

7 June 2024

IR-01-24-16158

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Tēnā koe J Dough

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests dated 13 May 2024, wherein you submitted six requests in relation to firearms legislation and Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority.

Te Tari Pūreke's responses to each of your six requests are provided below.

1. The Arms Act 1982 Section 94 covers what the NZ Police must record in the firearms registry, with Section 94(1)(e) includes the information for each firearms or related part.

Can the NZ Police please provide references to where in legislation there is the requirement for someone to make a declaration that they have nothing in their possession, i.e. firearm / restricted weapon / prohibited magazine, as covered by Section 94(1)(e).

Can they similarly provide all legal advice which they have to require people to confirm that they have nothing in their possession, i.e. firearm / restricted weapon / prohibited magazine, as covered by Section 94(1)(e).

As you have noted, licence holders are required to provide information for the Registry, including information about arms items that need to be registered. If the licence holder has no registrable arms items in their possession at the relevant time, they are asked to confirm this when engaging with the Registry (see sections 94(1)(e) and (2)(b) of the Arms Act¹, and regulations 40 to 42 of the Arms Regulations² and Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority's website: <https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-registry>).

With this information to hand, Registry staff will know there is no need to further contact the person to encourage compliance.

In response to your request for "all legal advice" regarding the above, Police is refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/whole.html#LMS187175>

² <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1992/0346/latest/DLM168889.html>

2. Could the NZ Police please provide me with a copy of the following items of legislation as used by the NZ Police.

This should not be simply a link to the NZ legislation website, but what the NZ Police actually use for day to day policing.

Arms Act 1983

Arms Regulations 1992

Evidence Act 2006

Official Information Act 1982

Also confirm for each of the above if this is the latest version.

Police uses legislation that is current and which applies at the time of any matter under consideration. The various iterations of legislation used by Police are publicly available on the government's official legislation website, at www.legislation.govt.nz. Therefore, Police is refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested is publicly available.

For the each of the above, also provide a copy of any guidance documentation for applying each piece of legislation.

The Police Manual is the principal source of guidance for Police staff and is not categorised according to the legislation you have listed above. As such, it would require Police to manually search through each chapter of the Police Manual, which contains approximately 600 chapters, to identify which parts relate to the legislation you have listed. Therefore, Police is refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Please note that some of the Police Manual chapters are publicly available on the Police website:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publications/corporate/police-manual-chapters>

There are mentions of the Evidence Act and the other Acts you have listed across various chapters, and if there is a particular question you need assistance with, in relation to specific legislation, please let Te Tari Pūreke know, who will endeavour to assist further.

In addition, I have attached a copy of the *Arms Introduction* and *Firearms Registry* chapters for your information.

3. Could the NZ Police please confirm that the Firearms Safety Authority is a part of the NZ Police.

Can they also confirm that anyone in the Firearms Safety Authority who uses a police rank, e.g. inspector, is employed by the NZ Police and is a sworn police officer.

Please refer to the "About the Firearms Registry" section of Te Tari Pūreke's website, through the link below.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-registry/about-firearms-registry>

Te Tari Pūreke is a business unit of Police and so all employees of the unit are appointed under the Policing Act 2008 and are Police employees. Some of those employees are also constabulary staff.

4. Could the NZ Police please confirm if information that has been provided to the Firearms Safety Authority counts as being information provided to the NZ Police, as Regulation 37(5) of the Arms Regulations 1992

As per regulation 37(5) of the Arms Regulations 1992, information provided to Police for the purposes of entry in the Registry must be “provided in a manner or form determined by the Commissioner”. Current methods of providing information are set out on Te Tari Pūreke’s website: <https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-registry>

5. Could the NZ Police please provide the definition of "enforcement action" as used by the NZ Police and any legal definition(s) / advice they have with how that word is to be used.

Te Tari Pūreke has interpreted your request for the definition of “enforcement action”, and “compliance action” to be in the context of the Registry. In that context, both are activating circumstances specified under regulation 41(1)(d) of the Arms Regulations 1992³ for registry purposes. Some examples of enforcement or compliance action are listed in regulation 41(1)(d), and include:

- Inspections of storage security and arms items
- Warnings
- Improvement notices
- Temporary suspension of licences
- Criminal charges under the Arms Act.

Compliance or monitoring activities such as security inspections are included in the above actions, regardless of whether there is a prior concern about the particular licence holder. In response to the part of your request for legal advice pertaining to enforcement action, Police is withholding the information requested in full under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA, where withholding is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.

6. Could the NZ Police please provide me with a copy of all legal advice that they have to enable the NZ Police Commissioner to delegate the powers provided to them in the Arms Regulations 1992.

To illustrate what is being requested, Regulations 6(1A)(a), 9G(2) and 28F all explicitly list actions to be performed by "the Commissioner", with these being just a small section of the almost 200 such cases in the Arms Regulations 1992.

There are no examples in the Arms Regulations 1992 where there is the explicit permission to delegate from "the Commissioner" to someone else.

Section 72 of the Arms Act 1983⁴ and section 17 of the Policing Act 2008⁵ provide statutory authority for the Commissioner to delegate his statutory powers and functions under the Arms Act and any enactment, and no specific legal advice exists in relation to this statutory authority. Therefore, Police is refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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
Acting Director Operations
Firearms Safety Authority

⁴ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/DLM73360.html>

⁵ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0072/latest/whole.html#DLM1102196>

Firearms registry

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Overview

Introduction

In 2020, the [Arms Legislation Act 2020](#) amended the [Arms Act 1983](#) to strengthen the control and regulation of firearms in Aotearoa. Among these amendments was the establishment of the Registry, which came into force on 24 June 2023. The [Arms Regulations 1992](#) provides further details about how the Registry will work, also taking effect from 24 June 2023.

Purpose

This chapter describes the Registry and detailed requirements of who must register arms items, when they need to do this, and the particulars to be supplied about themselves and arms items they possess, and subsequent events (such as transfers, modification, loss, destruction, or export) relating to those registered arms items.

The Registry stores and links information on all regulated arms items held, obtained, and transferred by all licence holders, as well as other information specified in the regulations.

Licensed persons and any other persons specified in regulations are required to provide up-to-date information for the Registry on all items in their possession when specified activating circumstances occur during the first five years of the Registry. Activating circumstances include when applying for a licence or endorsement, changing licence holder information such as contact details, buying or selling arms, or buying ammunition.

If no activating circumstances occur before 24 June 2028, then licence holders must provide information for the registry no later than 31 August 2028.

Through changes to the [Arms Act](#) and the [Arms Regulations](#), the Registry will (over a five year period) capture information about licence holders and their arms items, and will continue to record changes to licence holder information and their arms items.

