

HANDBOOK ON

FIREARMS SAFETY AWARENESS

NSW FIREARMS
SAFETY AWARENESS



NSW POLICE

This handbook has been prepared for the NSW Government by the
Firearms Safety Awareness Council and NSW Police
on behalf of the NSW Shooting Association.

NSW Shooting Association:

Member:
NSW Olympic Council
Australian Commonwealth Games Association (NSW)
Australian Shooting Association

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword from the Commissioner of Police	2
Message from the Chairman, Firearms Safety Awareness Council	3
Organisation - NSW Shooting Association	4
Introduction to Firearms	5
Applying for a Licence	8
Overview of NSW State Firearms Laws	12
Firearms Safety Information	15
Basic Law Knowledge Information	20
Notes	22



COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Dear Shooter,

The New South Wales Government has given a strong commitment to the control of firearms as part of an agreed national approach thereby ensuring that firearm possession and use, remain a privilege conditional on the overriding need for public safety.

Additionally, it is intended that those persons who are licensed to possess firearms are made aware of their responsibilities in the areas of lawful use and safe handling before obtaining a firearms licence.

The New South Wales Shooting Association, by way of its subsidiary, the Firearms Safety Awareness Council, has been approved to conduct firearms safety training courses for longarms.

This handbook, prepared by the Council, will give you an insight into the responsible and safe use of firearms.

Before your longarms licence application will be considered, you will be required to undertake a safety and law knowledge multiple choice test which is similar to that given when a person applies for a learner's permit to drive a motor vehicle. This Handbook will assist you in that process.

For the community's sake, I implore you ensure the safety and security of your firearms, and to shoot safely and responsibly.

Yours sincerely,



K E Moroney
Commissioner of Police



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Dear Citizen,

Welcome to this Handbook about the safe use of firearms.

It has been prepared by people who have had long experience with firearms in every field of use. They are active competition and recreational shooters who know how to be safe, for their own sake, and for the sake of those around them.

I suggest that you read through the Handbook carefully several times, so that its messages become very familiar to you. You may also want to talk to your friends about it. They will be interested in what you tell them and may want to get their own copy to read and to obtain a licence.

Remember, your ownership and use of firearms carries with it your responsibility to be safe.

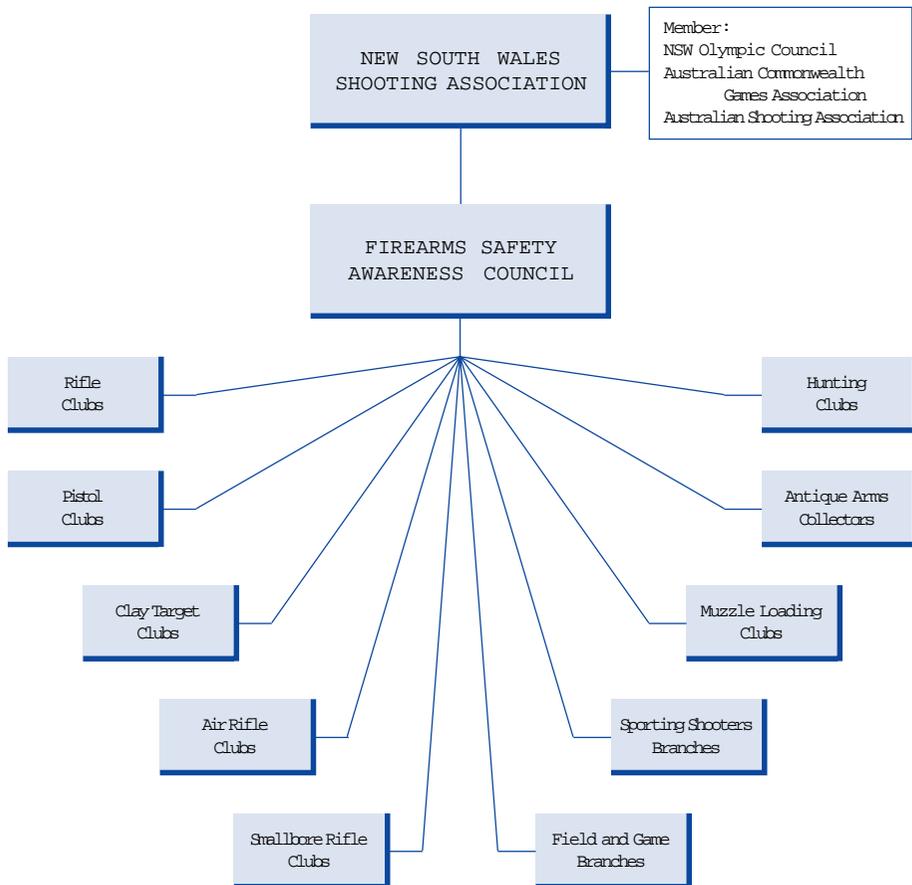
With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Charles Copeman'.

