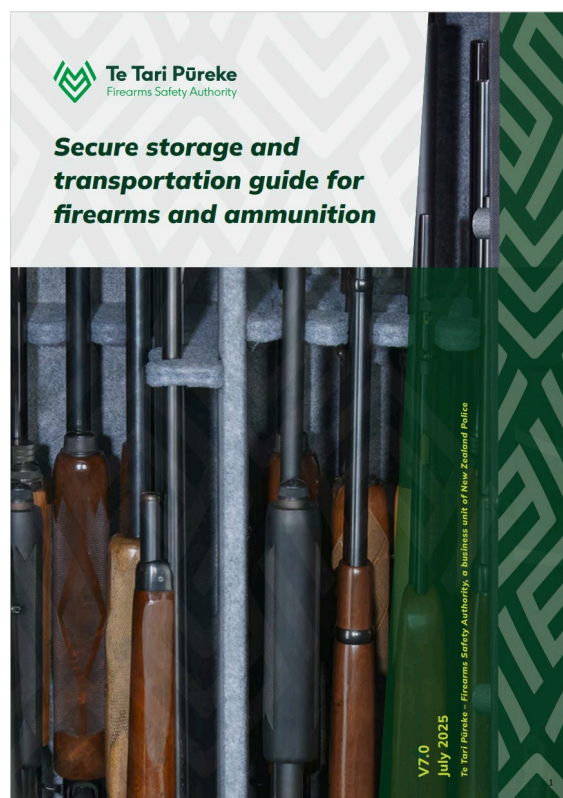
When you are on the phone with us, without confirming your details we cannot discuss anything that may relate to your records. We do this to protect your security and privacy.

Updated Storage and Transportation Guide for 2025

We have made a number of changes to our secure storage and transportation guide for firearms and ammunition.

The changes are designed to make the guidance easier to understand, interpret and apply, for firearms licence holders. Some sections have been strengthened or clarified (such as clarity on commercially built steel safes and options for ammunition storage), and new sections have been added (such as guidance on where to store keys and using heavy bank safes or shipping containers for firearms storage).

You can read the updated guide in full on our website [here](#).



Making it easier for overseas visitors

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complexity of the process for visitor permits. We've made things easier by clarifying our [visitor's firearms licences web pages](#). The updates clarify:

- the information that must be provided, particularly regarding accommodation and secure storage measures
- what supporting documents are required with a licence application
- the step-by-step process to complete the online application form
- the process after an application is submitted.



We have also published two simple fact sheets with concise step-by-step information for applicants completing a Visitors Firearms Licence application.

We encourage guided hunting groups and competition organisers to make these fact sheets available to clients and visitors.

The fact sheets can be accessed [here](#).

Quick fire

This section is to share information on some of the common topics we are hearing from our licensed dealer community. If you have anything you'd like covered in future editions you can send these to

firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz

Import permits, help us help you

To help our team process your import permit application more efficiently, please add the following information when you apply.

- Please attach an image of the firearm/s.
- Please add a web link to the firearm/s you are looking to import, it is best if this link is to the manufacturer's website.
- Submit separate applications for prohibited/restricted items, standard arms items, and ammunition.
- Apply separately if the firearm requires armoury approval.

Separate applications prevent delays, as some items require more assessment than others.

Buying ammunition and parts on a visitor's licence

Some dealers are unsure what they are allowed to sell a person with a visitors licence.

- Visitor licence holders can buy non prohibited ammunition.
- Visitor licence holders cannot buy firearms, including restricted or prohibited firearms.
- Visitor licence holders may buy parts, including non-prohibited magazines and suppressors. They can't buy major firearm parts including an action (frame, receiver, or upper receiver and lower receiver) of a firearm, the frame of a pistol, or, a calibre conversion component or kit of a pistol.

When entering the address details for the licence holder, the address must be the same address they provided when they completed the visitor's licence application. Visitors must provide a copy of their licence when they purchase from you and you need to be recording information as on their licence.

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](#)



Keep up to date on the latest numbers

We want to ensure we are continuing to provide you up to date information about the Firearms Registry and licensing performance. So, we have added a new section with the latest numbers.

- 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

On our website we also 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. [Firearms data and public information](#) | [Firearms Safety Authority](#).

1 October 2025

1 November 2025

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licences summary** | 1 Oct 2025

Individual	225,319
Visitor	53
Dealer*	430
Total	225,804

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

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**Active firearms
licences summary** | 1 Nov 2025

Individual	224,534
Visitor	65
Dealer*	441
Total	225,040

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

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**Firearms licensing
completion summary** | 1 Oct 2025

	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Individual	2,127	2,093
Visitor	19	41
Dealer	20	36

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**Firearms licensing
completion summary** | 1 Nov 2025

	Sept 2025	Oct 2025
Individual	2,093	2,252
Visitor	41	55
Dealer	36	47

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**Firearms Registry
Update** | 1 Oct 2025

Total Firearms Registered	528,727
Total Firearms Parts Registered	15,725
Total Licence Holders Registered	111,681

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

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**Firearms Registry
Update** | 1 Nov 2025

Total Firearms Registered	549,799
Total Firearms Parts Registered	16,292
Total Licence Holders Registered	116,082

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

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