Arms Act 1983

On 24 June 2023, the following sections were incorporated into the Act and took effect:

- Sections [93 to 95](#); these sections cover the establishment of the Registry, the content of the Registry and obligations to provide information to the Registry.
- Section [58A](#); which sets out offences relating to the Registry.
- Sections [38Y to 38ZH](#) in Part 7; which cover direct access by specified government agencies to the Registry, if a direct access agreement is entered into by Ministers after consultation with the Privacy Commissioner and the Minister's Advisory Group.
- [Clause 14 of Schedule 1](#); that contains the 5 year transition period over which existing licence holders will provide information for the Registry.

Sections [94\(1\)\(f\) and 94\(2\)\(b\)](#) provide for regulations to prescribe, or for the Commissioner to require, other particulars and information for the Registry so that it is a more complete record of details of specified arms items held by licence holders.

Arms Regulations 1992

[Part 9](#) of the Regulations provides more detail about the Registry including what, how and when information will be provided for it to enable particulars to be recorded centrally in the Registry. "Particulars" for the purpose of this chapter means information that is to be recorded about individuals and arms items.

Regulations require licence holders to notify Police of any change to some of the details they provided when applying for a firearms licence, so that the Registry is kept up to date. The Registry must have information on licence holder's current contact details so that any correspondence is sent to the correct address. This also ensures Police has current details on licence and permit holders, including the safe storage locations for firearms and ammunition.

Regulations outline the information firearms licence holders and dealers are required to provide for the Registry, including:

- particulars of arms items they possess
- the details of events such as receipt, supply, manufacture, modification, import, export, and theft, loss or destruction of arms items

Regulations also specify when information needs to be provided for inclusion in the Registry and provides for the Commissioner to determine the manner and form for providing information to Police.

What the Registry will capture

The Act and the Regulations will capture:

- licence holder information and details of their licences and endorsements and conditions (and changes to that information). See [Particulars - Licence holders](#) below; and
- details of arms items* possessed by licence holder and the location of the Police approved secure storage. See [Particulars - specified arms items](#) below.
- details of events relating to movement of arms items (e.g. transferred, imported or exported, lost, manufactured) enabling them to be tracked. See [Ongoing Recording of Matters](#) below.

*Arms items, for the purpose of the Registry are defined in regulation [36](#) as all of the following:

- firearms (including prohibited firearms)
- prohibited magazines
- major firearm parts [the action (frame, receiver, or upper and lower receiver) of a firearm, the frame of a pistol, and a calibre conversion component or kit of a pistol]
- restricted weapons
- pistol carbine conversion kits.

*For the purpose of this chapter, they will be referred to as specified arms items so as not to confuse them with ‘arms items’ as defined under [section 2](#) of the [Arms Act 1983](#).

Firearms exclude antique firearms and other firearms identified in section [22\(1\)](#) of the Act or any regulations made under that section (currently regulation [20](#)) for which a firearms licence is not required (hereafter referred to as “exempted firearms”)

While airguns are not captured in the registry, especially [dangerous airguns](#) will be, because they are included in the definition of “firearm” under the section [2](#) of the [Arms Act 1983](#).

When the Registry will capture this information

Initial obligation to provide information for Registry - people who are existing licence holders immediately before 24 June 2023

The Registry will capture information from people who hold licences immediately before 24 June 2023 over a five-year phase-in period as activating circumstances occur (for example, applying for a licence or endorsement, or being involved in a transfer, or purchasing ammunition after 24 June 2025).

For firearms licence holders, this applies where any activating circumstance occurs from 24 June 2023 (except the purchase of ammunition does not become an activating circumstance until after 24 June 2025).

For dealer licence holders (who will have greater quantities of arms items to register), the Commissioner will determine a later date (no later than 24 June 2025) after which an activating circumstance will trigger the obligation to provide all information on their holdings for the Registry.

In the meantime, dealers will continue to record information about arms items in their dealer book and will make that information available to Police in the form and manner and as frequently as prescribed by the Commissioner. This dealer book information does not get added to the Registry but will be a way to monitor individual licence holders whose obligations have been triggered. The Commissioner has prescribed that dealers provide information on sale/supply and receipt/purchase of arms items through an online form at the point of receipt of delivery, until the dealers enter the registry.

For the purposes of the Registry, a dealer or ammunition seller must be treated as an individual licence holder in relation to any arms item or ammunition in their possession that are primarily for their personal use ([reg 36\(2\)](#)). This means that a dealer may need to record their personal items from a different date to their dealer stock.

If no activating circumstances occur before 24 June 2028, then licence holders must provide information for the registry no later than 31 August 2028.

For more about activating circumstances and the timeframe for providing information after an activating circumstance, see [Activating circumstances](#) below.

Ongoing obligations to update information and record events

Licence holders have ongoing obligations to provide information to the Registry about:

- changes to information recorded about the licence holder; and
- details about events involving arms items and ammunition (e.g., arms items acquired or supplied/lost/disposed of), including details of the arms items concerned.

Ammunition sellers must provide ammunition sales information for the Registry from 24 June 2025, or an earlier date determined by the Commissioner.

See '[Obligation to keep licence holder information up to date](#)' below for further details.

New licence holders from 24 June 2023

Information about people who become licence holders on or after 25 June 2023 and their firearms will be captured as they enter the system (by applying for and obtaining a licence) and then as they engage in transactions involving specified arms items and ammunition.

Possession vs ownership - who registers an item?

Any firearms licence holder who possesses a specified arms item must provide the items' particulars for inclusion on the Registry. Possession means the person knows where the specified arms item is and has actual or potential control over it and has an intention to exercise that control.

For example, a Licence Holder A may be storing a firearm for Licence Holder B, who lives at a different address or overseas and 'owns' the firearm. As Licence Holder A is in possession of the firearm (it is in their home and they have the ability to exercise control over the item while they are storing it), they must register the particulars of the item themselves, despite Licence Holder B being the 'owner' of the firearm.

Te Tari Pūreke will not moderate civil disputes over who 'owns' a specified arms item as the purpose of the Registry is to record the particulars of the specified arms items that a person currently has in their possession.

- If a licence holder has no specified arms items in their possession, they can declare this in the Registry.
- If a licence holder shares a specified arms item with another licence holder, that item can only be registered once by a single licence holder in the Registry.
- If a licence holder is responsible for specified arms item(s) on behalf of a shooting club or shooting range they are also responsible for registering the item(s) against their firearms licence number.
- If Licence Holder A has temporarily loaned a firearm (not being a pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited magazine, or prohibited firearm) to licence holder B or are storing it with them for less than 30 days (a **temporary transfer** - see below), they (A) should still register the item as if they currently have it in their possession.
- If Licence Holder A has loaned a specified arms item to Licence Holder B for more than 30 days, or if Licence Holder B is storing the item for Licence Holder A for more than 30 days, it is Licence Holder B's responsibility to register the item against their licence holder details because it is in their possession.

