

Firearms Licence Course: What to Read

11029NAT, Southport, Thursday 29 October 2026. 45 pages picked from the 143-page course pack.

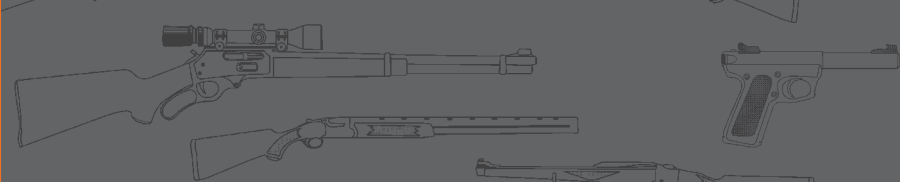
The 16 safety rules National Firearms Safety Code: know these cold	page 2
Safety, licensing, transport and the rules explained Handbook 2 pp 3-18	page 3
Parts, functions and actions Handbook 2 pp 18-21	page 19
Ammunition types Handbook 2 pp 25-26	page 22
Effective vs maximum range, buying ammo Handbook 2 pp 28-29	page 24
Applying for a licence and permits to acquire Handbook 3 pp 5-10	page 26
Changes you must report within 14 days Handbook 3 p 13	page 32
Showing your licence to police Handbook 3 p 17	page 33
Form 33: shooting unlicensed at a range Handbook 3 pp 24-25	page 34
Public places, alcohol, private land, storage, vehicles Handbook 3 pp 26-31	page 36
Selling, advertising and posting firearms Handbook 3 pp 33-34	page 42
Weapon categories A, B, C, D, E, H and R Handbook 3 pp 39-40, 42	page 44

Also

Flashcards: study.skirmishgoldcoast.com.au (start with the key cards).

Videos on the course page: 8 Fundamentals of Firearms Safety, and Firearms Safety.

On the day: Form 33 filled in but NOT signed, driver licence, covered shoes.



THE NATIONAL FIREARMS SAFETY CODE

1. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
2. Your firearm is your responsibility.
3. Always ensure your firing zone is clear and identify your target beyond all doubt.
4. Never point a firearm at or near another person.
5. Never load a firearm until you are ready to shoot.
6. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
7. When you have finished shooting remove the magazine (if fitted), unload and then check that the chamber is empty.
8. Make sure that all firearms are transported securely to prevent misuse or theft.
9. Never allow unauthorised access to your firearm(s) or ammunition.
10. Do not climb fences or obstacles with loaded firearms.
11. Encourage safe and responsible handling of firearms in the field, on the range, and within the community.
12. Never mix shooting with alcohol or drugs.
13. Understand the operation of your firearm, keep it in good repair, and always use the correct ammunition.
14. Never store firearms and ammunition together. Ensure they are safely locked away when not in use.
15. Be familiar with the legal requirements for safe storage, firearms ownership, possession and use in your state or territory, or in the state or territory you are visiting.
16. Dispose of unwanted firearms lawfully. Surrender them to the police or sell them to or through a licensed dealer.

OBSERVE THE CODE: INSIST OTHERS DO THE SAME

INTRODUCTION TO SAFETY.

It is always claimed that firearms are dangerous, by those who are not familiar with firearms, but the simple fact is that a firearm is an inanimate object, incapable of causing any injury until it is in the hands of a human being. Accidents are caused by people - not firearms.

The most important rule of firearm safety is that "the firearm is loaded" no matter what anyone has told you or what you may think — "the firearm is always loaded until you have cleared it and it can be seen to be empty" i.e. you have proved the firearm to be unloaded.

For organised shooting on a range and when handling firearms for demonstration and instructional purposes, rule of conduct and safety can be laid down and enforced. Simply put, it is that the handling of firearms must not give the slightest danger, nor give the slightest feeling of apprehension to anyone, in the immediate vicinity.

On their own, safety rules will never prevent an accident. It is the constant use and thought of the rules to the stage that safety becomes automatic, but even that is not enough. A person handling firearms must have their mind fully devoted to their actions. It is a full time job, you cannot forget — YOU cannot guess — you must know!!!

The following seven safety points are in the must know category. Remember them:

- How it works.
- Whether it is loaded.
- Where is it pointed?
- Where the target is.
- What the target is.
- Where the bullet will go.
- And most importantly— where the bullet will STOP.

Remember— Safety is not just a word or condition, it is a state of mind and that must be on full alert when handling firearms, operating a range or training new shooters.

Two things make up an accident—

- An unsafe act.
- An unsafe condition.

AGAIN: - Accidents do not happen — they are caused.

It would be almost impossible to anticipate all the situations in which a firearm accident could happen, and limitless lists of rules could be made, but the general basic rules following should be followed.

- Treat every firearm with respect; ensure that the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction — down range.
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded until you have personally proven otherwise.
- Prove your firearm before handing it to someone else.
- Prove the firearm after receiving it from someone else.
- When a firearm is unattended, it must be left unloaded, secure, safe and in a stable condition.

- Never throw a firearm to someone else — it is stupid as well as dangerous. Do not attempt to catch a firearm thrown to you.
- To prevent a ricochet, do not shoot at hard flat surfaces or water.
- Always carry a firearm with complete control.
- Never point a firearm at any PERSON whether unloaded or not.
- Do not cock a firearm or place your finger on the trigger unless you are ready to fire.
- Be sure of your target. Always identify your target and what is behind it before you fire.
- Check your ammunition before use. Is it the correct size and type for the firearm in use?
- Store ammunition and firearms separately in a dry and secure place.
- Always maintain your firearms in good condition, have them checked regularly by a competent gunsmith.
- Remember gun powder and alcohol don't mix, so do not drink and fire.

Firearms may only be carried on a shooting range unloaded, in a gun case and under the control of a Range Officer, Coach or Range Safety and Training Officer.

When carrying and passing firearms to another person the safest way is (unless it is a malfunction and you are handing it to the Range Officer):-

- For a semi-automatic; to have the action open and the magazine removed from the firearm
- For a revolver; to have the cylinder unloaded and swung out.
- Any time you are handling a firearm
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction (down range); and
- Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

SPECIFIC SAFETY

Various matches have particular safety rules that are specific for the particular matches, for example,

- Silhouette has a safety cone allowance because of the peculiarities of the "Creedmoor" position.
- Black Powder matches have special loading, unloading, malfunction and hang-fire rules due to the fact that Black Powder firearms have the powder loaded directly into the firearm and not into a cartridge. Also the volatile powder, during loading, is open to the atmosphere therefore increasing the chance of a spark from another source igniting it. A notice stating "No Naked Flame is Allowed Within" should be displayed. Glasses must be worn at all times.
- Action Pistol, Service Pistol and WA 1500 have special rules regarding the wearing of holsters. (New shooters should be trained and tested by the Holster Proficiency Tester prior to them using holsters on the range.) Glasses must be worn at all times by shooters and spectators.

SPORT SHOOTING RANGE COMMANDS FOR VARIOUS DISCIPLINES

Different shooting disciplines have varying commands for the running of that discipline. All shooters should make themselves aware of the rules and commands for the event they are shooting. Some basic commands are:

- SHOOTERS TO THE LINE - shooters arrange their equipment on the shooting line
- LOAD – shooters load their magazines and firearms
- START – start shooting the series
- STOP – stop shooting

- UNLOAD – unload firearms, leave on bench pointing downrange with the action open

Step away from the firing line to allow Range Officer to check all firearms are safe.

REMEMBER it is YOUR responsibility to know the rules of the matches you are shooting.

Black Powder matches have specific commands as the firearms generally have the powder and balls loaded in an area separate to the shooting area. A series will start with the command "LOAD BUT DO NOT CAP" then "SHOOTERS TO THE LINE" followed by "CAP PISTOLS" === "ARE YOU READY" === "FIRE" followed then by "CEASE FIRE" and "UNLOAD".

Commercial, Security and Police venues may use such terms as: - - x rounds on target on right in your own time GO ON" or ' - - x rounds each on appearance - - ENGAGE TARGETS". "CEASE FIRE" may signal end of a series or whistle blasts.

As you can see, we can be exposed to a variety of commands, and shooters coming from a different shooting group may not understand specific commands at an early stage in a new environment. For this reason, it is recommended for new shooters and trainees in the Weapons Act Safety Course, that the commands "START" and "STOP" followed by "UNLOAD" be used. It would be wise to impress on all trainees that no matter where or on what range they may be shooting, that they should immediately stop shooting on hearing the command "STOP" or "CEASE FIRE".

LICENSING

A Firearms Licence may be issued only if a person has an adequate knowledge of safety practices for the Use, storage, and maintenance of the weapon or category of firearm, the possession of which is authorised by the licence.

When applying for a licence, you need to have a genuine reason to possess a firearm. Reasons are prescribed by the Weapons Act 1990 and include:

- Sports or target shooting as a member of an approved club
- Recreational shooting (such as hunting on a property of approved size where permission has been obtained from a land owner) (NOT Category H (Pistol))
- An occupational requirement including a rural occupational requirement (such as for putting down diseased stock or control of vermin) ➤ Collection by a collector of weapons
- Another reason as allowed under regulation
- All Category H firearms, which have been rendered permanently inoperable, must be registered to a licence of that Category.

Persons wanting a licence to possess a firearm must also have access to secure storage facilities and be a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

CATEGORY "H" FOR RURAL PURPOSES

Requirements:

- Holster proficiency tests are not required to utilise holsters for primary production purposes.
- Category "H" licences are normally issued for humanely dispatching injured or wounded livestock. It is normally understood that control of feral pests and wild dogs etc cannot be done effectively with a Category "H" firearm.

- A genuine need for a Category "H" firearm could be that the terrain is not accessible by conventional 4WD vehicles.
- Category "H" firearms must not be carried loaded or exposed when crossing public roads between paddocks or properties.

Category "H" calibres can range from .22 to .45 for rural Uses, and should be stored in a locked steel container when not in use.

CATEGORY "C" FOR RURAL PURPOSES

Requirements:

- That the genuine requirement for Category "C" Firearm cannot be met by using a Category "A" or "B".
- A reasonable land size with pest management issues to demonstrate a genuine need; e.g. Wild dogs, feral pigs etc. Damage mitigation permits can also support your application.
- Individual licences are required by property owners if more than one owner (family partnerships), in a situation where you traverse across public places; e.g. roads. (where public roads dissect between properties)
- Note: Category "C" firearms cannot be used for recreational shooting, but Category "C" shotguns can be used for clay target shooting if the shooter is SCI licensed.
- A suggested reason for requiring a Category "C" for primary production purposes could be: Due to the fact that feral pigs and wild dogs attack livestock in packs, a number of quick successive shots are required to humanely dispatch the feral pests.

It is a requirement of each licence that any changes to the conditions of issue of the licence are notified to the police within 14 days of the event causing the change of conditions.

These changes may be such things as: a change of address, a change in the reasons for having a firearm, club membership expires, a landowner revokes permission to shoot on his property or no longer having access to secure storage of the firearms.

VISITORS TO QUEENSLAND FROM OTHER STATES

Firearm Licences held by residents of other Australian States will be given temporary recognition in Queensland where the visit is for participation in a shooting competition, for recreational hunting on a property for which they have obtained prior permission, or occupational purposes on rural properties.

Interstate Firearms Licences must be converted to a Queensland Licence where a Licence holder intends to permanently reside in Queensland.

The person's licence is taken to be the corresponding licence under this Act in force for the period mentioned in subsection (3) or until the day the person's application for a licence under this Act is approved or rejected, whichever is the earlier.

The periods are:

For a licence authorising possession of a category A or B weapon or a category M crossbow — 3 months; and For a licence authorising possession of a category C, D or H weapon — 7 days.

TRANSPORT OF FIREARMS

All firearms should be transported in a carry case or carry bag. While being transported all firearms should be unloaded and where applicable, the bolt should be removed.

