

FIREARMS CHANGES 2017

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

PRESCRIBED FIREARMS SAFES FOR EXISTING LICENSEES

The *Firearms Act 2015* and *Firearms Regulations 2017* outlines new requirements for the storage of firearms. If you held a firearms licence on 1 July 2017 and own firearms, you have the opportunity to seek an approval to continue to use your existing steel firearm safe after the commencement of the new legislation.

You should read this guide in conjunction with all the provisions of the *Firearms Act 2015* and *Firearms Regulations 2017* which commence on 1 July 2017. You can also find further information on the operation and effect of the new legislation by accessing the various guides located on the SAPOL website at

www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons

This guide only applies if you:

- held a current firearms licence on 1 July 2017; **and**
- were the owner of a **Prescribed safe** (see next section for definition) on 1 July 2017, which you have been using to secure all your firearms (up to a maximum number of 19); **and**
- before 1 July 2018, you notify the Registrar of Firearms (Registrar) in writing that you are using that safe to secure all your firearms.

Existing firearms licence holders (at 1 July 2017) – Prescribed safes

If you were an existing firearms licence holder as at 1 July 2017 and were using:

- a steel firearm safe manufactured with a door and side thickness of approximately **1.6 millimetres** (to be known as a **Prescribed safe** under the new legislation) or
- were using a steel safe which meets the new specification of a **Level 1 safe** (side and doors of **2 millimetres thickness**) to store all your firearms of any category

you may seek to utilise the provisions of the new legislation to continue to use your **Prescribed safe** or **Level 1 safe**.

These provisions apply only if prior to 1 July 2018 you:

- Complete a statutory declaration and provide it as notification to the Registrar that as at 1 July 2017 you owned and used a **Prescribed safe** or **Level 1 safe** to secure your firearms and are seeking to continue to use that safe to store all your firearms (up to a maximum number of 19). A statutory declaration form is available on the SAPOL website at www.police.sa.gov.au (search RF2152).
- Post the declaration to the Registrar of Firearms, 100 Angas Street, Adelaide SA 5000 or email it to sapol.firearmsbranch@police.sa.gov.au
- Await written confirmation from the Registrar that your statutory declaration has been received and that your **Prescribed safe** or **Level 1 safe** has been recorded as being utilised by you.

Important information

If your declaration is subsequently found to be falsely made or deliberately misleading you may be liable to prosecution for an offence against Section 69 of the *Firearms Act 2015*.

Your **Prescribed safe** or **Level 1 safe** will be considered being utilised by you once the Registrar has confirmed receipt of your statutory declaration in writing.

Once you have received written confirmation from the Registrar, you may continue to use your **Prescribed safe** or **Level 1 safe** to secure your firearms (up to a maximum number of 19) on a permanent basis.

If you become a licence holder after 1 July 2017, or the number of firearms to be permanently stored by you and any other licensee at your principal place of residence or business totals 20 or more, then the new legislation provisions apply.

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Where can I find more information?

The information provided in this document is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 2015* and the *Firearms Regulation 2017* which are available at www.legislation.sa.gov.au A suite of information guides on the legislative changes is provided on SAPOL's website at www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons

For further information, contact Firearms Branch via sapol.firearmsbranch@police.sa.gov.au or by telephone 7322 3346.



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