Charles Copeman,
Chairman,

NSW Firearms Safety Awareness Council Limited

NEW SOUTH WALES SHOOTING ASSOCIATION



INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS

Firearms fall into three broad types and are readily identifiable:

1. Handguns
2. Rifles
3. Shotguns

Handguns

Handguns can be either revolvers or pistols. In the main, handguns are owned by members of target pistol clubs and are used for competitive purposes. Shooters joining pistol clubs are required to undergo specialised training in the safe handling and use of handguns and to undergo a period of probation, usually in the region of three months, following which they are required to attend regularly at programmed shoots. During the probation period, new shooters have the opportunity to seek expert advice from senior members as to the type and make of the most suitable firearm for their purposes.

Rifles

A rifle is a shoulder firearm that fires a solid or composite projectile of bore diameter. The term 'rifle' is derived from the grooves or rifling inside the barrel that are designed to impart a stabilising spin to the projectile.

Because of the wide range in type and calibre of rifles available on the market, shooters are advised to seek the expert advice of firearms dealers or members of recognised shooting clubs prior to making a decision to purchase.

Shotguns

A shotgun is a smoothbore shoulder fired gun that normally is used to fire cartridges containing a number of small round pellets, the size and number of which can be varied according to the application required. Shotguns may also fire a single projectile of bore diameter (solid shot) or a wide variety of specialised ammunition. They are most efficient at ranges under 50 metres.

There are four basic calibres:

1. 12 gauge (the most popular)
2. 16 gauge
3. 20 gauge
4. .410

New shooters should seek advice on the type of shotgun most suited to their needs and type of cartridges most appropriate, either for game or competition.

There is an enormous variety of commercially available firearms and firearm action types. The following are some of the most common action types.

FIREARM ACTION TYPES

Break Open Action. The break open action is the most common action of shotguns. The barrel is released by a lever and, in opening, normally ejects automatically any cartridge in the chamber. A live cartridge can then be inserted into the chamber. The gun is then closed and cocked ready to fire.

Many air rifles operate in a similar fashion. The breaking open of the barrel enables the pellet to be inserted. The action of closing the barrel ensures that the air rifle is ready to fire.

Bolt Action. The bolt action is most commonly found in rifles, although it is available with some shotguns. It is a simple and trouble-free action. The action is unlocked by lifting the bolt handle and pulling it back. A cartridge is fed into the chamber by pushing the bolt forward. The bolt handle is then turned downwards, locking the bolt and cartridge in place. A firing pin is usually cocked by the movement of the bolt or bolt handle. When the trigger is squeezed, the firing pin is released to fire the cartridge. The empty cartridge case is then ejected by lifting the bolt handle and pulling the bolt back.

Lever Action. This type of action was made famous in American western movies and television programs. The lever action works on the same basic principle as the bolt action, except that a lever is pushed down to unlock the bolt and move it backwards. This movement also cocks the action. When the lever is pulled upwards again, it feeds a cartridge into the chamber and locks, ready to be fired by squeezing the trigger. After the cartridge is fired, the empty case is ejected by pushing the lever down.

Pump Action. The pump action is found in rifles and shotguns. It is similar to the lever action, but a pump slide on the fore-end is pulled backwards to open the action and cock it. When the slide is pushed forward the action feeds a fresh cartridge into the chamber, locks and is ready to fire.

A **Semi Automatic** or **Self Loading Action**, operates in the same way as the above firearms, except that ejection and loading of the cartridge is carried out automatically by the force of either the recoil or by gas pressure. Thus, the firearm is loaded and ready to be fired each time the trigger is squeezed.

OTHER FIREARM TYPES

Muzzle Loading Firearms

Muzzle loading firearms may be rifles, pistols or shotguns. The term muzzle loader describes the way that a firearm is loaded, namely through the muzzle of a firearm that has the chamber or barrel closed at the other end.

Powder is poured into the barrel and a lead ball or bullet is put into the barrel on top of it. A small hole is at the closed end, usually at the side, just above the trigger. Though this hole, a flame enters the barrel and ignites the powder charge behind the bullet.

