

TRANSPORTING FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

It is important that your firearms are secured responsibly when being transported to ensure they are not lost or stolen and to prevent access by those who are not authorised to possess them. This guide is provided to assist you in understanding your obligations attached to transporting firearms and ammunition in South Australia after 1 July 2017. You should read this guide in conjunction with all the provisions of the *Firearms Act 2015* and *Firearms Regulations 2017*. You can also 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

Reasonable precautions

While legislation relating to the transportation of firearms recognises the circumstances in which firearms may be transported will vary (e.g. vehicle type, available methods or locations of security, etc.), anytime you are transporting a firearm or ammunition in a vehicle, vessel or aircraft you must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the firearm or ammunition from being lost, stolen or coming into the possession of an unauthorised person.

Firearms must not be loaded

You must not transport a firearm while a round of ammunition is in the breech, barrel chamber or magazine, unless:

- the ammunition cannot be removed because of a malfunction of the firearm; or
- a primary production exemption applies.

Security of firearms or ammunition

When transporting a firearm or ammunition you must, if the vehicle, vessel or aircraft allows, securely lock your firearm or ammunition in a lockable boot, glove box, cupboard or other compartment, or any securely fixed internal or external container ('lockable compartment').

When transporting a firearm and ammunition at the same time in a vehicle, vessel or aircraft with more than one lockable compartment in which your firearm or ammunition fits, you must secure your firearm and ammunition in separately locked compartments, unless that is not reasonably practicable in the circumstances; or to do so would not be using the best means reasonably available to you.

When transporting a firearm or ammunition in a vehicle, vessel or aircraft, so far as reasonably practicable, the firearm or ammunition must be covered, concealed or otherwise placed out of sight.

When transporting a firearm or ammunition in a vehicle, vessel or aircraft, unless not reasonably practicable in the circumstances, and subject to any Act or law, the firearm or ammunition must not be in a compartment or container that is marked in a way, or has anything on or attached to it, indicating a firearm or ammunition is inside.

Firearms not to be left in unattended vehicles

When a firearm is being transported it must not be left in an unattended vehicle, vessel or aircraft unless you have a reasonable excuse in the circumstances to leave the vehicle, vessel or aircraft unattended; and the vehicle, vessel or aircraft is securely locked; and the vehicle, vessel or aircraft is left unattended for no longer than is reasonably necessary in the circumstances.

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Additional provisions - commercial transport operators

When undertaking the business of transporting goods, you may only transport a firearm and ammunition in the same vehicle, vessel or aircraft if the owner of the firearm and the owner of the ammunition are also being transported in that same vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or the firearm and ammunition are locked in separate containers or compartments; or you have obtained the approval of the Registrar of Firearms.

When you are transporting a firearm or ammunition in the ordinary course of the business of transporting goods you must report any loss or theft of that firearm or ammunition:

- verbally to a police officer within 24 hours (unless you have a reasonable excuse for not doing so); and
- give the Registrar of Firearms written notice within 7 days.

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.