When travelling with firearms you should take precautions to minimise the likelihood of unauthorised access or theft. Depending on the circumstances it may be more secure to lock your firearms up within your temporary accommodation (motel room, guestroom) rather than leaving them locked in your car. Give careful thought to how you will secure your firearm before leaving on your trip and take appropriate trigger locks, chains or padlocks with you.

If travelling interstate it is important to remember that each State and Territory has its own firearms legislation. It may be that the regulations pertaining to transporting firearms and ammunition in your State or Territory differ slightly to those in the State or Territory to which you are travelling. It is important to contact the relevant Firearms Registry before travelling interstate.

PUBLIC PLACES

In public places, it is a requirement of law that firearms must not be exposed to the view of the public without reasonable excuse. They must be in a condition not capable of being discharged. Depending on the type of firearm you own, this may involve having the bolt removed, the action held open or an obstruction placed in the action to prevent it from closing, the action broken or the firearm dis-assembled.

VEHICLES

If possible, firearm carry cases/boxes should be kept out of sight in the vehicle. When transporting a firearm by vehicle, the person in control of the firearm must ensure that if the vehicle has a lockable boot, the firearm is locked in the boot. For vehicles, which do not have a boot, such as a tray back utility, the firearm must be locked in a metal container. If a metal container fixed to the vehicle is used, the metal box or anything on it is not to suggest that there is a firearm inside.

Vehicles should not be considered to be a secure option in which to store your firearms.

Remember, ammunition must be stored separately from the firearm and transported in its box and secured.

An unlicensed person should not be left in charge of a vehicle carrying firearms. Use of gun racks in cars is illegal on public roads.

AIRCRAFT

If travelling by air, you must contact the airline with which you are travelling well before the departure date. You are required to declare carriage of firearms and ammunition and they will advise you of their requirements as to how your firearms are to be transported. Generally, when travelling by air:

- Firearms must be in a locked container
- Passenger must have the key to the container
- Firearms will be checked by airline staff at check-in (ask for private room) to ensure that they are unloaded. Extra time of at least 45 minutes should be allowed for this to be done.
- No loose ammunition will be transported. All ammunition must be packed in manufacturer's packaging and in accordance with carriage of dangerous goods.
- All air cylinders must be empty

Under no circumstances will ammunition or firearms be permitted to be carried in the passenger compartment of any aircraft.

FIREARMS INCIDENTS

One of the main objectives of firearm safety is to reduce the incidence of firearms accidents. In reality, there are few incidents that can be identified as a firearm accident. In almost every case at least one principle of the National Firearms Safety Code will have been breached.

It is essential that you, as a firearm owner / user, are aware of your responsibilities to yourself, your family, fellow shooters and members of the community.

It is virtually impossible to anticipate incidents and have rules to prevent every unsafe situation where accidents involving firearms may occur.

Knowledge of the basic rules is essential to prevent accidents, but to do this, the rules must be thoroughly understood and correctly applied at all times.

Two things make up an accident:

1. An unsafe condition of the firearm.
(Such as a loaded firearm cocked with the safety catch off when not intending to fire the firearm):
and
2. An unsafe act by the person in control of the firearm.
(Such as placing the finger on the trigger when not actually intending to fire the firearm)

Persons in control of a firearm should know the condition of the firearm at all times. That is:

- Is the firearm loaded?
- Is there a round in the chamber?
- Is it cocked?
- Is the safety catch applied?
- Where is it aiming? Is muzzle pointing in a safe direction?

The degree of firearm readiness should be appropriate to the situation and the legal requirements, which may apply. The firearm should not be loaded or in a condition able to be discharged unless you are actually engaged in firing the firearm.

The condition of a firearm should be checked:

- When you first take control of the firearm either from storage or when handed a firearm by another person;
- Prior to handing the firearm to another person
- Prior to cleaning the firearm
- Prior to placing the firearm back in storage
- Whenever you are unsure of the condition of the firearm

FIREARMS SAFETY RULES EXPLAINED

Now that you have some basic knowledge on how your firearm operates let's go over the SAFETY RULES again and explain them a little more.

1. TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS BEING LOADED

Check every firearm yourself, do not take the word of another person that a firearm is unloaded.

Pass or accept only open and unloaded firearms. Never ever accept or pass a firearm to another person unless the breech is open and all ammunition has been removed from the firearm.

Get to know your firearm; learn thoroughly the way it works, what action to take in case of a jam or malfunction, how to tell if it is loaded or unloaded, how to remove the magazine where possible and how to care for your firearm correctly.

Always keep your finger off the trigger and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction; be muzzle conscious.

If you do not know how to open a firearm leave it alone. A definition of a safe direction is in rule 3.

When handing a firearm to another person remember the following points

- Point the muzzle in a safe direction
- Open the bolt or action
- Check that the breech is empty
- Check that the magazine is empty or has been removed

Remember: never leave firearms loaded

Each year several people (often children) are injured or killed because a careless firearm user left a firearm loaded. Remember, when you are not using your firearm, unload it, and remove all rounds or cartridges from the breech or the magazine.

TIMES FOR SPECIAL CARE:

Never allow your finger to go inside the trigger guard unless you are about to shoot. Be particularly careful at the moment of closing, cocking, releasing the safety catch, uncocking or opening a loaded firearm. These are danger times when a firearm may be accidentally discharged through poor handling procedures or mechanical failure.

Special care is required when using the action to unload live ammunition from a firearm, e.g. a lever action. Fully chambering ammunition should be avoided where possible when using the action to unload.

2. YOUR FIREARM IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

If you own/use a firearm you must comply with the requirements of the firearms legislation in your State or Territory. You are both legally and morally responsible for your firearm.

Responsible ownership and use of a firearm can:

- Prevent you being responsible for an accident with your firearm.
- Prevent the prospect of you being subject to civil and/or criminal charges.
- Prevent the possible loss of life through the misuse of your firearm.
- Prevent the illegal use of your firearm.

Remember: You are responsible for your firearm under all circumstances. You should not confine yourself to doing the right thing and obeying the law simply because of the risk of prosecution if you

do not. You should comply with and promote the National Firearms Safety Code because it is the right thing to do.

3. ALWAYS ENSURE YOUR FIRING ZONE IS CLEAR AND IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET BEYOND ALL DOUBT.

WHAT IS A SAFE DIRECTION?

Loaded or unloaded, always point the muzzle in a safe direction. A safe direction will depend on where you are and what you are doing.

WHAT IS A SAFE DIRECTION?

Many theories abound on this subject, all of them most likely correct, however the simple answer is that a safe direction is based on where you are and what you are doing. Remember bullets can kill having passed through a wall, the ceiling or a car boot. Never assume a firearm is unloaded therefore the 'danger zone' is the arc through which the firearm can be pointed or moved.

Be aware of where the bullet would go if the firearm discharged. Remember bullets go through walls, ceilings and car doors with relative ease. Do not at any time point any firearm at yourself or another person. Do not allow careless habits to form. Concentrate on what you are doing and don't become distracted or daydream whilst you are handling firearms.

Never lean your firearms against a vehicle or put them in any place where they could slide or fall causing uncontrolled discharge of the firearm.

When removing a firearm from a vehicle or boat ensure that it is unloaded and be very careful to remove the firearm butt first, never remove it muzzle first.

Remember; do not let the muzzle point at anyone else or yourself. Be muzzle conscious.

IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEHIND IT

Make sure of your target before firing. It is not good enough to just think that what you see is your target.

Remember:

- Do not fire at movement only
- Do not fire at colour only
- Do not fire at sound only
- Do not fire at shape only

Your target must be positively identified before firing; if in doubt, do not shoot.

In the early morning or late evening, it is not easy to see clearly. Be sure the object you are aiming at is clearly identified and that it is in full view before you shoot.

WHAT IS BEHIND YOUR TARGET?

What will happen if you miss the target or the bullet passes through the target? What MIGHT you hit between you and your target? The firing zone is not only the area between you and your target, but also the area beyond the target, which is still within the extreme range of your firearm.

The effective danger range for projectiles, generally are:

.22 rim fire rifle	1500 metres (1.5 kilometres)
.303	3600 metres (3.6 kilometres)
.308	4050 metres (4.0 kilometres)
Air Rifle	150 metres
Shotgun	250 — 700 metres (depending on shot size)
BB shot	450 metres

Check your firing zone with special care when shooting at birds in flight. Shotguns need extra care because of the greater spread of pellets. Also remember when shooting at moving targets the danger area will increase because your target is moving. Be particularly aware of the position of other shooters who may be nearby.

It is essential that you ensure that your sights are correctly aligned, especially when using a telescopic sight; if your sights are not correctly aligned you may miss your target and increase the chance of hitting something that you did not intend to hit.

NEVER FIRE AT HARD SURFACES OR WATER

Consider the area in which you are shooting. Could a ricochet occur? A ricochet will almost certainly result from shooting at water, smooth flat surfaces and rocks.

Remember that when a ricochet occurs, you have lost control of where the projectile will finish up, resulting in possible injury, or even death, to another person or damage to property.

Be especially careful when shooting with an air rifle. Because of the slow velocity of pellets fired from air rifles they are very prone to ricochet and should be treated with the utmost caution. Rim fire and centrefire rifle

bullets are prone to ricochet as they lose velocity at the end of their travel, which can be some considerable distance.

When shooting with a shotgun, your chances of a ricochet are multiplied by the number of pellets in the cartridge that you are using. It takes only one pellet to cause serious injury or death. Be particularly aware of this if you are shooting over water or over hard flat surfaces.

4. NEVER POINT A FIREARM AT OR NEAR ANOTHER PERSON.

Loaded or unloaded, always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Always be aware of the 'Danger Zone'

5. NEVER LOAD A FIREARM UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT.

6. NEVER TAKE LOADED FIREARMS INTO THE CAR, THE HOME OR THE CAMP.

Many people have been injured or killed having broken this rule. Before entering a car, home or camp unload your firearm. Ensure that the action is open and there is no ammunition in the breech or the magazine. Pay particular attention to tubular or rotary magazines to ensure that all rounds are removed.

IN THE FIELD

This is a very important area for novice shooters. It is essential that you understand the basic principles that apply to using firearms in the field.

In the field firearms should be carried unloaded with the action open, until you are in your shooting area and you are expecting game to be flushed.

Always point your firearm in a safe direction, be aware of your surroundings, and if hunting with companions be especially careful of where you are pointing your muzzle, be aware of where your companions are, especially in thick scrub where you may lose sight of them.

If hunting in a party where shooters are walking line abreast be extremely conscious of the person either side of you. Take a shot only if the target is in front of you or if you are the shooter on the end of the line and can turn away from your companions to take a shot in safety.

If stalking game with companions and you are walking one behind the other, then the only person who should have his firearm loaded is the person in the lead.

If shooting from a boat or punt, keep both hands on your firearm and control the direction of the muzzle at all times. Do not carry LOADED firearms in a boat or punt unless you are ready to shoot.

Barrel obstructions are very common in the field due to objects such as mud, twigs, etc., becoming lodged in the barrel. It pays to check your barrel frequently to ensure that you do not have an obstruction. If you drop your firearm you should immediately check the barrel for obstructions. If a cartridge produces an unusual or soft sound when fired, you should check the barrel for an obstruction before firing again. ALWAYS unload the firearm before checking for obstructions.

When shooting in the field do not use set triggers or hair triggers. These are designed for target shooting and really have no place in the field. A simple knock is all it may take to cause an unintentional discharge.

When leaving or returning to a vehicle or camp make sure that your firearm is unloaded. Where possible, the magazine and bolt should be removed.

A person who handles firearms safely should refuse to hunt with a person who insists on violating the principles of safe firearms handling.

Remember, in the field, as elsewhere, firearms and alcohol do not mix.

When in the field, ensure that your dress is suitable for the conditions that you may encounter, and if going into mountainous areas, be prepared for sudden changes in the weather. Wear appropriate footwear when hunting, to protect your feet from injury and prevent you from slipping.