Black powder shooters usually fire replicas of the original firearms. A black powder firearm can be as lethal as a modern firearm, but their loading and firing is more complex and requires more care.

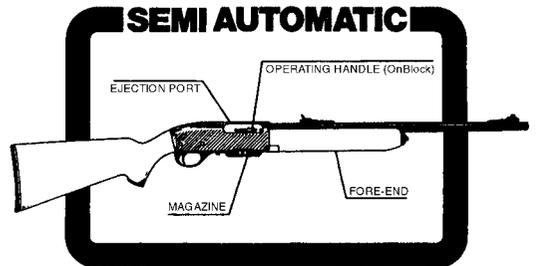
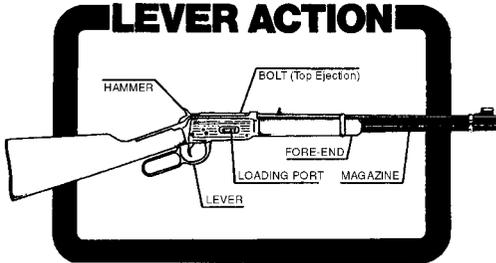
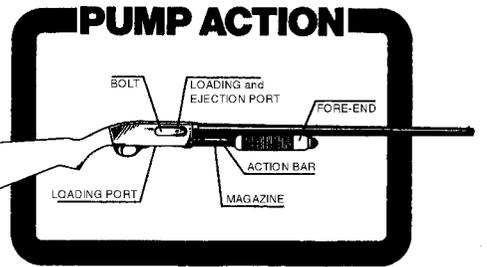
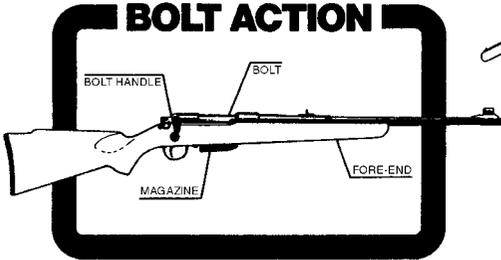
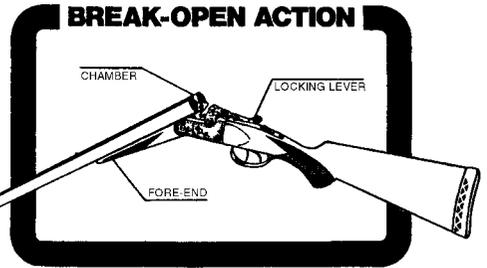
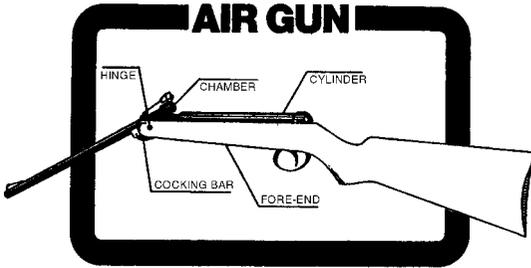
Replicas are working models of original firearms made of suitable materials and can safely be fired with the correct ammunition.

Antique Firearms

Amongst collectors it is well accepted that antique firearms should **never** be fired. They are valuable and may be damaged by firing, and sometimes antique firearms may be in poor condition and therefore dangerous.

An antique firearm is normally suitable only for display, or as a collector's item, or because it is an heirloom or has some other special significance.

Illustrations of some of the more common action types in longarms follow.



APPLYING FOR A LICENCE

This section deals with new applications for longarms **Licence Categories A,B, C and D**.

As a **new applicant** for a licence in Category A, B, C or D, you are required to:

STEP 1

Ring the Firearms Registry on **1300 362 562** and register your application for a Firearms Licence. The Registry will then send to you a personalised application along with a copy of the Handbook on Firearms Safety Awareness.

You may also wish to discuss your shooting options with your local shooting club or Firearm Safety Awareness Officer before applying for your licence.

STEP 2

Ring the Firearms Safety Awareness Council on **(02) 9486 3077** to find your nearest Firearms Safety Awareness Officer. Ring your nearest officer and arrange to complete the Certificate of Firearms Safety Awareness. For information on club membership ring the NSW Shooting Association on **(02) 9552 6349**.

STEP 3

Complete your licence application and mail it to the Firearms Registry, Locked Bag 1, Murwillumbah NSW 2484 along with your Certificate of Firearms Safety Awareness and other appropriate documentation as required.