Temporary transfer of a firearm

Means a transfer of possession of a firearm (not being a pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited magazine, or prohibited firearm) or other item for less than 30 days. [Section 95\(4\)](#) of the [Arms Act 1983](#) refers.

Temporary transfers of non-prohibited firearms - A temporary transfer (of less than 30 days) of a firearm that is not a pistol, restricted weapon, or prohibited firearm and not a prohibited magazine does not need to be recorded in the Registry.

All transfers of pistols, restricted weapons, prohibited firearms, and prohibited magazines- All transfers of pistols, restricted weapons, prohibited magazine and prohibited firearms, no matter how long the transfer is for, will need both:

- a permit to possess (obtained prior to the transfer); and
- the transfer of the item must also be recorded in the Registry:
 - The person supplying the item must record the sale or supply in the registry when the sale or supply occurs or immediately after the sale or supply.
 - The person receiving the item must record the receipt as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days after the purchase or receipt of the item.

Particulars

The Registry will link licence holder information with the specified arms items that they possess. Te Tari Pūreke staff who work in the Registry and Services Team will need to be able to register all information relating to both licence holders and specified arms items.

Particulars - licence holders

Regulations require licence holders to provide the following information about themselves for inclusion in the Registry:

- in the case of a firearms licence holder:
 - full name, date of birth, contact phone number, email address, residential address, and postal address (if different from residential address)
 - the number and date of expiry of their firearms licence
 - the date of expiry of every endorsement on the licence
 - every condition on the licence and endorsements additional to conditions imposed by the Act or regulations
 - whether the licence holder is an ammunition seller
 - details of the locations approved by Police where they store arms items and ammunition in their possession, including for any specified arms items that a licence holder may hold on-behalf of a shooting club or shooting range.
- in the case of a dealer's licence holder:
 - full name, date of birth, contact phone number, email address, residential address, and postal address (if different)
 - the number and date of expiry of the licence
 - the date of expiry of every endorsement on the licence
 - every condition on the licence or an endorsement that is additional to conditions imposed by this Act or the regulations
 - the registered name of the business (if it is a body corporate), the trading name (the name by which the business's customers know it) (if any), and the New Zealand Business Number (if any)
 - the current business address and, if the dealer is operating from more than one place of business, the addresses of those other places of business
 - the address of any separate warehousing/storage facilities they operate
 - the names of employees who handle or have access to arms items or ammunition at the dealer's place of business, their firearms licence numbers, and any endorsements on those licences that they have in their capacity as an employee.

Police already holds all information related to licence holders from the licencing process. Licence holders must be treated as having provided the relevant information if it is already held by Police. In some cases, the information required by Regulations will already be held in NIA and will be transferred over to the Registry.

Regulations require licence holders to keep the information updated by providing Police with details of any change to their licence holder information.

Registry staff may need to confirm some information with licence holders for identification purposes and may assist licence holders to update the Registry as needed.

Particulars - specified arms items

Regulations require licence holders to provide the following information on the below specified arms items for the Registry:

- If the item is a **firearm**, its:
 - make (manufacturer's name) and model
 - identifying marking (e.g., serial number), in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any)
 - type (shotgun, rifle, pistol, rifle/shotgun combination, assault rifle, submachine gun, machine gun or other)
 - action (bolt, lever, single-shot, pump, break-open, full-automatic, semi-automatic, select-fire, revolver, rocket/missile, muzzle-loading, pre-charged pneumatic, or other)
 - calibre or gauge
 - for firearms with a non-detachable magazine, the magazine type (integral or tubular) and its capacity
 - if requested, a photo of the item, (in accordance with the relevant guidance notice, if any).
- If the item is a **restricted weapon**, its:

- make (manufacturer's name) and model
 - identifying marking, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any)
 - type (mortar, mine, cannon, grenade or missile launcher, artillery, or other)
 - action
 - calibre or gauge
 - if requested, a photo of the item, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any).
- If the item is a **prohibited magazine**, its:
- make (manufacturer's name) and model
 - identifying marking, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any)
 - type (box, rotary, stick, other)
 - calibre or gauge
 - capacity (number of rounds)
 - if requested, a photo of the item, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any).
- If the item is a **major firearm part**, its:
- make and model
 - a description of the part (the frame, receiver, or upper receiver or lower receiver of a firearm, the frame of a pistol, or the calibre conversion component or kit of a pistol): (unless it is incorporated or integrated into a firearm)
 - identifying marking, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any)
 - if requested, a photo of the item, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any).
- If the item is a **pistol carbine conversion kit**, its:
- make (manufacturer's name) and model
 - identifying marking, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any)
 - if requested, a photo of the item, in accordance with the relevant guidance notice (if any)

Note: A 'Firearms Reference Table' sits behind the Registry and lists all known specified arms items currently in New Zealand. This table provides the list of arms items a person may enter onto the Registry. In the event an item is not on the Firearms Reference Table, or is a custom-built firearm, the firearms licence holder or dealer will need to call Te Tari Pūreke to register the firearm over the phone so that it can be correctly described and entered into the Registry.

How firearms licence holders will provide information for the Registry

[Regulation 37](#) provides that licence holders must provide the information to Police in a manner or form determined by the Commissioner.

The primary method licences holders will use to provide details for the Registry is via their MyFirearms portal on the Te Tari Pūreke - [Firearms Safety Authority website](#).

Information can also be provided through the dedicated Te Tari Pūreke firearms enquiries team via phone on 0800 844 431 (09 302 6500).

Activating circumstances which trigger an existing licence holder's obligation to register items

The activating circumstances, which trigger the requirements for an existing licence holder to register all specified arms items in their possession are as follows:

- application for a licence or endorsement
- has a change in licence holder information covered by [Schedule 1B](#), [Part 1](#) or [Part 2](#) of the Regulations:

-

Firearms licence holder	Dealer licence holder
Name	Name
Contact phone number	Contact phone number
Email address	Email address
Residential address	Residential address
Postal address	Postal address
FLIC number and expiry date	Dealer licence number and expiry date
Expiry date of endorsement(s)	Expiry date of endorsement(s)
Conditions or endorsements	Conditions or endorsements
Whether they are an ammunition seller or not	Registered name of the business, trading name or NZ Business number
Locations of secure storage	Address of any separate warehouses or storage facilities
	Name of the employees who handle, or have access to, arms items and their firearms licence numbers or endorsements

- involved in any event specified in [Schedule 1B, Part 4](#) of the Regulations:

Event
Transfer of an arms item by sale, supply, purchase or receipt (excluding a temporary transfer)
Importation of an arms item
Exportation of an arms item
Manufacture of an arms item
Loss, theft or destruction of an arms item
Importation of ammunition
Sale of ammunition by dealer or ammunition seller to a firearms licence holder
Modification of a prohibited firearm to a non-prohibited firearm

- being subject to any [compliance](#) or enforcement action under the Act, including inspections of storage security and arms items, warnings, improvement notices, temporary suspensions of licence and criminal charges under the Act

- purchase of ammunition (after 24 June 2025).

