

21 February 2025

IR-01-25-3636

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Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a) OIA

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 31 January 2025.
You asked for:

A break down of the different types of ranges , including how Police classify them, and the different licensing and conditions required for each range to operate

The answers to each part of your request can be answered by referring to the New Zealand Police Shooting Range Manual which is publicly available and can be found in the link below.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-12/NZ-Police-Shooting-Range-Manual-V2-1-15Dec22-R.pdf>

The manual has been published for the purpose of “safe design, construction and operation of shooting ranges containing the Commissioner’s safety standards in accordance with Section 380 of the Arms Act 1983,” and has information about applying to certify a range, responsibilities of the Shooting Range Operator and guidance to complete an application for shooting range certification.

In regard to Police classification of range types, I refer you to page 22 to 27 of the manual which provides descriptions of different types of ranges including short descriptions in relation to their range type. Section 4 (page 31) describes the range design features that are components of safe design and construction for almost all shooting ranges.

Each range, of all types, has either their own “Range Standing Order” or are combined in one range complex. I refer you to page 63 of the manual that describes the design of the shooting range and sets out its operation detail and conditions of use. This document is completed by the Shooting Range Operator in accordance with guidelines in the manual. It provides the conditions required for each individual range and must be approved by Police shooting range inspector when certifying a range.

Shooting ranges are complex and there are many issues and requirements in relation to ballistics, range standing orders, council, territorial and landowner consents, aim points, check lists for application (by discipline) etc. The extensive list of considerations is detailed in the manual, and each can be found in the manual’s table of contents. Note also that that there are variances in range use, for example, clay shooting can occur on a field range, black powder can be shot on a field range or pistol range, skeet and trapshooting are shooting styles on a clay range (different lay out). Smallbore (.22) can be shot on all but clay (distance).



I refer you to the link below to Range certification guidance where you will find the shooting range inspection checklists. The checklists cover documentation, infrastructure, natural features and procedures for the safe design, construction, and operation of the range. The checklists are completed by the Shooting Range Operator in accordance with the manual guidelines, and the Shooting Range Inspector will validate the information provided.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/clubs-and-ranges/range-certification-guidance>

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Nāku noa, nā



Matthew Boddy

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