Note: Your application cannot be approved until a mandatory 28-day cooling off period expires.

STEP 4

You will then be notified to attend an RTA office within a specified period to pay the prescribed licence fee (unless you are fee exempt) and have your photograph taken for your licence card. The RTA office will issue you with your licence card.

CERTIFICATE OF FIREARMS SAFETY AWARENESS

The **Firearms Safety Awareness Council** is the sole body responsible for firearms safety awareness testing. Police accredited Firearms Safety Awareness Officers who are members of approved shooting clubs throughout NSW do this testing. You will find at least one Firearms Safety Awareness Officer in your local area with whom you can arrange to complete a test.

- A certificate of firearms safety is valid for 12 months from the date of issue.
- A fee of \$77.00 including GST will be charged for the adult test and issue of a certificate.
- A fee of \$33.00 is applicable to minors.

This fee does not go to the Government but is divided between the local shooting club that will conduct the firearms safety awareness test and the **Firearms Safety Awareness Council**.

The monies collected will be used by the Council in developing and promoting shooting sports within NSW and at Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games and international shooting competitions.

To obtain your Certificate of Firearms Safety Awareness:

1. Study the contents of this Handbook and make yourself thoroughly familiar with it. You will be required to complete an examination on the safety and law matters in this Handbook. The examination consists of 20 multiple-choice questions. It will be necessary to answer correctly 16 to pass, including the first 3 questions, which are compulsory.
2. To contact your nearest Firearms Safety Awareness Officer, call the Firearms Safety Awareness Council on (02) 9486 3077 and we will advise you of your nearest officer to your location.
3. Make an appointment to complete the test with your nearest officer.
4. A fee of \$77.00 for adults and \$33 for minors should be paid to the Firearms Safety Awareness Officer before completing the test.

Upon successfully completing the test you will be given a certificate. This certificate contains a declaration, which you should read and understand before signing.

The certificate must accompany your licence application.

Minors & Firearms Safety Awareness

Minors are persons aged over 12 years but under 18 years. Minors are required to obtain a Certificate of Firearms Safety Awareness prior to applying for a minor's firearms permit. The procedure is the same as for an adult certificate except that the test consists of 10 multiple-choice questions. It is necessary to answer 8 correctly to pass and there are no compulsory questions.

- A fee of \$33 including GST is payable to the Firearms Safety Awareness Officer before completing the test.

This certificate must accompany your minor's permit application.

LICENCE APPLICATION

As a new applicant, when applying for your licence you will need to provide your **Firearms Safety Awareness Certificate**. Information on this process is readily available by calling the Firearms Safety Awareness Council on **02 9486 3077** or speak to your local shooting club.

For a renewal of your existing licence you will be sent a letter from the Firearms Registry advising of the pending expiration of your licence. You will then be required to re-apply for a licence and provide appropriate documentation to support your application. You will not require a Certificate of Firearms Safety Awareness for re-application of a current licence.

All applicants are required to provide evidence of their genuine reason, and applicants for Licence Categories B, C and D are also required to prove a special need for a licence in these categories.

Detailed information on how to apply for a licence can be obtained from the Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562.

Police Record Check

It is necessary for the Police to check records to ensure that you are a person of good character.

Cooling Off Period

All licence applications are subject to a 28-day 'cooling off' period from the day on which the application is lodged. The Commissioner will not issue a licence until that period expires.

Refusal of Licence

The Commissioner of Police may refuse to issue a licence where he does not believe it would be in the public interest. Such factors include previous criminal history, absence of a genuine reason and assessments from local police of the person's character and fitness to own and/or use firearms.

Fee Exemptions

There are some exemptions from payment of the licence fee for primary producers and pensioners. Inquiries should be directed to the NSW Police Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562.

There are no exemptions from the fee for the Certificate of Firearms Safety Awareness.

Other Types of Firearms Licences and Permits

Other firearms licences (eg. Category H (Handgun), Collectors Licences and Commissioners Permits) are dealt with differently.

Inquiries about these licences and permits should be directed to the NSW Police Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562.

Offences That Disqualify Applicants

A person who has been convicted of an offence relating to firearms or other weapons, prohibited drugs or violence is disqualified from obtaining a licence for a period of 10 years.

A person who is the subject of an apprehended violence order (other than an order which has been revoked) is disqualified from obtaining a licence for a period of 10 years from the date of expiry of the order.