Thongs and sandals are not safe at any time whilst using firearms.

7. KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT.

It is not safe practice to have your finger on the trigger or inside the trigger guard until the moment before you are ready to fire at your target.

Firearms in good order have trigger pressures set at safe levels. Normally the manufacturer sets this before they leave the factory. This does not mean that it is safe to leave your finger on the trigger while carrying your firearm, as other factors or distractions may cause the trigger to be set off accidentally. Trigger adjustments should only be carried out by a competent person, preferably a qualified gunsmith.

Most firearms have a safety catch fitted by the manufacturer. Safety catches have two positions.

ON or SAFE

In this position the firearm is restricted from firing in the event of the trigger being accidentally pulled or snagged on a branch when moving through dense vegetation.

OFF or FIRE

When in this position the firearm can be discharged by pulling the trigger. Most firearms have markings stamped into the metal work or coloured dots to indicate the current status of the safety catch.

NOTE: DO NOT RELY SOLELY ON SAFETY CATCHES - they are a mechanical device and may fail to engage properly or be knocked off.

8. WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED SHOOTING REMOVE THE MAGAZINE (IF FITTED), UNLOAD AND THEN CHECK THAT THE CHAMBER IS EMPTY.

On completion of shooting or handling a firearm, you should open the action and remove any live rounds from the chamber. You should make it a habit to check that the chamber is empty. At this stage you should also remove (if possible) or empty the magazine. Not all firearm magazines are removable or easily checked. Magazines may be removable, or fixed (box/hinged floor plate, tubular or some box magazines).

Remember: Your firearm is considered loaded if the action is open and if a live round is in the chamber or, if the magazine still contains a live round, even if the magazine is not attached to the firearm.

9. MAKE SURE THAT ALL FIREARMS ARE TRANSPORTED SECURELY TO PREVENT MISUSE OR THEFT.

When travelling with firearms, you should take precautions to minimise the likelihood of unauthorised access or theft. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more secure to lock your firearms up within your temporary accommodation (motel room, guestroom) rather than leaving them locked in your car. Give careful thought to how you will secure your firearms before leaving on your trip and take appropriate trigger locks, chains and padlocks with you.

If travelling interstate, it is important to remember that each State and Territory has its own firearms legislation. It may be that the regulations pertaining to transporting firearms and ammunition in your State or Territory differ slightly to those in the State or Territory to which you are travelling. It is important to contact the relevant Firearms Registry before travelling interstate.

10. NEVER ALLOW UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO YOUR FIREARM(S) OR AMMUNITION.

FIREARM SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME

The storage of firearms and ammunition is your responsibility. You must never allow unauthorised persons access to your firearm(s) or ammunition. Your firearm(s) should only be accessed when you are present to ensure safe handling. You must ensure that your firearm(s) cannot be easily stolen.

When not in use, you must secure your firearms and ammunition separately, not only for safety reasons. Safes or other storage containment facilities must be constructed and secured in accordance with Queensland Police/Government Regulations. Brown built lockers, old refrigerators or containers are not recommended storage systems.

As a firearm owner/user, you are responsible for making absolutely sure that all the safety requirements within the home are carried out. Over the years, a considerable number of children have been killed or injured because firearms were left in an unsafe condition in the home. So **THINK** when putting your firearm/s away. Do not put **YOUR FAMILY AT RISK**.

Before storing your firearm/s —

- Make sure your firearm is unloaded (magazine and chamber empty)
- Clean the firearm and lightly oil it before putting it away
- If possible, remove the bolt and magazine and lock it away separately from the firearm
- Leave the action open on firearms where the bolt cannot be easily removed such as lever action or self-loading rifles
- Break action firearms must be stored with the action broken or dis-assembled
- Store firearms and ammunition separately

REMEMBER YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR FAMILY AND TO OTHERS.

Make sure that all members of your family, especially the children, are aware of what a firearm is, what it is designed for (its capacity to kill or injure) and why it must not be touched.

ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE CONTROL OF KEYS TO PREVENT ACCESS TO YOUR FIREARMS.

11. DO NOT CLIMB FENCES OR OBSTACLES WITH LOADED FIREARMS.

Every year shooters are shot (Usually with their own firearm) as they attempt to negotiate fences and/or obstacles with loaded firearms.

Before attempting to negotiate a fence or obstacle, unload your firearm. **DO NOT RELY ON SAFETY CATCHES.** Safety catches, at best, only supplement the safe handling of firearms.

If attempting to cross a fence alone:

- Unload your firearm
- Place it through the fence and lay it on the ground with the muzzle pointing in a **SAFE DIRECTION**. Then cross the fence away from your firearm.

If crossing a fence with a friend:

- Ensure all firearms are unloaded
- Use the same method as for crossing alone, or hand your unloaded firearm to your companion and then cross the fence. Then have your companion hand you your unloaded firearm and his unloaded firearm.

These two methods of crossing, if carried out correctly, will prevent injury or possible death by a firearm, as could be the case if neither method was used.

THINK BEFORE YOU CROSS: UNLOAD THAT FIREARM

12. ENCOURAGE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE SHOOTING PRACTICES IN THE FIELD, ON THE RANGE, AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Those involved with firearms should be ambassadors in the community for current and prospective firearms owners/users.

By exercising and encouraging training in the safe use of firearms by members of the community, clubs and collectors, it is possible to provide a safe environment for all.

Shooting and hunting ethics should be encouraged.

The use of both body and mind is necessary if one is to become proficient in the use of a firearm. It is therefore critical that those involved in the handling and use of firearms gain proficiency in as many aspects relating to them as possible.

Firearms have the potential to fire projectiles for distances far past the target. YOU should be aware of the capabilities and potential of your firearm. Ensure you are aware of what is around and beyond your target and do not shoot if it is not safe to do so. Refuse to shoot with a person who does not have safe firearm practices.

ANIMAL WELFARE ETHICS

Animal welfare ethics in regard to hunting or firearm use is very controversial and subject to media scrutiny:

Usually with the ultimate goal of either banning hunting or firearms use and ownership. It is the hunter's responsibility to ensure that animal welfare ethics are adhered to in a manner that is humane to animals, and does not bring hunting or firearm ownership into disrepute.

The Commonwealth Government Sub-Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW) of the Animal Health Committee (AHC), has prepared Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals for the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Agriculture. Thirteen different Codes for aspects of agricultural animal welfare have been endorsed by the Australian Agricultural Council. These Model Codes of Practice apply to all states and territories of Australia.

The first thing that the hunter should learn are the principles of humane destruction. These principles cover topics such as animal anatomy (e.g. where the brain and heart/lung is located); correct selection of calibre, projectile type and weight for the target species, and how projectiles kill.

THE BASIC CODE OF PRACTICE:

The primary objective when shooting animals is to achieve instantaneous loss of consciousness and rapid death without regaining consciousness. This can be regarded as 'sudden and painless death'. Shooters should not fire at an animal unless they are confident of destroying it efficiently and humanely.

Shooting, if done properly, is a most effective, and in some cases, the only method for humanely destroying animals. To provide maximum impact and minimum misdirection, the operational range should be as close as circumstances allow. Shots should be aimed to destroy the brain, heart/lung or connecting blood vessels of the heart. Shooting at other parts of the body is not appropriate and likely to wound the animal.

Where an animal is wounded there is an ethical and humane obligation to ensure the death of that animal is complete before engaging another target or another activity. Where nursing females are shot, ensure that any offspring are targeted next so that they do not suffer.

13. NEVER MIX SHOOTING WITH ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.

GOOD JUDGE-MENT IS THE KEY TO SAFE FIREARMS USE.

AVOID ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND/OR DRUGS AND/OR MEDICINES WHEN USING FIREARMS:

Alcohol and many day-to-day drugs and medicines (including hard drugs and drugs prescribed as medication) dull and slow your mental and physical reactions. At the same time you may be unaware of this reaction and even feel you are in better control than usual. When using firearms this is an extremely dangerous condition as the ability to recognise and react to dangerous situations swiftly and accurately is essential.

Do not shoot if you are on medication that is identified as affecting your ability to drive or operate machinery. If in doubt, ask your doctor.

Alcohol and drugs must never be taken before you go shooting, whilst you are shooting or until your firearm has been put safely away. It is an offence in Queensland to use or be in physical possession of a firearm/weapon whilst under the influence of liquor or a drug.

Refuse to shoot with others who are or have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs/medicines. Alcohol, drugs and firearms do not mix.

UNDERSTAND THE OPERATION OF YOUR FIREARM, KEEP IT IN GOOD REPAIR, AND ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT AMMUNITION.

IS YOUR FIREARM SAFE?

It is dangerous to use any firearm that is not in safe working order. Do not attempt to repair firearms yourself. Take suspect firearms to a gunsmith for inspection and have repairs carried out by a reputable gunsmith. A gunsmith has the experience and equipment to do the job. It is worth the extra cost to prevent an accident.

The following are firearm parts that may require attention from time to time:

- Head Space: The distance between the base of the chambered cartridge and the face of the bolt.
- Firing Pin Protrusion and Shape: Affecting safe, reliable firing.
- Tightness of Action and Stock: Affecting accuracy.
- Condition of Barrel and Chamber. Important for safety and accuracy.
- General Condition of Firearms including Safety Catch: Particularly important for self-loading shotguns and rifles.

Trigger Pull: Vital for both safety and accuracy. The recommended minimum trigger pull weights are:

22 rimfire rifle	1 .5 kg
centrefire sporting rifle	1 .5 kg
single trigger shotguns	1 .5 kg
double trigger shotgun	1 .5 kg 1 st trigger 1 .8 kg 2 nd trigger
target rifles	as regulated by competition rules
set triggers	follow manufacturer recommendations

NOTE: Self-loading firearms often have a heavier pull than conventional firearms. Manufacturer recommendations should be strictly adhered to.

WARNING: DO NOT EXCHANGE BOLTS, BOLT HEADS OR OTHER ACTION PARTS. THESE SHOULD BE FITTED BY A GUNSMITH.

When storing a firearm never block the barrel, just make sure the barrel is clean and coat your firearm lightly with oil.

14. NEVER STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION TOGETHER. ENSURE THEY ARE SAFELY LOCKED AWAY WHEN NOT IN USE.

It is a legal requirement to store firearms and ammunition in separate locked containers. It is also safe practice. Many firearm incidents occur in the home because ammunition and firearms are stored together. Children frequently suffer injuries because of their natural curiosity. (If a child finds a firearm with the ammunition the result may be fatal.)

LOCK UP YOUR FIREARM AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY. NEVER LEAVE AMMUNITION IN THE BREECH OR IN THE MAGAZINE. REMEMBER YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ALL OTHER PERSONS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN THE CARE AND HANDLING OF YOUR FIREARM(S).

When removing a firearm from the boot of a car or a similar place, remember to REMOVE IT BUTT FIRST. Never remove a firearm muzzle first. (People have shot themselves or their companions by removing a firearm from storage muzzle first.)

The storage of firearms must be in accordance with the requirements set out in the legislation of the Weapons Act and Regulations of Queensland

15. BE FAMILIAR WITH THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE STORAGE, FIREARMS OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION AND USE IN YOUR STATE, OR THE STATE OR TERRITORY YOU ARE VISITING:

All firearm users must comply with the requirements of the legislation of the State or Territory in which they are residing or visiting.

The firearms legislation sets out the conditions and requirements for firearm ownership and use. Listed below is a small selection of topics that are covered:

- Firearm licensing conditions.
- Requirements for purchase of firearms and ammunition
- Security arrangements for the storage of firearms and ammunition
- Registration of firearms.

Remember that there are many more conditions associated with the ownership and use of firearms. Individuals interested in becoming involved with firearms must ensure that they are familiar with the laws applicable in their State or Territory.