Most licence holders and dealers will have an activating circumstance within the five-year period. This will require them to provide the particulars of all the specified arms items they possess ([Regulation 40](#)). The timeframe for providing that information after the activating circumstance occurs is covered below.

All Te Tari Pūreke teams will likely encounter an activating circumstance in relation to a firearms licence holder and have a responsibility to educate and encourage licence holders on their obligations for the Registry.

When an activating circumstance is encountered by a Te Tari Pūreke team (outside of the Registry Team) and a licence holder is advised to meet their obligations for the Registry within the timeframe, the Registry Team must be advised of the activating circumstance and the date and method by which the licence holder was advised of their obligation to provide their information to the Registry.

For firearms licence holders the most likely activating event will be the purchase of ammunition (after 24 June 2025).

For dealer licence holders (who will have greater quantities of arms items to register), the Commissioner has the ability to determine a later date (no later than 24 June 2025) after which an activating circumstance will trigger the obligation to provide all information on their holdings for the Registry.

Timeframe to provide information following an activating circumstance

Regulations require that details of all specified arms items possessed by the licence holder must be provided to Police within 30 days of the first activating circumstance involving the licence holder taking place.

In cases where the activating circumstance involves the licence holder selling, supplying, exporting, manufacturing, modifying, destroying, or notifying the loss/theft of an arms item, the licence holder must register the particulars of that specified arms item (along with the details of that event) within a shorter timeframe, and then will have 30 days to register the remainder of the arms items in their possession.

The Commissioner may, in relation to an individual firearms licence holder, extend the time frame for providing the information to a later date no more than 60 days after the date of the activating circumstance, except where [Regulation 13](#) (Notification of Importation) applies.

If no activating circumstance occurs before 24 June 2028 , the firearms licence holder must provide the information and particulars required no later than 31 August 2028.

Timeframes per activating circumstance

Activating circumstance	Timeframe for providing information on all arms items in possession
Application for a licence or endorsement (includes 'renewals')	All arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days
Notifying a change in licence holder information, such as a change of address	All arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days (as well as the change of licence holder information)
Sale or supply of an arms item	The arms item sold or supplied must be registered when the sale or supply occurs or immediately after the sale or supply. All other arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days
Purchase or receipt of an arms item	The arms item purchased or received must be registered as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the purchase or receipt. All other arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days.
Importation of an arms item	The imported arms item and all other arms items already in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days after the date on which the item is released to the importer by the New Zealand Customs Service.
Exportation of an arms item	The exportation must be recorded in the registry within five days after the date of exportation. All other arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days.
Manufacture, modification, or destruction of an arms item	The manufactured, modified or destroyed arms item must be registered within five days after the date of manufacture, modification, or destruction. All other arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days.
Loss or theft of an arms item	The arms item lost or stolen must be registered immediately after the loss or theft is known to have occurred. All other arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days.
Importation of ammunition	All arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days after the date on which the ammunition is released to the importer by the New Zealand Customs Service.
Sale of ammunition by dealer or ammunition seller to firearms licence holder	All arms items in the dealer* or ammunition seller's possession must be registered within 30 days.
Compliance or enforcement action under the Act	All arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days.
Purchase of ammunition (after 24 June 2025)	All arms items in the licence holder's possession must be registered within 30 days.

*This does not include arms items a dealer possesses in their personal capacity. This refers to the arms items they possess in their capacity as a dealer. [Ammunition sellers](#) should not have any arms items in their possession for business reasons (in which case they would require a [dealer licence](#)). It is the sale of ammunition that is the activating circumstance to register all arms items, and sale of ammunition is an event that must be recorded ongoing. Ammunition itself is not an arms item and therefore does not need to be registered.

Final date for the provision of initial information by existing licence holders on all specified arms items they possess

Regulations require that if an existing licence holder possesses specified arms items on 25 June 2028 that have yet to be recorded in the Registry (because no activating event has yet occurred), they will have until 31 August 2028 to provide Police with particulars on those items for inclusion in the Registry.

This date provides licence holders with just over two months to provide information on the specified arms items they possess which have not yet been recorded in the Registry. There should not be too many licence holders in this position because of the need to inform Police of their arms items when they bought or sold a specified arms item or purchased ammunition (i.e., they were involved in an activating event) over the previous five years.

Non-compliance with requirements after activating circumstance

If a firearms licence holder is non-compliant with their requirement to provide their details and arms item particulars after an activating circumstance, the four E's of the Te Tari Pūreke regulatory response should be utilised-

- **Engage and educate** - provide clear and accurate information around the firearms licence holder's obligations and timeframes, and how it fits with the purpose of the [Arms Act 1983](#).
- **Encourage** - by way of Improvement Notice.
- **Enforce** - warning letter or consideration of revocation.

Where appropriate, cases (i.e., offences) should be referred to operational Police for possible prosecution.

Engagement and education are the most important tools in informing firearms licence holders and dealers about their new obligations in the Registry.

There will be circumstances where a firearms licence holder is willing to comply, but is unable to (for example, does not have access to a computer or needs help reading serial numbers). In cases such as these, the Registry Team will provide support and, where necessary, assist them in complying with their requirements, for example by tasking home visits.

If a firearms licence holder is able to comply but is actively unwilling to despite clear and consistent engagement and education, the managers of the Registry, Compliance and Resolutions Teams should discuss the next steps in the graduated response (encourage and enforce), and discuss whether Police should pursue a prosecution for an offence.

Being subject to compliance or enforcement action (activating circumstance) and impact on possession of firearms

If a licence holder is subject to compliance or enforcement action and there is an impact on the possession of their arms items as a result of this, the licence holder should still enter their licence holder details in the Registry and declare that they have “no arms items in their possession” (if applicable).

Notification to a licence holder that revocation of a licence is being considered (including a temporary suspension) is a compliance activity which is an activating circumstance.

However, when the arms items have been seized (for example under [s60B\(2\)](#)), the licence holder will no longer possess any specified arms items (which need to be registered). As the licence holder is not in possession of the items that have been seized by Police, the entry of these items on the Registry will occur when one of two things happen:

1. when a decision not to revoke is made and the items are returned to the licence holder
2. when a decision is made to revoke and the items are disposed of by way of transfer to another licence holder

The Firearms Resolutions Team must advise licence holders they interact or communicate with their requirements in the Registry. Further to this the Resolutions Team must advise the Registry Team when point 1 or 2 above occurs.