Renewing Your Licence

Licences are issue for a five-year term. The onus is on you to ensure that you renew your licence. If you do not receive a renewal advice for your licence within one month of the date for the expiration of your licence you should speak with the Firearms Registry. If you choose not to renew your licence, please ensure that you dispose of your firearms legally.

PHOTOGRAPH LICENCE CARD

The NSW Police Firearms Registry will advise your approval for a licence and the procedure to be followed to obtain the photo licence card.

As with all legislation the onus is on the individual to be familiar with the law. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

All licensees and prospective licensees are encouraged to familiarise themselves and comply with the provisions of current firearms laws.

Copies of the legislation can be acquired from the NSW Government Information Service, PO Box 256, Regents Park, NSW, 2143, or telephone:

Metropolitan area: (02) 9743 7200

Country Callers: 1800 463 955

Fax: (02) 9743 7124

OVERVIEW OF THE NSW FIREARMS LAWS

The legislation which affects the control and use of firearms in New South Wales is as follows:

1. The *Firearms Act 1996*. This Act provides for the regulation, control and registration of firearms.
2. The *Crimes Act, 1900*. This Act specifies a number of offences relating to firearms, such as causing danger with a firearm and dangerous use of a firearm.

The underlying principles of the Firearms Act 1996 are:

- a) to confirm firearm possession and use as being a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety, and
- b) to improve public safety:
 - i) by imposing strict controls on the possession and use of firearms, and
 - ii) by promoting the safe and responsible storage and use of firearms.
- c) to facilitate a national approach to the control of firearms.

The objects of the Firearms Act 1996 are:

- a) to prohibit the possession and use of all automatic and self-loading rifles and shotguns except in special circumstances,
- b) to establish an integrated licensing and registration scheme for all firearms,
- c) to require each person who possesses or uses a firearm under the authority of a licence to prove a genuine reason for possessing or using the firearm,
- d) to provide strict requirements that must be satisfied in relation to licensing of firearms and the acquisition and sale of firearms,
- e) to ensure that firearms are stored and conveyed in a safe and secure manner,
- f) to provide for compensation in respect of, and an amnesty period to enable the surrender of, certain prohibited firearms.

FIREARMS LICENCE CATEGORIES

LICENCE CATEGORY A:

- air rifles
- rimfire rifles (other than self-loading)
- shotguns (other than pump action or self-loading)
- shotgun/rimfire rifle combinations.

LICENCE CATEGORY B:

- muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols)
- centre fire rifles (other than self-loading)
- shotgun/centre fire rifle combinations.

LICENCE CATEGORY C:

(prohibited except for occupational purposes)

- self-loading rimfire rifles with magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds
- self-loading shotguns with magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds
- pump action shotguns with magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.

LICENCE CATEGORY D:

(prohibited except for official purposes)

- self-loading centre fire rifles
- self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds
- self-loading shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds
- pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds
- any firearm to which a category C licence applies.

LICENCE CATEGORY H:

- pistols (including blank fire pistols and air pistols).

Special licensing requirements apply for Licence Category H. They are not addressed in this Handbook. For information on pistol licences contact the NSW Police Firearms Registry.

In all Licence Categories, the licensee is authorised to possess or use registered firearm(s) of the kind to which the licence applies, but only for the purpose established by the licensee as being the genuine reason(s) for possessing or using the firearm(s).

Genuine Reason

It is necessary to have a 'genuine reason' for possessing or using a firearm in order to obtain a licence. Licence applicants may have more than one genuine reason.

Personal or property protection is **not** a genuine reason.

The genuine reasons for having a licence are summarised below:

- **sport/target shooting**
(ie. current membership of an approved club)
- **recreational hunting/vermin control**
(ie. as the owner or occupier of rural land, or permission is given by the owner or occupier of rural land, or current membership of an approved hunting club)
- **primary production**

- ***vertebrate pest animal control***
- ***business or employment***
- ***occupational requirements relating to rural purposes***
- ***animal welfare***
- ***firearms collection***

An applicant for a licence has a genuine reason for possessing or using a firearm if the applicant states that he or she intends to possess or use the firearm for any one of the above reasons, and is able to produce evidence that he or she satisfies the requirements specified for any such reason.

The evidence required to be provided by the applicant when applying for a licence varies according to the genuine reason. Applicants are advised to refer to the licence application form and information brochure on the gun laws, both of which are available from the NSW Police Firearms Registry.