16. DISPOSE OF UNWANTED FIREARMS LAWFULLY: SURRENDER THEM TO THE POLICE OR SELL THEM TO OR THROUGH A LICENSED DEALER.

Firearms or receivers no longer required by a licensed owner must be disposed of in the following manner:

Surrendered to a Police Station (you will receive a receipt for the surrendered firearm)

Dispose to a licensed firearms dealer

Dispose of the firearm to another person, via a licensed dealer (disposal in this manner must be in accordance with legislative requirements in the State or Territory).

DO NOT sell or give a firearm to a person who does not have a firearm licence as it is an offence and may result in prosecution.

17. MALFUNCTION / MISFIRE PROCEDURES

RIFLE

FIELD

Should a malfunction/misfire occur, wait at least 30 seconds before trying to eject the shell from your rifle. Always make sure that you are pointing in a safe direction when clearing the firearm.

RANGE

This would usually be for competition shooting unless sighting in your rifle. If not sure of what is required, ask your Range Officer. It is up to the shooter to know the rules of the match he/she is shooting. Always remember, point rifle down range when clearing it.

PARTS OF A FIREARM

The basic parts of a firearm are the receiver, the action, the stock and the barrel.

- THE STOCK is the part by which the firearm is held — the woodwork or synthetic parts comprising of the butt stock and the fore-end.
- THE RECEIVER joins the barrel to the butt stock and contains the action.
- THE ACTION is the mechanism, which loads, secures and fires the cartridge.
- THE BARREL is the steel tube through which projectiles are fired.

KNOW HOW YOUR FIREARMS WORKS

It is very important that you know how and why your firearm operates. This is essential to be able to competently and safely load and unload the firearm and make it safe from any condition.

Read all of the manufacturer's instructions that come with your firearm. If you buy a second-hand firearm find out from the person selling it, the operating and cleaning instructions. Do not rely on the fact that you think you know how to do it. It could have disastrous consequences. If you think that your firearm is faulty, have it looked at by a competent gunsmith.

TYPES OF FIREARMS AND ACTIONS

There are many different types of firearms in Australia today. Irrespective of the type or calibre you intend to purchase, it is important that you have some knowledge of the different types of actions.

Let's look at an explanation of the words used to describe the seven basic functions of a firearm. These functions can be applied, more or less, to every type of firearm:

FEEDS	Inserts a live round or cartridge into the chamber.
COCKS	Compresses the firing pin main spring and engages the firing pin to the trigger mechanism.
LOCKS	Locks the bolt tight to the breech ready to fire when the trigger is pulled.
FIRES	Discharges (or shoots) one round.
UNLOCKS	Unlocks the bolt from the breech face.
EXTRACTS	Removes the case (fired or unfired) from the chamber.

EJECTS	Throws the case clear of the firearm.
--------	---------------------------------------

Each of these functions is employed in almost all firearms each and every time a round is fired. In some cases the functions may not be obvious or a number of functions may be performed as a result of one action by the person controlling the firearm.

These functions may not, in all circumstances, be performed as set out in the above order.

ACTION TYPES

There are seven different types of actions, which are commonly found in Australia today. You will, over the next few pages, see all of these actions and an explanation in general of how they work, but first we must understand what is considered to be a firearm as defined by the Weapons Act 1990.

"FIREARM" means_

- A gun or other thing ordinarily described as a firearm; or
- A thing ordinarily described as a weapon that, if used in the way for which it was designed or adapted, is capable of being aimed at a target and causing death or injury by discharging; a projectile; or noxious, corrosive or irritant liquid, powder, gas, chemical or other substance; or
- A thing that would be a firearm mentioned in paragraph (i) or (ii), if it were not temporarily inoperable or incomplete; or
- A major component part of a firearm

But does not include_

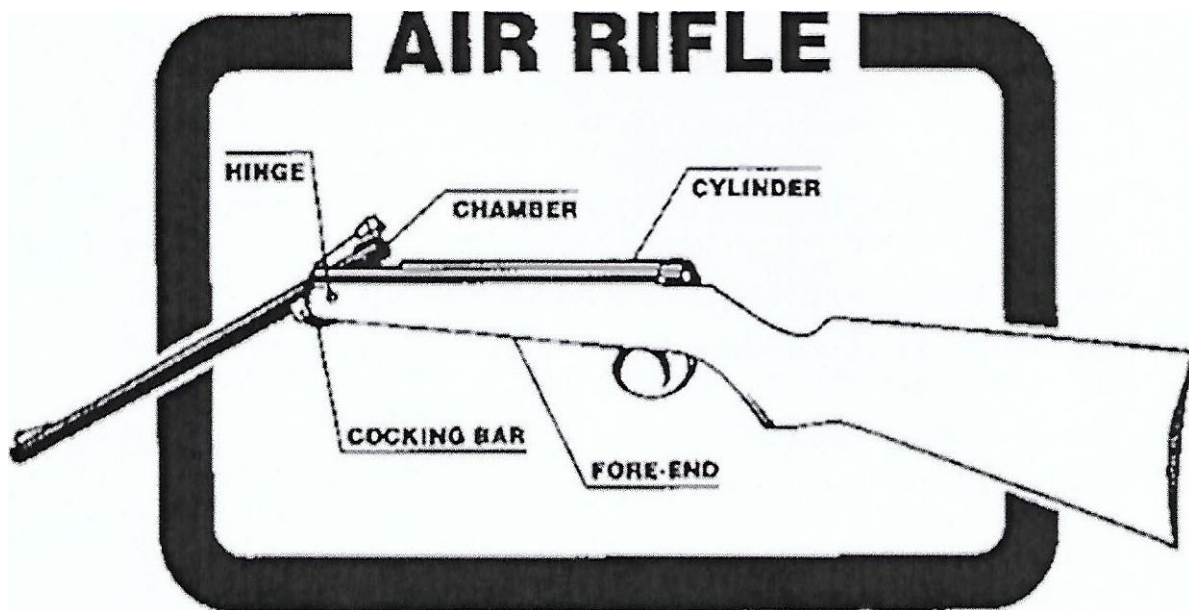
- An antique firearm, explosive tool, captive bolt humane killer, spear gun, longbow; or ➤ A replica of a spear gun or longbow

'MAJOR COMPONENT PART' of a firearm includes a part such as the receiver, body, barrel, breech bolt, frame or top slide without which the firearm would be considered inoperative or incomplete.

So now that we know what a firearm is, let us look at the Action Types.

AIR RIFLE

An air rifle or airgun is a firearm, which Uses compressed air or gas to propel the projectile or pellet to the target. They are relatively inexpensive to buy and operate. What must be remembered is that they are firearms capable of causing serious injury, even death, and require a licence to use and possess. They are not toys and must be treated with the same care as any other firearm.



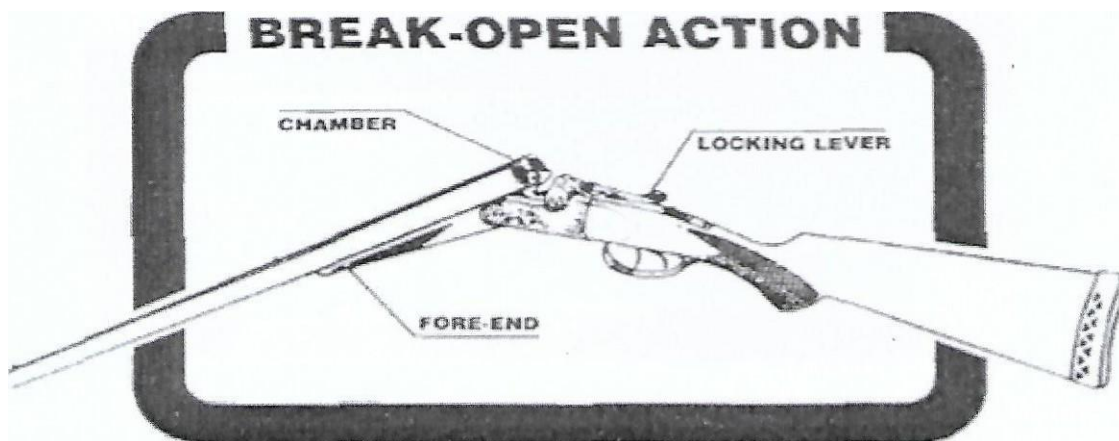
BREAK-ACTION SINGLE OR DOUBLE BARREL FIREARMS

Firearms fitted with this type of action are single and double-barrelled shotguns, shotgun and rifle combinations and double barrel centrefire rifles. The most common are shotguns, with the most popular being 12 and 20 gauge, and .410 calibre.

The break-action single- or double-barrel firearm generally.

- FEEDS by hand
- LOAD CARTRIDGE/S
- LOCKS - CLOSE ACTION
- FIRES - cocks (hammer back)
- UNLOCKS
- EXTRACTS & COCKS
- EJECTS - UNLOADS*

* (This will be done either automatically or by hand, depending on the firearm)



Ammunition or cartridges are fed into the chambers by hand. The barrels are then closed allowing the action to LOCK. The firearm at this point is loaded and ready to fire.

EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED AT THIS TIME.

In order to fire the shotgun, a simple squeeze of the trigger is all that is required. Once fired, the locking lever is moved to the right allowing the action to break open (UNLOCK). The fired or unfired cartridges as the case may be, may then be removed from the chamber (UNLOAD). This then completes functions 1—7.

WARNINGS

There may be old shotguns still in existence today that were not manufactured to use modern smokeless powders. All old shotguns should be inspected by an expert. DO NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH THESE OLDER TYPE FIREARMS. THEY ARE LIABLE TO EXPLODE IF THE WRONG AMMUNITION IS USED.

Some shotguns are fitted with exposed hammers. These may catch on clothing or on other objects and accidentally fire. Shotguns with external hammers require extra care.

THE SLIDE OR PUMP ACTION FIREARM

The pump or slide action generally—

1	FEEDS (cocked)	SLIDE FORWARD	LOADS
2	LOCKS		
3	FIRES		
4	UNLOCKS	SLIDE REARWARD	UNLOADS
5	EXTRACTS		
6	EJECTS		
7	COCKS		

The fore-end, which is attached to the action bar and also to the bolts, is pushed forward feeding a round into the chamber and locking the action. The firearm can now be fired by squeezing the trigger. The fore-end is then pulled to the rear, completing functions 4 to 6. Pushing the fore-end into the forward position cocks the firearm.

	requirements.
STOCK	The wooden or synthetic part(s) of a firearm to which a barrel and firing mechanism are assembled
THROAT	The forward portion of the chamber where it tapers to meet the diameter of the bore proper.
TRAJECTORY	The curved path of a projectile from muzzle to target.
TRIGGER	The part of a firearm moved by the finger to release the firing mechanism
TWIST	Spiral inclination of the rifling grooves to the axis of the bore, measured by distance in which the bullet makes one complete turn.
VELOCITY	The speed at which the projectile or bullet travels.
WILDCAT	A non-standard cartridge which is not produced by commercial manufacturers.
W.M.R.F	Winchester Magnum Rim Fire.
WAD	Plastic or fibre device, which separates the powder from shot in a shotgun cartridge.

DIFFERING TYPES OF AMMUNITION AND PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASE

Firearms are designed to fire ammunition and without it they become little more than intricately engineered clubs. Ammunition is the engine room of firearms technology.

Ammunition generally refers to self-contained cartridges which contain the basic components of primer, powder and projectile wrapped in a convenient package.

While ammunition may appear similar, there is considerable variation and purpose even within specific calibres.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF AMMUNITION

Ammunition basically consists of four different types: _

- Rimfire
- Centrefire
- Centrefire (full metal jacket)
- Shotgun cartridges
- Pellets (air)

CHECK that jacketed ammunition is able to be shot where you plan to shoot. Most pistol ranges do not allow jacketed ammunition.

It is very important that you do not mix your ammunition. You should carry with you the correct ammunition for the firearm you are using.

It is very important that you can identify and recognise the different types of ammunition, as the wrong ammunition in a firearm could result in the firearm exploding and injuring the user. Make sure you use the correct ammunition designed to be used in your firearm.