A suspended firearms licence holder can still create an account in the Arms Information System and register their arms items before a final revocation decision is made (either online or via phone). However, they will not be able to verify themselves as they will not be able to present their firearms licence to a member of Police.

The temporarily suspended licence holder should be advised to declare in the Registry that they have “no arms items to declare” if their arms items have been seized as part of a temporary suspension.

For more information regarding temporary suspensions of licences, see [Compliance - Revocations](#) arms chapter.

Obligation to keep licence holder information up to date

Details about individual firearms licence holders must be provided when applying for a firearms licence, endorsement or permit.

Details about dealer's licence holders must be provided when applying for a dealer's licence, endorsement, permit or a renewal of a dealer's licence.

Licence holders must notify Police of a change in their licence holder information (such as an email address, residential address etc) as soon as practicable after the change occurs.

As soon as practicable, after a person becomes an **executor or administrator of the estate of a deceased person** possessed an arms item or items or a person holds a **power of attorney** in relation to the property of an incapacitated person who possesses arms item or items, that executor, administrator, or attorney must provide to Police information about those arms items (see [regulation 43](#)). See ['Executors/administrators of the estate of a deceased person who was in possession of firearms or a person who has power of attorney for a person who is in possession of firearms'](#) for further details.

Ongoing recording of matters relating to specified arms items in the registry as events occur

The ongoing recording of matters relating to the specified arms items that come into possession of a licence holder will be critical in keeping the Registry up to date.

The table below details the relevant matters that require a licence holder to provide information about the specified arms items that comes into or leaves their possession for the Registry, and when they must do so -

Matter	Information must be provided
Sale or supply of an arms item	When sale or supply occurs or immediately after the sale or supply.
Sale of ammunition	When the sale occurs or immediately after the sale.
Purchase or receipt of an arms item	As soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the purchase or receipt of the arms item.
Manufacture, modification, or destruction of an arms item	Within 5 days after the date of manufacture, modification, or destruction.
Importation of an arms item	Within 30 days after the date on which the item is released to the importer by the New Zealand Customs Service.
Exportation of an arms item	Within 5 days after the date of exportation.
Loss or theft of an arms item	Immediately after the loss or theft is known to have occurred.

Further information about these events is available throughout this chapter.

Transfers (purchase, receipt, sale and supply) of arms items by licence holders

Regulations require firearms licence holders to provide the following details to Police on transfers of specified arms items for inclusion in the Registry:

- In the case of items purchased or received (other than temporary transfers):
 - the date the item came into possession of the purchase or receiver
 - the name and firearms licence number of the person from whom the item was received
 - the relevant details of the item (see Particulars -arms items).
- In the case of items sold or supplied (other than temporary transfers):
 - the date the item was handed over or dispatched
 - the name and firearms licence number of the person to whom the item was delivered
 - in the case of a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, pistol carbine conversion kit, or restricted weapon delivered to a person who requires a permit to possess it, the date and number of the permit
 - the relevant details of the item (see Particulars - arms items).

A permit to possess is still also required for prohibited firearms, prohibited magazines, pistols, restricted weapons and pistol carbine conversion kits before a transfer can take place.

A mail order form is still also required for mail orders or internet sales of non-prohibited firearms before a transfer can take place. See also Transfers by mail order and internet sales for non-prohibited firearms, non-prohibited magazines, non-prohibited parts, ammunition, and pistol carbine conversion kits.

Items received by dealer under section 59A of the Act

If a dealer receives a specified arms item under [section 59](#) of the [Arms Act 1983](#) (Surrender by licensed dealer of firearms etc) and surrenders it to Police within 5 days, they are not required to provide the details of the name or firearms licence number of the person from whom the arms item was received, but must still provide the date on which the item came into their possession and the details of the arms item.

Dealer supply of ammunition

Dealers will also need to enter details of ammunition sales to firearms licence holders into the registry. The details required for the registry are the date on which the ammunition is handed over or dispatched, the type and quantity of ammunition sold, the name and firearms licence number of the purchaser or the person supervising the purchaser.

As with arms items, once dealers provide details of ammunition sales into the Registry, then those need not be recorded in a record book ([Regulation 7F\(6\)](#)).

See also below section Bringing dealer information into the Registry re: timing for when Dealers will start putting information into the Registry and how dealer book information will be provided in the interim.

The importation of ammunition

Regulations require that a licence holder importing ammunition must provide the following details to Police for inclusion in the Registry:

- the date of the import
- the type and quantity of ammunition imported
- the number of the permit issued under [section 18](#).
- Other matters specified in [Regulation 13\(2\)](#).

Ammunition sales by ammunition sellers

On and from a date determined by the Commissioner (not yet determined) or 24 June 2025, whichever occurs earlier, ammunition sellers must provide to the Police for entry in the registry records of sales of ammunition.

The details required for the registry are the date on which the ammunition is handed over or dispatched, the type and quantity of ammunition sold, the name and firearms licence number of the purchaser or the person supervising the purchaser.

The following details will be required for inclusion in the Registry:

- the name of the person to whom the ammunition was sold, and their licence number
- the quantity and type of ammunition sold
- the date on which the seller hands over or dispatches the ammunition.

When these details are provided online to Police for inclusion in the Registry, ammunition sellers will not have to include that same information in their records book (see [section 22E\(2\)\(b\)](#) of the [Arms Act 1983](#)).

Transfers by mail order and internet sales for non-prohibited firearms, non-prohibited magazines, non-prohibited parts, ammunition, and pistol carbine conversion kits

If a transfer occurs as a result of a mail order or Internet sale, the applicable provisions in sections [35 to 38](#) and [43A](#) of the Act still apply.

The current mail order form and/or permit to possess (as appropriate) process must still take place, in addition to the registry obligations for the transfer (e.g., if it involves a major firearms part, or a firearm).

Importing

An importer of specified arms items will need to provide the details of these specified items for inclusion in the Registry, as outlined under 'Particulars- specified arms item'.

Information is to be provided within 30 days after the date on which the item is released to the importer by the New Zealand Customs Service.

Importers of specified arms items must still notify Police of their import by emailing the Permit Team at Kapiti with the details of their import (as required in [Regulation 13](#)).

Airguns, air pistol carbine conversion kits, blank firing guns, non-prohibited magazines and firearm parts (i.e. not major firearm parts),

and exempted firearms are not required to be registered in the Registry. Importers of such items must still notify Police of their import by emailing the Permit Team at Kapiti with the details of their import (as required in [Regulation 13](#)).