FIREARMS - SAFETY INFORMATION

Set out below are guidelines which describe responsible firearms ownership, possession and use.

The basic firearms safety rules are:

1. TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS BEING LOADED.
2. ALWAYS POINT FIREARMS IN A SAFE DIRECTION.
3. NEVER HAVE LOADED FIREARMS IN YOUR CAR, HOME OR CAMP.
4. IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEHIND IT.
5. NEVER FIRE AT HARD SURFACES OR WATER.
6. STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY.
7. NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WHEN HANDLING FIREARMS.
8. DO NOT CLIMB FENCES OR OBSTACLES WITH LOADED FIREARMS.

Learn them – practise them – teach and promote them. Firearm safety rests entirely with you – your attitude as a firearms owner can do much to influence others.

These basic firearms safety rules are addressed below:

1. **Treat every firearm as being loaded.** If it has not been continually in your possession, there is a chance that it may be loaded. If you have not personally checked it, assume that it is loaded.

*A firearm must be open and empty **before** you pass it on to someone, or before you accept it from anyone.*

2. **Always check that the muzzle is pointing in a safe direction. Do not point a loaded or unloaded firearm at anybody, or at anything you do not wish to shoot.**

This is one of the most important safety precautions and should be faithfully followed until it become an invariable habit.

3. **When first picking up a firearm, keep the muzzle under control, always pointing in a safe direction and immediately check that it is unloaded.** Whenever taking possession of a firearm also check that the barrel is not blocked and that the action is clear of obstruction. Blocked barrels will burst and an obstructed action can result in misfire.
4. Unless in storage, **never leave firearms unattended.** Never leave a firearm lying about the house.



5. The general safety rule and minimum safekeeping requirements for storage are that **all Category A and B firearms must be stored in a locked container**, made of hard wood or steel and which is not easily penetrable. If the container weighs less than 150 kg when empty, it must be fixed in order to prevent its easy removal. Locks to the container must be of solid metal. **Ammunition must be stored in a separate locked container** which may form part of the main container. Other storage arrangements for Category A and B firearms, such as a gun rack or a display case, may be approved if they provide the same level of security.
6. **Make sure your firearms and ammunition are always kept out of the reach of children.** Children are inquisitive and could match ammunition with a firearm and accidentally discharge it creating grave danger to themselves and others.
7. **Never take a loaded firearm into a house or load a firearm indoors.** Accidental discharge can cause death or injury or property damage.
8. **Never carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle.** Carry only empty firearms, preferably with the action open and the bolt removed or dismantled, in an appropriate carrying case. Driving over rough roads or terrain can cause a loaded firearm to discharge with possible tragic results.
9. Exercise extreme care when placing a firearm in, or removing it from, a vehicle or boat. Never have the barrel pointing towards any person. Deaths and injury have occurred because the firearm has been carelessly left loaded and the trigger or hammer has caught on some obstruction. **Always handle by the butt or frame with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction.**
10. Unless absolutely necessary, **never shoot from a moving vehicle** – bumps in roads and terrain can significantly alter the aim of the shooter. An exception to this rule relates to the need to destroy vermin, particularly on large properties, and under those conditions only one person should do the shooting. This person should ensure that no danger is created to anyone who may alight from the vehicle to check that the vermin is dead after being shot.
11. **Never lean a loaded firearm against a wall, fence, tree or vehicle, as the firearm may fall.** The impact with the floor or ground may cause it to discharge. This is a common cause of firearms accidents.
12. **Never “skylark” or engage in “horseplay” when you have a firearm in your hands.** This is irresponsible behaviour and can result in a serious accident.
13. **Never mix alcohol or drugs with firearms use.** Alcohol dulls and slows mental and physical faculties. Alertness is essential to proper and safe firearms use.
14. **Should you intend loading your own ammunition, seek the advice and services of an expert** to assist in ensuring you use the correct powders and bullets. Such people are gunsmiths and members of recognised rifle, pistol and gun clubs.
15. **In your home, it is preferable that you do not have your firearms on view.** Approved types of gun racks and glass fronted cabinet displays may be permitted, but they allow storage locations to be known. While people may be honest, they may discuss your possessions with others with the result that you may have an unwanted caller when the house is vacant. The same applies with firearms left in **locked cars** – **your firearms must be unloaded and out of sight.**

16. **Safety catches should be engaged at all times when not firing.** However, safety catches are mechanical devices and may become worn and not work. Do not let their value give you a false sense of firearms security. Keep your finger off the trigger unless you are about to fire.
17. **Load your firearm only when you are ready to shoot.** This is a practice recommended by the most experienced and safest shooters and one which should be followed by all. It is good practice to have your safety catch engaged, but remember not to rely on it for complete safety.
18. **Make certain your target is *positively identified* before firing** at it, and keep your finger out of the trigger guard until that time. **If in doubt – do not shoot.** Too many people and farm animals have died or been injured as a result of uncertainty of identification.