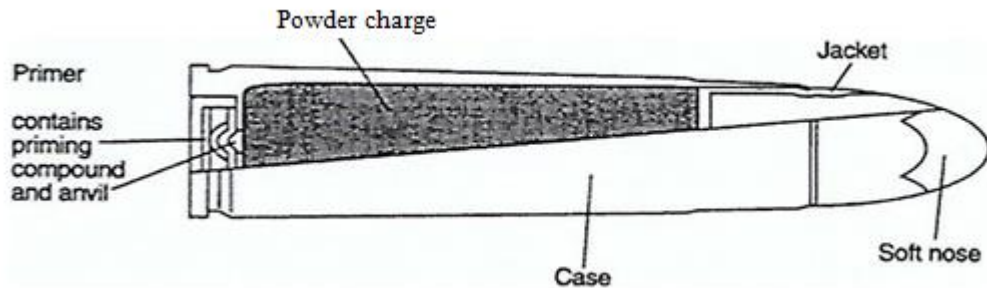
Check to see what length cartridges your shotgun is designed to take.

Do not load 76mm cartridges into a shotgun designed to take 70mm cartridges.

Do not mix 70mm and 76mm cartridges together.

Blank cartridges contain gunpowder, and they are as dangerous as normal cartridges. On discharge, the high velocity gases that escape from a firearm can cause death or serious injury. A rifle containing blank cartridges should always be considered as though loaded with normal ammunition, and should be treated as a loaded firearm. The normal safety rules applying to a loaded firearm apply to a firearm loaded with blanks.

Centrefire



Centre-fire ammunition is named because the primer is contained in a small metal cup which fits into the centre of the base of the cartridge.

Ignition is provided by the firing pin blow to the primer. The resulting flame enters the body of the case through a flash hole or holes and ignites the main powder charge.

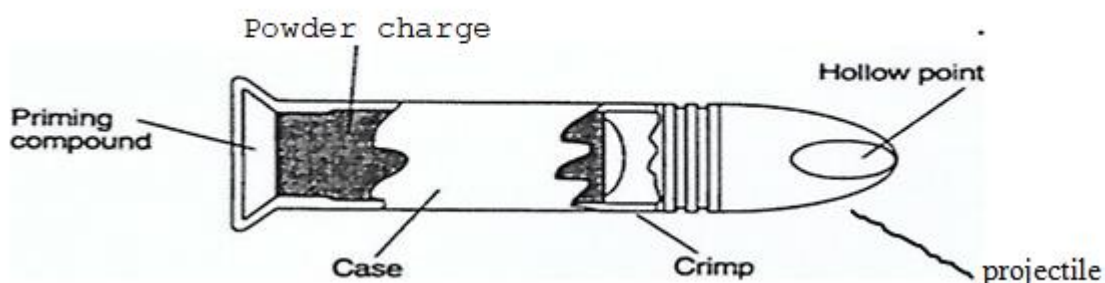
Although the internal components of centre-fire rifle cartridges and shotguns shells are different, both use a centre-fire priming system to provide consistent ignition.

Ammunition components

Rimfire

In rim-fire ammunition the priming compound is incorporated into the rim of the case. By pinching or indenting the rim with a blow from the firing pin, the cartridge is fired.

Shotguns usually fire charges of shot, which are groups of individual pellets graded according to their size (diameter).



Shot has traditionally been made by pouring molten lead through a series of mesh screens into water and forming perfectly round globules of lead. Diameter depends on the gauge of the screen.

Shotgun

SSG	0.25	6.41	18	12G Buckshot 2%
SG	0.33	8.46	9	12G Buckshot 2%
Solid	0.410	10.51		.410 Super rifled slug 2 1/2
Solid	0.729	18.69		12G Super X rifled slug 2%

CONDITIONS AFFECTING SAFE SHOOTING

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF BALLISTICS (maximum range vs. effective range)

Generally, a firearm muzzle elevated to 30° will see the projectile/s reach maximum distance or range of travel. Whilst the projectile/s is likely to have lost much of its velocity and energy, it could still cause injury or death.

A projectile fired at a ricochet producing surface within 30 metres of the shooter can, in some circumstances; ricochet out to the maximum range the projectile could travel in free flight.

Australia has adopted range danger areas to cater for the ricochet/maximum range distances.

The effective range of a cartridge means the distance at which the projectile is still capable of producing humane destruction (hunting) or retaining accuracy (target shooting). There are many factors that come into play in determining the effective range, some of which are calibre, load, projectile type and weight, and the firearm. The target animal and the intended aiming area also have a part to play.

An example of effective versus maximum would be the .22LR HV cartridge has an effective range on a rabbit of approximately 100m, but a maximum range of 1485m. The following tables are a guide to maximum range.

Rifle projectile specifications -			
Cartridge/calibre	Projectile Weight	Muzzle velocity (feet/sec)	Maximum Range (metres)
.22LR HV	36	1280	1485
.22 Mag	40	1910	2000
.223 Rem	55	3200	2700
30/30 Win	150	2350	2850
7.62 x 39	125	2350	3000
.308 Win	150	2820	4040
.357 Mag	158	1235	1500
12G Shotgun projectile ranges -			

Shot size	Limits of killing range (effective range)	Maximum range (travel at 30° elevation)
	40m	290 - 300m
4	30m	250 - 265m
9	20m	195 - 265m
AAA	50m	370 - 385m
SSG	60m	470— 485m
SG	70m	545 - 560m
Rifled slugs	100m	800 - 900m

Never attempt to dry out wet or damp ammunition by placing it in a warm oven, a microwave oven or in front of a fire; you may cause an explosion almost certainly resulting in damage and/or injury.

If test firing ammunition you should ensure the area is safe (i.e. shooting range). TEST FIRING IN THE HOME OR AROUND THE HOME, EVEN ON RURAL PROPERTIES, IS NOT SAFE.

Never check the action of your firearm with ammunition at home. This should be done in an area where it is safe to do so. Remember, when checking the action "be muzzle conscious"; ensure that you point your firearm in a safe direction at all times.

PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION

The procedure for the purchase of ammunition is not covered by the Weapons Act 1990 or the Weapons Regulations 1997.

The purchase and storage of ammunition is covered by the Explosives Act 1999 and the Explosives Regulations 2003 (Reprint No. 1)

You must produce your firearms licence when you are buying ammunition and particularly when buying gunpowder so that your licence number can be recorded.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR A WEAPONS ACT LICENCE

Application for licence

Weapons Act 1990 , Part 2, Section 13 (1)(b) or Section 18 (2)(b)

Weapons Regulation 2016 Part 2 Section 9

- (1) An application for a licence must be—
 - (a) made in the approved form and state the applicant's reason for wishing to possess a weapon (the **reason**); and
 - (b) made personally, in the way prescribed under a regulation, by—
 - (i) if the licence is for an individual—the person; or
 - (ii) if the licence is for a body, whether incorporated or unincorporated—an individual nominated by the body for endorsement on the licence as the body's representative in the conduct of its business or affairs; and
 - (c) accompanied by—
 - (i) the fee prescribed under a regulation; and
 - (ii) proof of identity to the satisfaction of an authorised officer; and
 - (iii) other particulars prescribed under a regulation; and
 - (iv) the other relevant particulars the person to whom the application is made reasonably requires.
- (2) If the reason is sports or target shooting, the applicant must provide proof the applicant is a current member of an approved shooting club.
- (3) If the reason is recreational shooting, the applicant must produce—
 - (a) written permission from a landowner authorising the applicant to shoot on the landowner's rural land; or
 - (b) proof of current membership of a body prescribed under a regulation for this subsection.
- (4) A body may be prescribed for subsection (3) (b) only if—
 - (a) it is a landowner of rural land; or
 - (b) it holds written permission from a landowner authorising members of the body to shoot on the landowner's rural land.
- (5) If the reason is an occupational requirement, the applicant must state why possession of a weapon is necessary in the conduct of the applicant's business or employment.

Author's Note-

OR

An Application can also be made electronically at www.police.qld.gov.au completing all mandatory sections during the process.

How application for licence or licence renewal must be made personally-

For Section 13(1)(b) or 18(2)(b) of the Act, the prescribed way is-

- (a) at a police station or police establishment: or
- (b) in a way, decided by the commissioner, and published on the QPS website including, for example, by submitting the application on line

Eligibility Requirements: - Limitations on issue of licence

Weapons Act 1990 Part 2 Section 10

- (1) A licence may be issued only to—
 - (a) an individual under subsection (2); or
 - (b) a body under subsection (3).
- (2) A licence may be issued to an individual only if the person—
 - (a) is—
 - (i) for a licence other than a minor's licence—an adult; or
 - (ii) for a minor's licence—at least 11 years and otherwise within the age group prescribed under a regulation for the licence; and
 - (b) has, under section 10A, an adequate knowledge of safety practices for the use, storage and maintenance of the weapon or category of weapon the possession of which is to be authorised by the licence; and
 - (c) has access to secure storage facilities for the weapon or category of weapon possession of which is to be authorised by the licence; and
 - (d) is not prevented under this or another Act or by an order of a Magistrates Court or another court from holding the licence; and
 - (e) is a fit and proper person to hold a licence; and
 - (f) has a reason mentioned in section 11 to possess the weapon or category of weapon; and
 - (g) resides only in Queensland.

Waiting period before licence can be decided

Weapons Regulation 2016 Part 2, Division. 2- Section 10

For section 15(1) of the Act, the period is—

- (1) for an application for a licence other than a visitor's licence—
 - (a) until the end of the 28th day after the application was lodged; or
 - (b) if an authorised officer is satisfied there are exceptional circumstances—until the end of the day the application was lodged; or
- (2) for an application for a visitor's licence—until the end of the day the application was lodged.

Additional genuine reasons for possession of a weapon

Weapons Regulation 2016 Part 2, Division. 2- Section 7

For section 11(e) of the Act, each of the following is a reason for possession of a weapon—

- (a) a military or medieval re-enactment or a historical demonstration;
- (b) for a sporting organisation to possess a firearm to start sporting events;
- (c) for a theatrical organisation to possess a firearm for a theatrical production;
- (d) paint-pellet sports.

Other particulars to accompany application for licence

Weapons Regulation 2016 Part 2, Division. 2- Section 8

For section 13(1)(c)(iii) of the Act, the prescribed particulars are as follows—

- (a) the type, action, make, model, serial number and calibre of each firearm owned by the applicant;
- (b) the magazine or chamber capacity of the firearm;
- (c) if the application relates to proposed recreational shooting—enough information about the location, area and surrounding features of the rural land on which the shooting is to be done to enable the land's suitability for recreational shooting to be assessed.

Additional application requirements for concealable firearms licence

Weapons Act 1990 Part 2 Section 18B

- (1) If the application is for a concealable firearms licence and the applicant's reason for possession of a weapon under that licence is sports or target shooting, the application must include a current declaration by the representative of an approved pistol club stating that—
 - (a) the applicant holds current membership with the pistol club; and
 - (b) the applicant has been a member of the pistol club for the 6 month period immediately before the declaration is made; and
 - (c) the applicant has participated in at least 3 handgun shooting competitions during that 6 month period.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING COURSES

Weapons Act 1990 Part 2 Section 10AA

Weapons Regulation 2016 Part 2, Division 2- Section 13

- (1) For section 10AA(1)(b) of the Act, the requirements for a safety training course (general) are—
 - (a) the course will give each person who completes the course the knowledge required to ensure the safe use, storage and maintenance of each weapon to which the course relates; and
 - (b) the method of assessment for the course can determine whether the person has that knowledge.

Author's Note

Selection of class of licence required.

Generally this will be either 'firearms licence' or concealable firearms licence;

Select the firearm licence category or categories required.

