

FIREARMS CHANGES 2017

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

STORAGE OF FIREARMS – 50 or more firearms

Anyone in possession of a firearm in South Australia must comply with the *Code of Practice for the Security, Storage and Transport of Firearms, Ammunition and Related Items* set out in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Regulations 2017*. This guide sets out minimum requirements for the storage of 50 or more firearms. You can find further information on the operation and effect of this legislation by accessing the various guides located on the SAPOL website at:

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

General requirements regarding the storage of firearms

Firearms must be stored unloaded and you must take all reasonable precautions to prevent your firearm(s) from becoming lost, stolen or falling into the possession of an unauthorised person. Failure to do so may be an offence.

You can only change the manner of your firearm security if the Registrar of Firearms (Registrar) has approved the change in writing. However, if for a short-term, temporary basis you are residing at a residential premises other than your usual place of residence, or occupying a business premises other than your usual place of business, approval of the Registrar is not required so long as the firearm/s are kept at those other premises and you otherwise comply with the requirements of the Code.

*** If you are an existing licence holder as at 1 July 2017, transitional provisions provide 12 months (i.e. to 1 July 2018) to make the required changes to your security arrangements.*

Storage location

Your firearm(s) must be stored at your principal place of residence, or if you possess your firearm(s) for the purpose of your business, at your principal place of business unless the Registrar has approved storage at an alternative premises. Ammunition must be stored separate from firearms.

Establishing the number and category of firearms for storage requirements

The number and category of firearms in your possession (excluding paint-ball and deactivated firearms) are those permanently kept at a particular residential or business premises. You can establish your storage requirements by considering the following:

- if you are the only person who keeps firearms at a premises, you need only consider those you keep there;
- if others reside at or occupy premises with you and keep firearms there:
 - the total number of all firearms permanently kept there by yourself and the others will determine your storage requirement (e.g. if you permanently keep 34 firearms and another person keeps 18 firearms at the same premises your storage requirements will be for 52 firearms); and
 - your storage requirement will directly relate to any and all categories of firearm(s) permanently kept at the premises.

Joint storage of firearms

Under the new legislation you can now permanently store your firearms in the same strongroom:

- used by another person permanently residing at the same premises, or
- used by another person permanently occupying the same business premises

provided they are secured inside a separate locked compartment or are secured by a separate cable or other device which serves to prevent unauthorised access, removal or possession by another person. If you decide to jointly store your firearms in this manner you must notify the Registrar of the manner and place you are storing your firearm(s).

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Storage of 50 or more firearms (not at a dealer premises)

If the total number of firearms of any category kept permanently at your premises (or relevant other building or outbuilding) is 50 or more (or includes 30 or more category H firearms), you will be required to store all your firearms in accordance with the requirements of **storage level 3** locked in a **strongroom** in the building or outbuilding on the premises where the firearms are kept. The building or outbuilding must also be installed with both –

- (A) a Closed Circuit Television (Security) system that is activated and operating when the premises is unoccupied to detect and record any unauthorised entry to the premises in which a firearm is kept, or any unauthorised interference with a firearm; **and**
an intruder alarm system fitted with an external visible alarm warning light and audible alarm and/or one remotely monitored by a private security company approved by the Registrar
- or –**
- (B) in some other manner approved by the Registrar.

Strongrooms

For information on the specifications of a **strongroom** refer to Schedule 1, Clause 2(1) Interpretations of the *Firearms Regulations 2017* or contact Firearms Branch.

Outbuildings

An outbuilding is one other than the main building at the premises, including a shed or garage (excluding a fully enclosed garage under the main roof) that must:

- be affixed to the land it is situated on; and
- be fully enclosed in a building in a structurally sound condition; and
- have a door or point of entry capable of being securely locked.

Security of strongroom keys

You must take all reasonable precautions to prevent your strongroom key, strongroom key card or strongroom key code, etc. from being lost, stolen or coming into an unauthorised person's possession or knowledge. This means you must not:

- tell another person your safe combination, key code or electronic access code, unless they are able to lawfully access the safe;
- leave a record of your safe combination, key code or electronic access code in a place it may be discovered by an unauthorised person;
- leave the safe key in the lock of the safe, give it to another person or advise of its whereabouts or leave it where it may be discovered by an unauthorised person;
- store your safe key in a container used to secure ammunition suitable for use in a firearm secured in your safe.

Holders of primary producer licences should note that clause 7(11) of Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Regulations 2017* allows you to permit licensed relatives and employees to access firearms safes in some circumstances.

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.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE



Government
of South Australia