Identify your target - be absolutely certain you have positively identified it.

19. **Do not fire at movement.**
Do not fire at colour.
Do not fire at shape.
Do not fire at sound.

Failure to observe the rule – “**identify the target beyond all doubt**” – is one of the greatest causes of death and injury from firearms.

20. **When shooting, *check your danger zone*.** The danger zone is the area between you and your target and the area beyond the target which is within range of your projectile. If your shot is upwards, remember in the case of some high powered rifles the bullet may travel at least 3 kilometres. Ensure that the path of your shot from the muzzle to the target and beyond is free of obstructions likely to impede its safe progress.

While telescopic sights permit much clearer vision immediately ahead, vision to each side is much more limited. There is always danger of persons or farm animals moving into your danger zone without your knowledge. If you are firing at a moving target, your danger zone changes rapidly and much greater care is needed.

21. **Never shoot during the hours of darkness unless it is absolutely essential.** During these hours it is impossible to see what may be in your danger zone. Shooters using spotlights should remember that a spotlight illuminates only a small portion of the danger zone and only a fraction of the projectile's range.



It is unsafe to fire at a target on the skyline.

22. **Never shoot over the top of hills or ridges.** This creates danger to people, animals and property because you have no knowledge of what may be out of sight beyond the hill in the danger zone.

23. A large proportion of accidents occur while a shooter is trying to climb over or through fences with a loaded firearm which accidentally discharges when it catches in the fence or the shooter overbalances. **Ensure that your firearm is unloaded and the muzzle pointing in a safe direction. Carefully, ease the firearm with its action open under the bottom strand of a fence and place it on the other side.** If in company with another person, one should climb the fence unimpeded while the other passes both firearms, one at a time, either over the top or under the bottom. Again the muzzle must always be pointed in a **safe direction.**



24. **Do not jump over ditches or streams when carrying a firearm.** Walk through them. Loss of balance, resulting in accidental discharge of firearms has caused many deaths and severe personal injury. Carry the firearm so that you can always control the barrel direction, even if you stumble.
25. **Young people must never be permitted to go shooting in a group unless accompanied by a competent adult.** Parents and guardians must keep a constant check on minors to ensure that they develop safe and responsible practices.
26. **Always seek the permission of landholders before shooting on their land.** Irresponsible shooters who interfere with stock, shoot at property such as windmills or tanks, and leave gates open, bring discredit on the whole shooting fraternity. They greatly reduce the availability of safe shooting areas.

27. If you are walking with a loaded firearm, **make certain the muzzle always remains pointing in a safe direction** preferably directly up in the air. Don't daydream. Concentrate on what you are doing at all times.



A hard, flat surface, stones or water may cause a ricochet.

28. **Firing at or across water, flat hard ground, or metal objects is always dangerous.** A ricochet may occur and end in a tragic result.
29. Unless you are an expert, **damaged firearms should always be repaired by a gunsmith.** Do not experiment and hope for the best. Proper repair will be cheaper in the long run and will certainly be much safer.
30. **Use only correct ammunition as specified for your firearm.**
31. If possible, when hunting in a group **always keep your companions in sight. NEVER** fire at anything which may flush between you and your companions.

- 32. Be particularly careful at the moment of closing, cocking, taking off the safety catch, uncocking or opening a loaded firearm.** This is the time when accidental discharge most frequently occurs.
- 33. Be a responsible firearms owner-user. Practise self-control continually when shooting.** Indiscriminate, unplanned shooting usually results in damage to property and may also cause death or injury to humans or livestock.
- 34. If you shoot at game and obviously cause injury, do your utmost to make the final kill.** Failure to do this will often subject your quarry to days or weeks of suffering before death.
- 35. Be ethical, always insist that your companions comply with their safety, moral, legal and environmental obligations.** If you set the example and they do not comply, they are a great danger to yourself and others. Refuse to shoot with them. Ban them from your group, and let it be known that they are not good shooting companions.
- 36. Repeated exposure to shotgun, centre fire rifle and handgun explosion discharge can cause permanent hearing damage.** If engaged in this type of sport or competition, you should use appropriate hearing protection. The damage is usually past correcting when detected.