Generally this will be either categories A, B, or H.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO ACQUIRE FIREARM

Weapons Act 1990 Part 3 Section 3 Division 3 Sections 40, 39, 43, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

Weapons Regulation 2016 Part 22 Division 1 Section 99

40 Application for permit to acquire

- (1) An application for a permit to acquire must be—
 - (a) made in the approved form; and
 - (b) made, in the way prescribed under a regulation, by—
 - (i) if the permit is for an individual—the person; or

- (ii) if the permit is for a body, whether incorporated or unincorporated—the individual endorsed on the body’s licence as the body’s representative; and
- (c) accompanied by—
 - (i) any fee that may be prescribed under a regulation; and
 - (ii) proof of identity to the satisfaction of an authorised officer; and
 - (iii) other particulars prescribed under a regulation; and
 - (iv) the other relevant particulars the person to whom the application is made reasonably requires.
- (2) If the application is for a permit to acquire a category B, C, D or H weapon, the applicant must state why the applicant needs the weapon and why the need can not be satisfied in another way.
- (3) If the application is for a permit to acquire an heirloom firearm, the application must also be accompanied by proof, to the satisfaction of an authorised officer, that the applicant is the owner of the firearm because of a testamentary disposition or the laws of succession.
- (4) If the application is for a permit to acquire a temporarily inoperable modern handgun that the applicant intends to possess under the authority of a collector’s licence (weapons), the application must include a declaration signed by an approved historical society’s representative stating that the representative is satisfied that the weapon is of obvious and significant commemorative, historic, thematic or investment value.

39 Limitations on issue of permits to acquire

- (1) A permit to acquire a weapon may be issued only to—
 - (a) an individual under subsection (2); or
 - (b) a body under subsection (3).
- (2) A permit to acquire a weapon may be issued to an individual only if—
 - (a) the person is authorised to possess the weapon or category of weapon under a licence; and
 - (b) the person is an adult; and
 - (c) for a category B, C, D, H or M weapon—the person has a need to possess the weapon; and
 - (d) if the weapon is an heirloom firearm—the person is the owner of the firearm because of a testamentary disposition or the laws of succession; and
 - (e) if the person intends to possess the weapon under the authority of a collector’s licence (weapons) and the weapon is a temporarily inoperable modern handgun—
 - (i) the person satisfies an authorised officer that the person has a prolonged and genuine interest in the study, preservation or collection of firearms; and
 - (ii) the person is a member of an approved historical society.

Note—

See section 131 (Limitation on number of concealable firearms particular licensees may acquire) for limitations on the number of category H weapons an individual who is the holder of a concealable firearms licence can possess during the first year after the holder is first licensed.

- (3) A permit to acquire a weapon may be issued to a body, whether incorporated or unincorporated—

- (a) for a permit to acquire to be issued to an approved shooting club—only if it is endorsed with the name of an individual member of the club’s governing body, who satisfies the requirements of subsection (2)(a) to (c), as the club’s representative in the conduct of its business or affairs; and
- (b) for a permit to acquire to be issued to another body—only if—
 - (i) the body has a need to possess the weapon for which the permit to acquire is sought; and
 - (ii) it is endorsed with the name of an individual, who satisfies the requirements of subsection (2)(a) to (c), as the body’s representative in the conduct of its business or affairs.
- (4) A permit to acquire must—
 - (a) be issued in the approved form for a single weapon; and
 - (b) state the name of the person from whom the weapon is to be acquired.

43 Issue of permit to acquire

A permit to acquire must be issued in the approved form.

45 Term of permit to acquire

- (1) A permit to acquire remains in force for the term, not more than 6 months, stated on the permit.
- (2) A permit to acquire stops being in force if—
 - (a) it is suspended, cancelled, revoked or surrendered; or
 - (b) the holder of the permit dies.

46 Reporting loss, destruction or theft of permit to acquire

A licensee must report the loss, destruction or theft of a permit to acquire to an officer in charge of police immediately after the licensee becomes aware of the loss, destruction or theft.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

47 Replacement permit to acquire

- (1) This section applies if an authorised officer is satisfied—
 - (a) a permit to acquire is lost, destroyed or stolen; or
 - (b) any writing or endorsement on a permit to acquire is illegible and the permit to acquire is surrendered to an officer in charge of police.
- (2) The authorised officer may issue to the licensee a replacement permit to acquire instead of the permit to acquire on—
 - (a) application by the licensee in the approved form; and
 - (b) payment of the fee prescribed under a regulation.

48 Surrender of permit to acquire

- (1) A licensee may surrender a permit to acquire by—
 - (a) giving written notice of surrender; and
 - (b) surrendering the permit to acquire.
- (2) The notice must be given and the permit to acquire surrendered to an authorised officer or officer in charge of police.

99 Way application for permit to acquire must be made

For section 40(1)(b) of the Act, the prescribed way is—

- (a) at a police station or police establishment; or
- (b) in a way decided by the commissioner and published on the QPS website including, for example, by submitting the application online.

Author's Note-

Applying for a Permit to Acquire - on line

Eligibility Requirements

To apply for a Permit to Acquire (PTA) you must:

- Be 18 years of age or over
- Have a Queensland Weapons Licence or have submitted an application for a Weapons licence
- Be eligible for the category of weapon you wish to acquire
- Have access to secure storage facilities.

Important Points

- A PTA authorises a Weapons Licence holder to purchase or acquire a weapon
- A separate PTA is required for each weapon you intend to acquire
- The PTA scheme assists QPS to track weapons movement and identify the weapons registered to a licensee and where they are stored
- A PTA is valid for a set period of time from date of issue and cannot be renewed. If you do not acquire the weapon before the PTA expires you will need to apply for a new PTA.

PROCEDURE FOR THE PURCHASE/ACQUISITION

Acquisition of weapons

Weapons Act 1990 – Part 3 Division 1 Section 34A

Weapons Act 1990 – Part 3 Division 2 Section 35

34A Definitions for Part 3

In this part—

firearm does not include a barrel, breechbolt or top slide of a firearm.

weapon does not include a barrel, breechbolt or top slide of a firearm.

35 Acquisition of weapons

(1) A person may acquire a weapon only if—

- (a) the person is a licensed dealer; or
- (b) the person is the holder of a permit to acquire the weapon and acquires the weapon—
 - (i) from or through a licensed dealer; or
 - (ii) through a police officer in circumstances prescribed under a regulation; or
- (c) the person acquires the weapon under other lawful authority, justification or excuse.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) for a category D, H or R weapon—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment; and
- (b) for a category C or E weapon—60 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment; and

- (1) For section 35(2)(b) of the Act, the following information is prescribed—
 - (a) the dealer's name and licence number;
 - (b) the name, address and licence number of the person disposing of the weapon;
 - (c) the date of the acquisition or sale of the weapon;
 - (d) the type, action, make, model, serial number and calibre of the weapon;
 - (e) the magazine or chamber capacity of the weapon.
- (2) The information must be signed by or for the acquirer, and—
 - (a) if the acquirer holds a permit to acquire the weapon—be written on the copy of the permit; or
 - (b) otherwise—be given in writing.
- (3) The information must be sent by registered post to the commissioner to reach the commissioner within 14 days of the acquisition.

Author's note—

The address is Weapons Licensing Branch, GPO Box 892, Brisbane, 4001.or

Online:- to weaponslicensing@police.qld.gov.au

PROCEDURES FOR CHANGE OF ANY PARTICULARS OF A LICENCE.

Weapons Act 1990, Part 2, Section 24

24 Change in licensee's circumstances

- (1) It is a condition of each licence that a licensee must, within 14 days of the happening of an event mentioned in subsection (2) (the **change**), advise an officer in charge of police of the change and the particulars of the change the officer reasonably requires.
- (2) The events are—
 - (a) any of the following that happen to the licensee or the licensee's representative—
 - (i) a change of address;
 - (ii) a change in the licensee's or the licensee's representative's mental or physical fitness;
 - (iii) the conviction of the licensee or the licensee's representative of an offence mentioned in section 10B(2)(a);
 - (iv) the making of a domestic violence order against the licensee or the licensee's representative; or
 - (b) a change in the licensee's—
 - (i) reason or need for possessing or using a weapon; or
 - (ii) access to secure storage facilities for the licensee's weapon; or
 - (c) a change in the licensee's name or the licensee's representative's name; or
 - (d) a change in the place entered in the firearms register as the place where a firearm is generally kept if the licensee is the registered owner of the firearm; or
 - (e) if the licensee is a licensed dealer, a change in the licensee's associates; or
 - (f) the revocation of the licensee's permission to shoot on a landowner's rural land; or
 - (g) another event prescribed under a regulation.
- (2A) Subject to subsection (3), the advice must be given in a way prescribed by regulation.

REQUIREMENTS TO PRODUCE A WEAPONS ACT LICENCE

Power to demand production of licence etc. for weapons

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Chapter 2, Part 1 Section 25

25 Power to demand production of licence etc. for weapons

- (1) This section applies if a person is required under the *Weapons Act 1990*—
 - (a) to be the holder of a licence or permit to acquire under that Act; or
 - (b) to have the approval of any person; or
 - (c) to keep a register or record.
- (2) A police officer may require the person to produce to a police officer for inspection at a stated reasonable place and time, within 48 hours, any of the following documents—
 - (a) the photo licence or permit to acquire;
 - (b) a certificate or other evidence of approval; (c) the register or record.
- (3) A police officer may also require the individual to produce for inspection at a stated reasonable place and time, within 48 hours, any weapon still in the individual's possession and mentioned in any of the documents.
- (4) However, if an individual has physical possession of a weapon, a police officer may require the individual to produce immediately to the police officer for inspection the weapon and the photo licence authorising possession of the weapon.
- (5) This section is in addition to, and does not limit, section 22.

SUMMARY

Police powers under the Weapons Act 1990 and Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 can basically be summarized as follows-

1. A police officer may demand from any person committing or reasonably suspected of having committed or about to commit any offence against these Acts, particulars as required and evidence of the correctness thereof.
2. Failure on demand to provide particulars or evidence as required, the police officer may caution that person, and if that person persists in that failure, the police officer may arrest that person without warrant.
3. A person required to give any particular is not to -
 - 3.1. Fail to give that particular.
 - 3.2. Give any false particular.
 - 3.3. Give false evidence in respect thereto.
4. A police officer may stop, detain and search -
 - 4.1. Any vehicle upon which the officer suspects may contain any weapon liable to seizure under this Act or any other Act.
 - 4.2. Any person whom the officer suspects may be in physical possession of any weapon liable to seizure under this Act or any other Act.
5. When a police officer stops a vehicle, detains a person, or enters a place, the officer is at the first reasonable opportunity to record in a register the matters following -
 - 5.1. 5.1 In the case of the stoppage of a vehicle.
 - 5.1.1. The location where vehicle stopped and reason for stoppage.
 - 5.1.2. If vehicle or anything is searched, the date, time and place of search.

Physical possession and use of weapon sometimes allowed for the purpose of training a minor

Weapons Act 1990- Part 4 Division 1 Section 52

52 Physical possession and use of weapon sometimes allowed for the purpose of training a minor

- (1) A minor who is at least 11 years may have physical possession of and use a category A or B weapon or a category M crossbow in a place where it is lawful to physically possess and use a category A or B weapon or a category M crossbow if—
 - (a) the minor is under the direct and immediate supervision of a parent, guardian or another person who is acting in the place of a parent or guardian; and
 - (b) the parent, guardian or other person is licensed to possess the weapon.
- (2) A minor who is at least 11 years may have physical possession of and use a category A or B weapon or a category M crossbow at an approved range for category A or B weapons or category M crossbows if the minor is supervised—
 - (a) directly and immediately by a range officer; or
 - (b) as prescribed by regulation.