Exporting

Regulations require that the following particulars need to be provided by licence holders for the registry in relation to an exported arms items:

- details of the specified arms items to be exported
- the date of export
- the export control/permit number.

An export controls permit number is required to be obtained from MFAT prior to any export of a firearm, unless:

- the person is taking their own sporting firearms overseas on a hunting holiday, or has been in New Zealand on a hunting holiday may export their firearms and/or parts that they originally imported with a permit issued by Police, or
- the person is a competitor in international shooting contests taking competition sporting firearms overseas for their own use, or
- the person has been in New Zealand competing in a national or international shooting competition or are transiting New Zealand to attend or return from a competition in a third country they may export their firearms and/or parts which they originally imported with a permit issued by Police.

See [MFAT information](#) for further details.

If an export is exempt from getting an export control permit number, the export should be marked as temporary in the Registry and the reimport confirmed (by Police staff) when the item is returned to New Zealand.

The Registry needs to record arms items that leave the country so that it accurately reflects the number of arms items in the actual possession of licence holders in New Zealand at the time. Further to this, MFAT is required to annually report all firearms imports and exports under the Arms Trade Treaty.

Manufacture

When an arms item is manufactured for any reason (e.g., whether for sale, hire, lending, or other supply, or for personal use), the details of the specified arms item need to be entered in the registry by the dealer or firearms licence holder, along with the date of completion of manufacture.

Dealers are already required to record (in their dealer book) details of specified arms items they manufacture for sale, hire, lending, or other supply (and a person must be a dealer if they do manufacture arms items for supply). For the registry to be a complete record of all items possessed by licence holders, it will be necessary to include arms items that licence holders may manufacture for personal use. This is also relevant in determining the safe storage requirements of the licence holder in accordance with the Act's purpose to promote the safe possession of firearms.

The modification of a firearm from a prohibited firearm to a non-prohibited firearm

If it is proposed that a prohibited firearm be modified to a non-prohibited firearm, this also needs to be recorded in the registry. A person should engage with Police before modification to discuss their intentions.

Regulations require the following information:

- details of the prohibited firearm before and after modification
- a certification (from a person authorised by Police) that the modification has been properly carried out and the firearm is permanently modified.

Non-prohibited firearms may not be converted to prohibited firearms. It is an offence to assemble a prohibited firearm without lawful purpose ([s 55A](#)) and dealers may not manufacture prohibited firearms ([s 22G](#), and [5\(1\)\(f\)](#), [5A\(3\)](#) and [4A\(1A\)](#)) - only prohibited parts and only in the narrow circumstances of [s 4A\(1A\)](#).

Modification means the modification of the fixed magazine of a prohibited firearm or the exchange or modification of a detachable magazine to change the firearm's class. The modification made to the magazine must be completed by a licensed dealer gunsmith and must be permanent. It **does not** refer to modifying the action or overall length or stock etc. of any firearm.

Loss, theft, or destruction

Regulations require that in the event of loss, theft or destruction of a specified arms items the following particulars would need to be provided to Police for inclusion in the Registry immediately after the occurrence:

- the date on which the specified arms item was lost, stolen, or destroyed
- details of the firearms (see Particulars - specified arms items)
- the last known location of the firearm.

Note: Section [66A](#) of the [Arms Act 1983](#) also provides an obligation to provide information relating to the loss, theft or destruction of a firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted. It also covers the loss, theft or destruction of a prohibited part. The obligation requires the person to give all information in their possession relating to the loss, theft, or destruction to Police.

Identifying marking

Regulations [5](#) and [12\(4\)](#) requires all firearms licence holders possessing arms items, and dealers receiving arms items to place identifying markings on any items that do not already have such markings.

Regulation [12A](#) provides Police (a commissioned officer) powers to grant exemptions to individual firearms or dealer licence holders in respect of the placement of the identification marking.

Identifying markings should be in English letters (A to Z) and Arabic numerals (0, 1, 2, 3, etc). Further guidance around identification markings will be provided at a later date.

Bringing dealer information into the Registry

For dealer licence holders (who will have greater quantities of arms items to register), the Commissioner has the ability to determine a date (no later than 24 June 2025) after which an activating circumstance will trigger the obligation to provide all information on their dealer holdings for the Registry.

For the Registry to remain up to date, it is preferable - from a practical and efficiency point of view - for Police to obtain information on dealers' and ammunition sellers' transactions at the time they occur. This is most readily done if dealers and ammunition sellers enter these transfers online into the Registry. It is consistent with modern business practices to have electronic/online capability.

This information aligns with the record keeping requirements of dealers in regulation 7, so involves no additional compliance, with the difference being that dealers can enter these details into the Registry rather than a record book.

This will avoid the need for Police to make visits to dealer's premises to inspect records, as Police will already have access to these records in the Registry. This creates significant efficiencies in the auditing of dealers without compromising Police oversight of the sales by dealers.

See [When the Registry will capture this information](#) for further information.

Interim measure - dealer transactions using the Drupal form

Dealers will continue to record information about arms items in their dealer book. The Regulations enable the Commissioner to prescribe the manner and form and frequency with which those dealer records must be made available to Police.

The Commissioner has determined that some of this dealer book information will be provided from 24 June 2023, using an online dealer transaction form. This form (referred to as a Drupal by operational staff) is an interim measure until such a time the Arms Information System functionality is upgraded, and the Commissioner determines dates for each of the dealers to register their specified arms items/stock (from when an activating circumstance occurs) and events involving those arms items and ammunition.

This dealer book information (once received by Police) does not get added to the Registry but will be a way to monitor individual licence holders whose own registry obligations have been triggered (because their role in the transaction is an activating circumstance).

A dealer must use the online dealer transaction form when they sell/supply or purchase/receive specified arms items and record the item's particulars (see Particulars - specified arms items).

If they receive or supply a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, restricted weapon or pistol carbine conversion kit, they will also need to record some details of the buyer's permit to possess, including:

- permit number
- issue date
- office location (code).

The online dealer transaction form will validate their customer's licence information with an in built 'firearms licence checker'.

Once the dealer submits a record through Drupal, the dealer will be unable to save or retrieve the record. Dealers may continue to record their transactions in their dealer record books, however they can request any submitted transaction records by contacting the Registry & Services Team.

If the online transactions form is unavailable at the time of sale dealers must record the transaction in their usual dealer book format. They must transfer the information to the online form when it is available again.

The Registry Service Team will monitor transactions and engage with firearms licence holders who have not registered their newly purchased arms items, or other arms items in their possession within 30 days of purchase.