Are you, as a firearms safety conscious owner-user, prepared to follow these basic safety rules? It rests entirely with you. Death or injury from firearms use need not occur.

There are many thousands of firearm owners and users in New South Wales who gain much satisfaction from indoor or outdoor sports and recreational shooting, and there are numerous shooting clubs throughout this State that cater for a wide range of shooting sports activities.

You are encouraged to join a target shooting, recreational hunting or other type of shooting club that meets your requirements. It is in a club environment, that you can share common interests and draw upon the knowledge of other, perhaps more experienced members.

Safe and responsible shooting.

For additional information relating to clubs and club membership, contact:

NSW Shooting Association
PO Box 719
Glebe NSW 2037

Telephone (02) 9552 6349,
or visit the website www.nswshooting.com.au

BASIC LAW KNOWLEDGE INFORMATION

1. **YOU MUST** within 7 days of becoming aware that your licence has been lost or stolen notify your local Police Station. You will be issued with an Event Number. If your licence is destroyed or defaced **YOU MUST** within 7 days notify the NSW Police Firearms Registry either by phone or in writing:

Locked Bag 1,
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Telephone 1300 362 562

2. **YOU MUST** within 7 days of the date of a change in your usual residential address, or any other particular stated in your licence, notify the NSW Police Firearms Registry either by phone or in writing.
3. **YOU MUST** store your Licence Category A and B firearms, when they are not being used or carried, in a locked container of an approved type. The storage container must be constructed of hard wood or steel which is not to be easily penetrable, and it must be fitted with a solid metal lock.

NOTE:

- a) If the container weighs less than 150kg when empty, it must be fixed to a wall or floor to prevent its easy removal.
 - b) Some types of gun racks and display cases may also meet the approved minimum requirements. A separate Police Fact Sheet is available on the subject of storage.
 - c) Firearms held under other licence categories require additional storage provisions, and you should check with Police for details.
4. **YOU MUST** store your ammunition separately from your firearms and in a locked container of an approved type, namely one that is of comparable standard to the main firearms storage container. The ammunition storage container may form part of the main firearms storage container (such as a lockable drawer), but ammunition must be kept separate from the receptacle containing any firearm.
 5. **YOU MUST** on the demand of a police officer at any time, produce for inspection by the police officer:
 - a firearm in your possession, and
 - your licence or permit that authorises you to possess it.
 6. **YOU MUST** register all firearms that you own or possess. Antique firearms manufactured before 1900, that do not accept centre fire or rim fire breech loaded ammunition, do not have to be registered. For further information, contact the Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562.
 7. **YOU MUST** immediately notify the NSW Police Firearms Registry in writing once your genuine reason for possessing or using a firearm no longer exists or can no longer be established. Your licence authorises you to possess and use firearm(s) only for the purpose established by your genuine reason(s).

- 8. YOU MUST NOT** handle or use the firearm while under the influence of alcohol or any other drug.
- 9. YOU MUST NOT** deface or alter any number, letter or identification mark on any firearm or barrel (unless you are authorised to do so).
- 10. YOU MUST NOT** sell or give possession of a firearm to another person knowing that it is unsafe, unless you have given an appropriate warning.
- 11. YOU MUST NOT** (unless authorised to do so by permit)
 - shorten any firearm (other than a pistol)
 - possess any such firearm that has been shortened; or
 - sell or give possession of any such firearm that has been shortened to another person.
- 12. YOU MUST NOT** buy a firearm unless you are authorised:
 - to possess the firearm by a licence or permit, and
 - to acquire the firearm by a permit issued in respect of the firearm.
- 13. YOU MUST NOT** sell a firearm unless the sale has been arranged through a licensed dealer or, if a licensed dealer is not reasonably available, the sale is witnessed by an authorised police officer.
- 14. YOU MUST NOT** buy, sell, possess or use a firearm that is not registered.

If you have any queries regarding the matters in this book or the firearm safety rules contact your:

- Local shooting club
- NSW Police Firearms Registry
Locked Bag 1
Murwillumbah NSW 2484
1300 362 562
- NSW Firearms Safety Awareness Council
PO Box 393
Terrey Hills NSW 2084
Telephone: (02) 9486 3077
Fax: (02) 9486 3497
Email: nswfsac@nswshooting.com.au
Web: www.nswshooting.com.au

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