An unlicensed person may use a weapon at an approved range

Weapons Act 1990- Part 4 Division 1 Section 53 (Form 33)

53 An unlicensed person may use a weapon at an approved range

- (1) This section applies to a person—
 - (a) who is not a licensee; or
 - (b) who is a licensee but is not authorised to possess the weapon the person proposes to physically possess and use under this section.
- (2) The person may physically possess and use a weapon at an approved range for the category of weapon if, immediately before possessing and using the weapon, the person—
 - (a) produces for the inspection of a range officer at the range photographic identification identifying the person; and

Examples of photographic identification—

- weapons licence
 - driver licence
- (b) completes and signs an approved form stating the following and gives the form to the range officer—
 - (i) the person's name, residential address and date of birth;
 - (ii) that the person is a licensee or is not an excluded person;
 - (iii) the date and time the declaration is completed.
 - (3) Before allowing the person to physically possess and use a weapon at the approved range, the range officer must sign the approved form declaring that the range officer—
 - (a) inspected the person's photographic identification; and
 - (b) if the person states in the approved form that the person is a licensee, inspected the person's licence; and
 - (c) was satisfied—
 - (i) the person signing the approved form appeared to be the person shown in the photographic identification; and
 - (ii) after inspecting the completed approved form—

- (d) that information in the completed approved form agreed with information shown on the photographic identification; and
- (e) that the person is a licensee or, on the information contained in the approved form, is not an excluded person.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

- (4) It is a condition of the approved shooting club's shooting club permit that the club must keep the approved form for 3 years after the approved form is signed.
- (5) The range officer must ensure the person is supervised by the range officer or another range officer at all times when the person is in physical possession of the weapon.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

- (6) For subsection (5), if the person is in physical possession of a category H weapon, the supervision of the person by a range officer must be direct, personal and exclusive supervision by the range officer at all times when that person is in physical possession of the weapon.
- (7) In this section—

excluded person means a person—

- (a) who has been convicted in Queensland or elsewhere of—
 - (i) murder or manslaughter; or
 - (ii) armed robbery; or
 - (iii) unlawful wounding; or
 - (iv) grievous bodily harm; or
 - (v) an offence involving drugs, weapons or violence prescribed under a regulation that is punishable by at least 7 years imprisonment; or
- (b) who, in the 5 year period immediately before the day the person signs the approved form under this section, has been convicted of, or discharged from custody on sentence after the person has been convicted of, any of the following offences—
 - (i) an offence relating to the misuse of drugs;
 - (ii) an offence involving the use or threatened use of violence;
 - (iii) an offence involving the use, carriage, discharge or possession of a weapon;or
- (c) who, in the 5 year period immediately before the day the person signs the approved form under this section, has been subject to a domestic violence order, other than a temporary protection order; or
- (d) who is subject to a temporary protection order, police protection notice or release conditions; or
- (e) who is prevented by another order of a Queensland court or another court outside Queensland from holding a licence or possessing a weapon unless the order permits the person to possess or use a weapon under supervision; or
- (f) who, in the 5 year period immediately before the day the person signs the approved form under this section, has been subject to an involuntary assessment order under the *Mental Health Act 2016* or a similar order under the repealed *Mental Health Act 2000*, or a similar order in another State; or

- (g) who has been refused a licence, or whose licence has been revoked, in the 5 year period immediately before the day the person signs the approved form under this section because the person is not, or is no longer, a fit and proper person to hold a licence; or
- (h) whose licence is suspended.

PARTICULAR CONDUCT INVOLVING A WEAPON IN A PUBLIC PLACE PROHIBITED

Weapons Act 1990 Part 4, Division 1 Section 57, 58, 59

57 Particular conduct involving a weapon in a public place prohibited

- (1) In this section—

public place includes a vehicle that is in or on a public place.

weapon includes—

- (a) an antique firearm, spear gun, longbow or sword; and
 - (b) a replica of a weapon; and
 - (c) a replica of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a); and
 - (d) a slingshot or shanghai.
- (2) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, carry a weapon exposed to view in a public place.
Maximum penalty—40 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.
- (3) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, carry in a public place a loaded firearm or a weapon capable of being discharged.
Maximum penalty—120 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.
- (4) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, discharge a weapon in, into, towards, over or through a public place.
Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or 4 years imprisonment.
- (5) It is a reasonable excuse for subsection (2) to carry a sword exposed to view in a public place—
- (a) to perform a lawful activity, duty or employment; or
 - (b) to participate in a lawful entertainment, recreation or sport; or
 - (c) to exhibit the sword; or
 - (d) for use for a lawful purpose.

Example for paragraph (a)—

A person may carry a sword for ceremonial purposes at an official function attended by the Governor.

Example for paragraph (b)—

A person may carry a sword as an accessory while playing in a pipe band.

Example for paragraph (c)—

A person who collects swords may exhibit them at a fete or another public gathering.

Example for paragraph (d)—

A person may carry a sword as part of an official uniform the person is entitled to wear.

- (6) It is not a reasonable excuse for subsection (2) or (3) to carry a weapon in a public place for self-defence purposes.
- (7) In deciding what is a reasonable excuse for subsection (2) or (3), regard may be had, among other things, to whether the way the weapon is carried, or when and where it is carried, would cause a reasonable person concern that he or she, or someone else in the vicinity, may be threatened or harmed.

58 Dangerous conduct with weapon prohibited generally

- (1) In this section—

weapon includes—

- (a) an antique firearm, explosive tool, captive bolt humane killer, spear gun, longbow or sword; and
 - (b) a replica of a weapon; and
 - (c) a replica of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a); and
 - (d) an explosive; and
 - (e) a slingshot or shanghai; and
 - (f) a laser pointer.
- (2) A person must not—
 - (a) without reasonable excuse; and
 - (b) by the physical possession or use of a weapon; engage in conduct, alone or with another, likely to cause—
 - (c) death or injury to a person; or
 - (d) unlawful destruction or damage to property; or
 - (e) alarm to another person.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or 4 years imprisonment.

59 Possession or use of weapon under the influence of liquor or a drug prohibited

- (1) In this section—

weapon includes—

- (a) an antique firearm, spear gun, longbow or sword; and
 - (b) replica of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a); and
 - (c) a slingshot or shanghai; and
 - (d) an explosive.
- (2) A person must not have physical possession of or use a weapon if the person is under the influence of liquor or a drug.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS GENERALLY

Weapons Regulations 2016 Part 21, Section 93.

93 Firearms to be kept unloaded other than when being used to shoot

- (1) A person who has a firearm under the person's control (whether or not another person has custody of it) must ensure the firearm is unloaded, other than when it is being used to shoot.

Example of what is, or is not, using a firearm to shoot—

To go hunting, X travels with 2 rifles in a car. X does not hunt from the moving car. Before and during the travel, X is not using the rifles to shoot.

At the hunt site, X loads the rifles at the start of the hunt. X hunts with 1 rifle in hand and the other in reserve. X takes an afternoon tea break from the hunt and then continues to hunt until dark. No prey is spotted, so no shots are fired.

Both rifles were being used to shoot when they were being loaded and afterwards until dark (other than during the afternoon tea break).

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

- (2) However, this section does not apply—
- (a) if the firearm is under the person's control under a security licence (guard); or
 - (b) while the weapon is loaded for the purpose of repairing it; or
 - (c) if the person is doing an approved training course under the supervision of the holder of a firearms licence (instructor).

PRIVATE LAND/PROPERTY

DISCHARGE OF WEAPON ON PRIVATE LAND WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT PROHIBITED

Weapons Act 1990, Part 4 Division 1 Section 56

56 Discharge of weapon on private land without owner's consent prohibited

- (1) In this section—
- owner** of private land includes the occupier of the land.
- private land** means land that is not a public place.
- weapon** includes an antique firearm, spear gun, longbow and slingshot.
- (2) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, discharge a weapon on or across private land without the express consent of the owner.
- Maximum penalty—40 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.
- (3) A person must not carry a weapon on private land without the express consent of the owner unless—
- (a) the person has a reasonable excuse; or
 - (b) the weapon is unloaded, broken or for another reason can not be readily discharged.
- Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

SECURE STORAGE OF WEAPONS/FIREARMS

Weapons Act 1990, Part 4 Division 1 Section 60

60 Secure storage of weapons

- (1) A licensee who has control of a weapon at a place must keep the weapon in secure storage facilities at the place when a person is not in physical possession of the weapon.
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

- (2) The registered owner of a firearm must ensure that secure storage facilities for the firearm are available at the place shown in the firearms register as the place where the firearm is generally kept.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

Author's Note -

When not in use, lock away firearms and ammunition separately. Not only is this good sense, but in Queensland there is a legal obligation on firearms owners to store firearms and ammunition in locked repositories or similar containers.

As a firearms owner, you are responsible for making absolutely sure that all the safety requirements within the home are carried out.

STORAGE OF WEAPON NOT IN LICENSEE'S PHYSICAL POSSESSION - SECURE STORAGE FACILITY

Weapons Regulations Part 21, Division. 4 Sections 94, 95, 96

94 Storage of particular weapons not in person's physical possession—secure storage facilities

- (1) This section does not apply—
 - (a) to the extent this regulation otherwise provides; or
 - (b) to a weapon possessed under—
 - (i) an armourer's licence, collector's licence, dealer's licence or theatrical ordnance supplier's licence; or
 - (ii) a security licence (organisation); or
 - (c) to a weapon to which section 95 applies; or
 - (d) to a weapon in or on a vehicle if—
 - (i) section 95 does not apply to the weapon; and
 - (ii) section 96 is complied with for the weapon.
- (2) A person who possesses a weapon must, when the weapon is not in the person's physical possession, store it unloaded in a locked container complying with subsections (5) and (6), with the weapon's bolt removed or its action broken.
- (3) However, the person must, when the weapon is not in the person's physical possession, store it in the same way that a weapon to which part 20 applies must be stored under that part, if at the premises where the weapon is, there are more than—
 - (a) for category A, B, C or D weapons—a total of 30 of any of those weapons; or
 - (b) 30 category H weapons.
- (4) Subsection (2) does not apply while a weapon is in the physical possession of a body's representative endorsed on the licence, or another individual, under the authority of a licence held by the body.
- (5) For subsection (2), the container must—
 - (a) for a category D, H or R weapon—be a rigid structure made of solid steel and be bolted to the frame or floor of a permanent building; or
 - (b) for any other weapon—
 - (i) be a rigid structure made of solid steel or solid timber; and

- (ii) if the container weighs less than 150kg—be securely fixed to the frame or floor of a permanent building.
- (6) Also for subsection (2), the container must also
 - (a) have a sturdy combination lock, keyed lock or keyed padlock; and
 - (b) always be locked (other than for the time necessary to insert or remove a weapon, or something else, for a proper purpose).

95 Storage of weapon not in person's physical possession if away from secure storage facilities or visitor to Queensland—secure storage

- (1) This section applies to a weapon in the possession of a person who—
 - (a) is a visitor to Queensland to whom section 32(1) of the Act applies; or
 - (b) holds a visitor's licence; or
 - (c) is any other person, if—
 - (i) the person is away from the person's secure storage facilities; and
 - (ii) it is unreasonable for the person to have to go to the facilities to store the weapon.
- (2) The person must, when the weapon is not in the person's physical possession, store it unloaded in—
 - (a) a securely closed container, with—
 - (i) the bolt of the weapon removed; or
 - (ii) a trigger lock fitted to the weapon; or
 - (b) a locked container.

Example—

When culling animals, X moves, with a rifle, between paddocks and crosses public roads dividing the paddocks. While the rifle is in X's physical possession during the cull subsection (2) does not apply to X.

Notes—

- (1) See section 57 of the Act for prohibitions on particular conduct, involving a weapon, in a public place.
- (2) See section 58 of the Act for prohibitions on dangerous conduct involving a weapon.
- (3) The container must be—
 - (a) out of sight in a locked room of a permanent building; or
 - (b) locked in the boot of a vehicle; or
 - (c) out of sight, locked in a vehicle that does not have a boot.
- (4) Subsection (2) does not prevent the person placing the weapon in the person's secure storage facilities when the weapon is not in the person's physical possession.