The Drupal form does not cover all transactions captured by registry requirements that a dealer is currently required to record in their dealer book. Until the dealer enters the registry system, dealers will still need to record in their dealer books:

- ammunition sales

- dealer-to-dealer transfers of arms items and ammunition

Dealer records that will continue to be kept in a dealer book even when the dealer has been brought into the Registry

Even when the dealer has been brought into the Registry/AIS system at a date determined by the Commissioner, the dealer must continue to record in their usual dealer book format other dealer record details specified in regulations, for example:

- airgun sales and supply, purchase and receipt, and manufacture hiring out airguns for a session for airsoft games, paintball games, and military simulation activities inside a commercial sports venue
- non-prohibited magazine sales.

For auctions, dealers must also continue to record the:

- date and place of the auction
- name of the auctioneer who conducted the auction
- method of delivery of the item to the purchaser.

Shooting clubs and ranges

Shooting clubs

Information required by the Act or regulations to be provided by or on behalf of a shooting club to the Police (for example, pistol club shooting activity records, ammunition sales records, and records of incidents or safety breaches) may be entered in the registry digitally by or on behalf of the club when the Commissioner allows. This capability is not yet enabled.

Shooting ranges

Information required by the Act or regulations to be provided by or on behalf of a shooting range operator to the Police (for example, records of incidents or safety breaches) may be entered in the registry digitally by or on behalf of the shooting range operator when the Commissioner allows. This capability is not yet enabled.

Application of regulations to the Department of Conservation

Arms items owned by the Department of Conservation will be recorded in the registry on and from a date agreed to in writing by the Commissioner and the Director-General of Conservation.

Capturing the arms items owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC) would provide consistency with the wider firearms environment.

Currently, employees of DoC who use firearms owned by DoC as part of their employment, are appropriately licensed and endorsed in the same way as others who use firearms as part of their employment, or for personal use.

Application of registry-related regulations to the Crown

Section [3\(5\)](#) of the Act states that:

The following requirements of the Act **do not** apply in relation to any arms items, ammunition, or explosives, or other items regulated by or under this Act that are owned by the Crown (except to the extent provided by regulations made under section [74](#)):

- any requirement to notify or report any event or circumstance to the Police
- any requirement to mark any firearm or other item with an identifying marking
- any requirement to provide any particulars to the Police for inclusion in the Registry
- any requirement to record any particulars, whether in the Registry or elsewhere.

Executors/administrators of the estate of a deceased person who was in possession of firearms or a person who has power of attorney for a person who is in possession of firearms

Regulations require that specified information must be provided to Police for inclusion in the Registry by:

- any person who becomes an executor/administrator of the estate of a deceased person who was in possession of arms items
- any person who has power of attorney in relation to the property of an incapacitated person who is in possession of arms items.

This information will include the following:

- Upon the death of a licence holder
 - a photocopy, electronically scanned copy or photograph of the death certificate of the licence holder
 - the name and bona fides of the executor of administrator (e.g. the letters of administration or probate).
- Where the licence holder is incapacitated and there is a power of attorney in relation to property in place, the name and bona fides of person with power of attorney (e.g. the power of attorney document and the certificate of the power of attorney donor's medical incapacity under section 99D of the [Protection and Personal Property Rights Act 1988](#)).
- In both cases:
 - details of any identification markings on the arms items (such as a serial number)
 - the transfer details of the specified arms item(s) to a licensed dealer or firearms licence holder as required in Schedule B, Part 4 (1)(a)(i), (ii) and (iii).

The above applies whenever one of these events occurs from 24 June 2023, whether the arms items are already in the registry or not. It is not uncommon for the situation to arise when a licence holder (and sometimes an ex-licence holder) who is still in possession of firearms dies or becomes incapacitated and a person takes responsibility for their property pursuant to a power of attorney.

This regulation creates a process for getting the movement of these firearms recorded in the Registry to a person with the appropriate licence. It will also enable items that Police may not have been aware of (because they have not yet been recorded in the Registry) be included in the Registry.

Security of information

As with all new Police computer systems, the Registry will follow a stringent certification and accreditation process. This will ensure that privacy protections and security of personal data and information meet or exceed Government security control standards.

All new Police cyber systems are processed through the Certification and Accreditation framework, which is directed from Government via the Government Communications Security Bureau and Protective Security Requirements.

Access to the Registry, and the use and disclosure of information from it, will be audited to monitor the effectiveness of the privacy safeguards.

Accessing information in the Registry

Regulation [45](#) prescribes when certain persons are entitled to access the Registry (when the Commissioner makes the capability available). This includes the following people:

- a. licence holders to view their own information.
- b. This allows them to seek correction if they find their information to be inaccurate and advise any updates to their personal information or arms items.
- c. firearms licence holders, to verify the firearms licence status of a person to whom they are selling or supplying, or from whom they are acquiring arms items.
- d. firearms licence holders selling a pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or pistol carbine conversation kit to verify the purchaser's licence, endorsement and permit to possess.
- e. dealer's licence holders, to verify the firearms licence status of a person to whom they are selling or supplying, or from whom they are acquiring arms items or ammunition.
- f. dealer's licence holders selling a pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or pistol carbine conversation kit to verify the purchaser's licence, endorsement and permit to possess.
- g. dealer's licence holders, (registered) employees of dealers and ammunition sellers to verify the licence of any person purchasing ammunition from them.
- h. (registered) employees of dealers, to view the dealer's information relating to details of arms items and to verify the licence, endorsement and permit of any person when buying or selling arms items on behalf of the dealer,

Note: Current capability of the Arms Information System and Registry may not allow for these functions above to occur until a later date or may require formal approval for access.

Access to some elements of other people's licensing information when selling or purchasing specified arms items will be needed to ensure they are buying or selling those items from and to licence holders. This will minimise the risk of lawfully possessed firearms being transferred to unlicensed users.

In the event a firearms licence holder believes a person is attempting an unlawful purchase of a firearm (for example, if the purchaser has 'no licence'), the firearms licence holder should be directed to submit a report via 105 on the [Police website](#).

If Te Tari Pūreke receive a concerning report as outlined above, an occurrence or report in [NIA](#) should be created and assigned to an investigating member of Police. In all concerning circumstances Te Tari Pūreke staff members should notify their supervisor or flag the issue for follow up action.

Police access to registry

Police employees are entitled to access the registry information while acting for the purpose of carrying out the lawful functions of Police. Police employees require approval to access the Registry - contact the Registry Services Team for any questions regarding access.

Duration of records in the Registry

Regulation [46](#) prescribes the minimum period that information is to be retained in the Registry.

Records in the Registry in respect of an individual firearms licence holder must be kept for three years after the lifetime of the licence holder, even if their licence was no longer in force at the time of their death.