96 Safety precautions for weapons in or on vehicle

- (1) This section applies to person in control of a weapon (whether or not the person has custody of it) other than a weapon to which section 95 applies.
- (2) The person must ensure the weapon is not placed in or on a vehicle unless—
 - (a) if the vehicle has a lockable boot—the weapon is locked in the boot; or
 - (b) otherwise—

- (i) the weapon is in a securely closed container that is out of sight in the vehicle;
or
- (ii) the weapon is locked in a metal container fixed to the vehicle, and the metal container and anything on or attached to it does not suggest a weapon is inside the metal container.

Note—

See section 97(6) for examples of things that may suggest a weapon is inside a container.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

- (3) A person in control of a weapon (whether or not the person has custody of it) must ensure the weapon is not left in an unlocked vehicle if the vehicle is not being attended by someone licensed to possess the weapon.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES.

Explosives Regulations 2017 Part 8 Division 2 Section 97, 98, 99, 102

97 Definitions for division

In this division—

required places, for a secured area, means—

- (a) if the secured area is a drawer—on the outward facing surface of the drawer; or
- (b) if the secured area is a cabinet—on the exterior surface of the cabinet; or
- (c) if the secured area is a cupboard, room or other enclosure—at each entrance to the enclosure.

secure container means a spark-proof container that is kept closed at all times except when explosives are put into, or taken out of, the container.

secured area means any of the following places that is kept locked at all times when the place is not attended by a person—

- (a) a drawer or cabinet;
- (b) a cupboard, room or other enclosure.

98 General requirements for storing schedule 4 explosives

- (1) A person storing a schedule 4 explosive must take reasonable care in storing the explosive to—
 - (a) prevent access to the explosive by a person who is not authorised to possess the explosive; and
 - (b) store the explosive in a place that best minimises the potential consequences of an explosives incident involving the explosive.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

- (ii) a sign stating the words ‘Keep fire away’ or otherwise indicating that sources of ignition are prohibited in or near the secured area; and
- (c) if the person stores more than 15kg of propellant powder in the secured area—must display, in the required places for the secured area, a classification sign for the powder.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty unit

Schedule 4 Particular explosives exempt from section 44 of the Act

Explosives Regulation 2017 Schedule 4

Section 94, definition *schedule 4 explosive*

- (1) 1 Small arms ammunition stored by a person who—
 - (a) holds a licence under the *Weapons Act 1990*; or
 - (b) has been granted an exemption under the *Weapons Act 1990*, for section 2(1)(m) of that Act.
- (9) Propellant powders stored by a person who holds a licence under the *Weapons Act 1990*—
 - (a) if the powders are stored on a property larger than 2ha— maximum amount 30kg; or
 - (b) otherwise—maximum amount 15kg.
 - (c)

SALE AND DISPOSAL OF WEAPONS

Weapons Act 1990, Part 3, Division 2 Section 36, 37, & Part 4, Division 1 Section 66

36 Sale or disposal of weapons

- (1) A person must not sell or otherwise dispose of a weapon unless—
 - (a) the person sells or otherwise disposes of the weapon to a licensed dealer; or
 - (b) the person sells or otherwise disposes of the weapon to another person who is the holder of a permit to acquire the weapon and the sale or disposal happens—
 - (i) through a licensed dealer; or
 - (ii) through a police officer in circumstances prescribed under a regulation; or
 - (c) the person sells or otherwise disposes of the weapon under other lawful authority, justification or excuse.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) for a category D, H or R weapon—100 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment; and
 - (b) for a category C or E weapon—60 penalty units or 1 year’s imprisonment; and
 - (c) for a category A or B weapon or a category M crossbow—20 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.
- (2) If the sale or disposal happens under subsection (1)(c), the person must give to an authorised officer the information prescribed under a regulation in the way and within the time prescribed under the regulation.
Maximum penalty—60 penalty units or 1 year’s imprisonment.
- (3) This section does not apply to the disposal of a weapon to a person, if the disposal consists only of a disposal—
 - (a) for repair; or

- (b) to an armourer for storage by the armourer; or
- (c) on a temporary basis for not more than 3 months without receiving consideration for the disposal or for the weapon; or
- (d) to a person performing duties as a security guard under a security licence (guard); or
- (e) authorised under section 52, 53, 54(2), 55 or 55A.

37 Advertising sale of firearms

If a person advertises the sale of the person's firearm, the person must state in the advertisement the firearm's serial number, if any.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

66 Dispatch of weapons

A person may dispatch a weapon only in the way prescribed under a regulation.

Maximum penalty—60 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment.

RESTRICTIONS ON DISPATCHING WEAPONS

Weapons Regulations 2016, Part 21 Section 97 & Part 15 Section 60

97 Restrictions on dispatching weapons

- (1) For section 66 of the Act, this section prescribes the way to despatch a weapon.
- (2) A weapon may be dispatched only if it is unloaded.
- (3) A person who is not a licensed dealer or licensed armourer may dispatch a weapon only to—
 - (a) a licensed dealer or licensed armourer; or
 - (b) a police officer acting in the police officer's official capacity.
- (4) A weapon may be dispatched—
 - (a) by a licensed dealer—only by registered post or by using a person to whom section 2(1)(l)(i) of the Act applies for the dispatching; or

Note—

Under section 2(1)(l)(i) of the Act, the Act does not apply to a person actually engaged in the warehousing or transport under consignment of merchandise for or on behalf of a licensed dealer.

- (b) otherwise—only by registered post.
- (5) A weapon may be dispatched only inside a sturdy, securely closed container.
- (6) The container, and anything on or attached to it (other than an address), must not suggest a weapon is inside the container.

Examples of how a container, or something on or attached to it, may suggest a weapon is inside the container—

1 The container's shape or other features is like a weapon.

2 A mark or label on the container mentions weapons, ammunition or X's Gun Shop (other than as part of an address).

60 Licensed collector who wants to move weapons to a place outside Queensland

- (1) This section applies if a licensed collector wants to move weapons to which the licence relates from the premises specified in the licence to a place outside Queensland.

CLASSIFICATION OF FIREARMS UNDER THE ACT

CATEGORIES OF WEAPONS:

Weapons Categories Regulation 1997- Current as at 1 February 2021

Definition

In this regulation

magazine capacity, for a firearm, means the maximum number of rounds of ammunition of a particular calibre that are designed to be held in the receptacle from which rounds are fed into the chamber of the firearm

2 Category A weapons

- (1) Each of the following is a category A weapon if it has not been rendered permanently inoperable—
 - (a) a miniature cannon under 120cm in barrel length that is a black powder and muzzle loading cannon, depicting a scale model of an historical artillery piece or naval gun;
 - (b) an air rifle;
 - (c) a rim-fire rifle (other than a self-loading rim-fire rifle);
 - (d) a shotgun other than a lever action shotgun, pump action shotgun or self-loading shotgun;
 - (e) a powerhead;
 - (f) a break action shotgun and rim-fire rifle combination;
 - (g) an air gun;
 - (h) a weapon mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (g) that is a blank-fire firearm.
- (2) A conversion unit is also a category A weapon. (3) In this section—
air gun means a firearm designed to discharge a projectile (including, for example, an arrow) by compressed air, or other compressed gas, not generated by an explosive.
- (3) **conversion unit** means a unit or device or barrel that is capable of being used for converting a category A weapon that is a firearm from one calibre to another calibre.

3 Category B weapons

- (1) Each of the following is a category B weapon if it has not been rendered permanently inoperable—
 - (a) a muzzle-loading firearm;
 - (b) a single shot centre-fire rifle;
 - (c) a double barrel centre-fire rifle;
 - (d) a repeating centre-fire rifle;
 - (e) a break action shotgun and centre-fire rifle combination;
 - (f) a lever action shotgun with a magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
 - (g) a weapon mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (f) that is a blank-fire firearm.
- (2) A conversion unit is also a category B weapon.
- (3) In this section—
conversion unit means a unit or device or barrel that is capable of being used for converting a category B weapon that is a firearm from one calibre to another calibre.

4 Category C weapons

- (1) Each of the following is a category C weapon if it has not been rendered permanently inoperable—
 - (a) a semiautomatic rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity of not more than 10 rounds;
 - (b) a semiautomatic shotgun with a magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
 - (c) a pump action shotgun with a magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
 - (d) a weapon mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (c) that is a blank-fire firearm.

5 Category D weapons

- (1) Each of the following is a category D weapon—
 - (a) a self-loading centre-fire rifle designed or adapted for military purposes or a firearm that substantially duplicates a rifle of that type in design, function or appearance;
 - (b) a non-military style self-loading centre-fire rifle;
 - (c) a self-loading shotgun with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds;
 - (d) a pump action shotgun with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds;
 - (e) a self-loading rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds;
 - (f) a lever action shotgun with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds;
 - (g) a weapon mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (f) that is a blank-fire firearm.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to a weapon mentioned in the subsection even if the weapon is permanently inoperable.

6 Category E weapons

- (1) A bulletproof vest or protective body vest or body armour designed to prevent the penetration of small arms projectiles is a category E weapon.
- (2) In this section—

body armour—

 - (a) means an article designed for anti-ballistic purposes that is designed to be worn on a part of the body; and
 - (b) does not include a helmet, or other article, designed for sight or hearing protection.

7 Category H weapons

- (1) A firearm, including an air pistol and a blank-fire firearm, under 75cm in length, other than a powerhead, is a category H weapon, regardless of whether it has been rendered permanently inoperable.
- (2) A conversion unit is also a category H weapon.
- (3) This section does not apply to a powerhead or category C, D or R weapon.
- (4) In this section—

conversion unit means a unit or device or barrel that is capable of being used for converting a category H weapon that is a firearm from one calibre to another calibre.

7AA Category H weapon classes

For schedule 2 of the Act, each of the following comprises a class of category H weapon—

Editor's note—

- (k) a walking stick or cane that contains, conceals or disguises a sword or any other single-edged or multi-edged blade, knife or spike of any length or of any material;
- (l) any incendiary or inflammable device containing any substance capable of causing bodily harm or damage to property that is primarily designed for vegetation management;
- (m) any pistol crossbow designed to be discharged by the use of 1 hand (that is not a toy pistol crossbow) that when discharged is capable of causing damage or injury to property or capable of causing bodily harm;
- (n) any crossbow designed to be discharged by the use of 2 hands that, when discharged, is capable of causing damage or injury to property or capable of causing bodily harm;
- (o) a chinese throwing iron that is a hard non-flexible plate having 3 or more radiating points with 1 or more sharp edges in the shape of a polygon, trefoil, cross, star, diamond or geometric shape and constructed or designed to be thrown as a weapon;
- (p) a flail or similar device constructed and designed as a weapon consisting of in part a striking head and which, if used offensively against a person, is capable of causing bodily harm;
- (q) a device known as a ‘manrikiguisari’ or ‘kusari’, consisting of a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at each end to a geometrically shaped weight or handgrip and constructed or designed for use as a weapon;
- (r) a device known as a knuckleduster or any device made or adapted for use as a knuckleduster and which, if used offensively against a person, is capable of causing bodily harm;
- (s) a weighted glove designed or constructed to be used as a weapon;
- (t) a mace or any similar article (other than a ceremonial mace made for and used solely as a symbol of authority on ceremonial occasions);
- (u) any device, not a toy, constructed or designed as a telescopic baton, the extension of which is actuated by the operation of a mechanical trigger.

8 Category R weapons

- (1) Each of the following is a category R weapon—
 - (a) a machine gun or submachine gun that—
 - (i) is fully automatic in its operation and actuated by energy developed when it is being fired; or
 - (ii) has multiple revolving barrels;
 - (aa) a replica or facsimile of a machine gun or submachine gun that is a firearm;
 - (b) a unit or device that is capable of being used for converting any firearm to a weapon mentioned in paragraph (a);
 - (ba) a device designed to attach to a firearm that uses recoil generated by the firearm to increase the firearm’s rate of fire;

Example—

- a bump stock
- (c) a firearm capable of firing 50 calibre BMG cartridge ammunition;