Having records on licence holders for their lifetime is critical for remaining updated with their ongoing suitability to possess and use firearms. Even if for a long time they are no longer a licence holder or using firearms, either possibility could arise again. A period after the licence holder's lifetime is useful for completing reconciliations of firearms they used to possess with the current location of the firearms.

Privacy of information in the Registry

The information firearms licence holders are required to enter into the Registry will:

- link licence holders with arms items in their possession to ensure that only appropriately licensed individuals are in possession of arms items

- enable firearms licence holders to check whether they are arms items to, or buying them from, other firearms licence holders.

Any information that is entered into the Registry will be subject to the Privacy Act 2020 which ensures that their information is kept safe and secure and is used and shared appropriately and licence holder (subject to applicable exceptions):

- know when their information is being collected
 - can get access to their information.
-

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Arms Introduction

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Policy standards and principles

What

The [Arms Act 1983](#) and [Arms Regulations 1992](#) are the overarching legislation that governs the possession and use of firearms, airguns, pistols, prohibited items, restricted weapons, other arms items and ammunition in New Zealand.

New Zealand Police is the lead agency for the Arms Act 1983.

The Arms Act 1983 promotes the safe possession and use of firearms and other weapons and imposes controls on the possession and use of them. It also specifies that the possession and use of arms is a privilege and that people authorised to import, manufacture, supply, sell, possess or use firearms have a responsibility to act in the interests of personal and public safety.

A full review of the Arms Act 1983 will take place in 2026 pursuant to section [96](#) of the Act.

The arms chapters contain the operational policies and good practice guidance in relation to the Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992.

Why

New Zealand Police's vision is to be the safest country and to ensure that everybody can be safe and feel safe.

Following the terrorist attack on the Christchurch mosques on 15 March 2019, significant changes were made to the [Arms Act 1983](#) through the [Arms Legislation Act 2020](#).

A [Royal Commission of Inquiry](#) into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain was also completed in late 2020. The Inquiry made specific recommendations to create a more efficient and effective risk-based firearms licensing system.

As a result of these changes, Police applied a regulatory lens to their responsibilities under the Act, and established [Te Tari Pūreke - Firearms Safety Authority](#), a business unit of New Zealand Police.

Police and Te Tari Pūreke implement and give effect to the Arms Act 1983, to promote the safe possession and use of firearms and other weapons thereby ensuring the personal safety of users of firearms, and the public.

By taking actions under the Act regarding who can access firearms and other weapons, Police and Te Tari Pūreke will keep our communities safe; and will keep Police staff (and staff of other government agencies) safe while performing their duties.

In its role as the regulator, Te Tari Pūreke will enable fit and proper people to legitimately possess and use firearms in New Zealand and will seek to protect the public from the harm that may be caused by the misuse of firearms.

How

Te Tari Pūreke has four core functions:

- to effectively implement the firearms licensing system
- to manage the firearms registry
- to educate people to enable compliance with legislative responsibilities
- to promote the legitimate and safe use of firearms.

Te Tari Pūreke is responsible for regulating the following activities and areas:

- Legitimate possession of arms items
- Importation of arms items
- Sale or supply of arms items
- Purchase or transfer of arms items
- Transportation of arms items
- Storage of arms items
- Use of arms items
- Exportation of arms items

- Shooting clubs and ranges
- Manufacturing or modification of firearms

To meet its objectives and obligations Police and Te Tari Pūreke will:

- ensure those who are issued a firearms licence, endorsement, or dealer's licence are fit and proper to hold such a licence or endorsement, by carrying out thorough vetting
- target every opportunity to reduce and prevent harmful use of firearms and other arms items
- provide firearms safe-handling training of a consistently high standard to licence applicants and licence holders
- maintain regular and consistent monitoring of all licence holders, including dealers, to ensure that they remain fit and proper, and that their possession of arms items is legitimate
- maintain regular and consistent monitoring of shooting clubs and shooting ranges
- ensure that all arms items are stored securely in accordance with the Arms Regulations 1992 and Police guidance, through a regular programme of monitoring licence holders and their premises
- consistently carry out the '4 Es' regulatory approach of Te Tari Pūreke (engage, educate, encourage, enforce)
- issue permits to possess, permits to import, mail order forms and other permissions only to applicants who satisfy the requirements of the Act and Regulations
- monitor and account for the firearms holdings held by the New Zealand community by:
 1. proactively managing the Registry
 2. conducting inspections of firearms and firearms security
 3. monitoring the issuing of permits to import and permits to possess
 4. monitoring the transfer of firearms or arms items by mail order or over the internet
 5. reducing the holding of firearms by facilitating the surrender and destruction of unsafe or unwanted firearms
- carry out enforcement functions of the Arms Act 1983 in relation to criminal activity (Police).

Te Tari Pūreke's strategic partnership with wider Police

Te Tari Pūreke and wider Police (constabulary and other groups within Police) share a responsibility in mitigating risk in our community.

While Te Tari Pūreke delivers the regulatory functions under the Act as a business unit of Police, it collaborates closely with the wider Police, which remains a vital part of the firearms regulatory framework.

Te Tari Pūreke will ensure that wider Police have the information and insights on licence holders and arms items to strengthen investigations and intelligence. In return Police will ensure that Te Tari Pūreke has access to important information and intelligence gathered during their duties.

Police remains responsible for managing criminal matters with respect to firearms.

Together Police and Te Tari Pūreke seek to continuously improve their collaborative approach to the firearms regulatory environment.

Te Tari Pūreke are developing Service Level Agreements in consultation with wider Police. These will be published in Police Instructions at a later date.

Legislative definitions and references

Legislative definitions and references are used throughout the arms chapters and can be found in the relevant arms legislations:

- Arms Act 1983
- Arms Regulations 1992
- Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984
- Arms (Prohibited Ammunition) Order 2019
- Arms (Prohibited Magazine) Order 2019

Other relevant legislations:

- Anti-Personnel Mines Prohibition Act 1998
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2009
- Conservation Act 1987
- Crimes Act 1961
- Customs Import Prohibition (Offensive Weapons) Order 2021
- Domestic Violence Act 1995
- Family Violence Act 2018
- Game Animal Council Act 2013
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1975
- Search and Surveillance Act 2012
- Sentencing Act 2002
- Trespass Act 1980
- Wild Animal Control Act 1977
- Wildlife Act 1953

The arms legislation refers to Police and members of Police. In these arms chapters, 'Police' will be referred to for consistency with the legislation, noting however that most of the regulatory functions, processes and responsibilities under the arms legislations are carried out by Te Tari Pūreke staff.

Certain constabulary matters or delegated authorities in these chapters will be specified throughout.

For further information on Police Firearms and Police's possession of firearms, see the following Police Instructions:

- Police Firearms
- Non-Police firearms security management
- Destruction of non-Police firearms
- Firearms evidence
- Armoury

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