

SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (ACT) INC

Safety Course module

This module includes the following:

Information about the course

How to apply for an ACT Firearms License

**Legislative & Regulation Requirements
in relation to the use of Firearms**

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- Definition of a firearm under the ACT Firearms Act 1996
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References

Australian Capital Territory Firearms Regulations 2008
Australian Capital Territory Firearms Act 1996 Effective March 1 2018
Australian Capital Territory Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997
Australian Capital Territory Prohibited Weapons Act 1996
Other legislative material as appropriate

ABOUT THE SSAA ACT SAFETY COURSE

The course is held in the SSAA ACT Clubhouse at 50 Hector McIntosh Grove Majura ACT. (Off the Majura Parkway) The clubhouse is the first large green building to the right as you travel through the main gates and up the internal road.

The SSAA ACT Safety course is accepted by the NSW Firearms Registry.

Safety certificates are valid for two years – by the ACT Firearms Registry and twelve months by the NSW Firearms Registry. SSAA ACT will not reissue a lost certificate if it is over a year old.

Registration for the course opens at 6pm with the course starting at 6.30pm sharp, no latecomers. The course usually finishes around 9pm

Reading this module is a mandatory pre-requisite prior to attending the course. If you do not read the module you may be asked to leave and book into the next available course.

Cost is \$50 for adult SSAA members and \$75 for non-members.
No charge for SSAA Junior members, \$35 for non-member Juniors.

Payment can be by direct debit (details are on the application form) or cash on the night. If paying by cash we would appreciate the correct amount. We do not have eftpos facilities

SSAA membership cards, a confirmation letter or receipt must be shown. Photo identification must be shown. Birth Certificates can be provided for Juniors.

Please wear covered sensible footwear; you will be completing the practical part of the course on a firing range. No thongs.

People who are SSAA members and who's genuine reason is club/target shooting can have ACT or NSW Firearm applications stamped and signed at the end of the course, **you need to bring the completed firearm application with you**. Paperwork will be stamped at the end of the course.

What you need to bring

- A copy of this module, or to be able to access it electronically
- A pen
- A completed application form (or email it prior to the course)
- Photo identification
- Identification for Juniors – passport, birth certificate or school pass
- Firearms License application form (for people who are using Club/Target as their genuine reason and are SSAA members)
- Minor permits for SSAA Juniors

APPLYING FOR AN ACT FIREARMS LICENCE

Submit your application in person at the ACT Firearms Registry, 86 Vicars Street, Mitchell ACT. You will need your Safety Certificate, proof of SSAA membership, 100 points of Identification, receipt for the fee and your completed Firearms Licence Application.

Download the ACT Firearms application form

<https://www.police.act.gov.au/report-and-register/online-forms>

Pay the fee for an ACT Firearms license, either online or visit any Access Canberra Shopfront, please note that ACT Firearms Registry do not accept payments.

<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/payment>

GENUINE REASONS FOR APPLYING FOR A FIREARM

TARGET AND CLUB SHOOTING

You will need to be a member of a Sporting Association or Club.

The quickest and easiest way to join SSAA is online at www.ssaa.org.au. Keep your receipt as proof of membership. SSAA will send you a confirmation letter with your membership number within 7-10 days and your membership card will follow.

You will need to get your application form signed and stamped by a SSAA ACT Club Official. This can be done at the end of the Safety course.

Alternatively you can get applications stamped by the Range Officer, Mon-Fri 9am -4pm. Sundays 9am – 12noon. You will need to show your proof of SSAA membership.

RECREATIONAL HUNTING / VERMIN CONTROL

Complete the landowners/Occupiers Permission for Recreational Hunting form from the AFP website. <https://www.police.act.gov.au/report-and-register/online-forms>

You will need to show a rates notice from a landowner which shows the size of the block, you can black out any financial information on the rates notice.

Further information about genuine reasons can be found on the ACT Firearms website

<https://www.police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security/firearms/licence-information>

You can have more than one genuine reason when applying for a firearms license.

You can also add a genuine reason to a license.

NSW Firearm Licences

You can upload a firearms application to your NSW Services account. If your genuine reason is club/target shooting you will be asked for a 9 digit approval number, this number can be found on your SSAA ACT Safety certificate. https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms

ACT ADULT FIREARM LICENSE APPLICATION

Frequently asked questions

You need to download and print the application form Adult Firearms License and bring it with you to the course. **Forms are NOT provided at the Course.**

<https://police.act.gov.au/report-and-register/online-forms>

The application form is also used to renew licenses therefore some of the questions are irrelevant for first time applicants.

Frequently asked questions

Q2.3 What calibre of ammunition will you be using?

The Firearms Registry wants to know that you are aware of the types of ammunition for an A&B License application. You do not need to purchase a firearm to fit the types of ammunition that you write on your application form.

Types of ammunition for A&B License - .22, 12guage, .303, .308, .223

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Q3.2 Club Associations

Should be completed if you are a SSAA member and your genuine reason for applying for a license is club/target shooting.

Membership number – is your SSAA number

Club Name is SSAA ACT

.....

Q3.3 How often do you attend the Club

Write – New Member

.....

Information on storage can be found on the ACT Firearm Registry website.

<https://police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security/firearms/storage>

Q5.1 How will your firearms be stored?

In a locked approved steel safe attached to the building separate from ammunition.

Q5.2 How will your ammunition be stored?

In a locked steel container separate from the firearms.

It is very important that you know the firearms and ammunition need to be stored and carried separately.

SSAA ACT JMK Rifle RANGE RULES

The Range Officer has full control over Range activities.

The Range has a light system of red and green lights. When the red light is flashing there is to be no shooting, no handling of firearms. The range officer will close the range to all shooting with no handling of firearms and clear the range for people to go forward of the line to reset targets. When all shooters have returned to the Range, the Range Officer will then change the lights to green and shooting can commence.

It is recommended that shooters wear ear and eye protection. All persons should wear appropriate covered footwear.

You must be the holder of a current firearms licence to shoot on this range. Unlicensed persons can only shoot under the immediate supervision of a SSAA ACT Authorised Firearms Instructor.

All Members and Visitors must report to Range Office. Members must provide SSAA membership details, sign the range attendance book and pay any fees required before taking firearms on to the range firing line area.

Shooting is not to commence until the range is opened by the Range Officer.

Smoking is not permitted on firing shooting pad or in designated reloading areas.

Alcohols, or drugs causing impairment that compromise range safety, are not to be consumed or taken by a shooter prior to or during shooting.

Members must carry their current firearms license, membership card and SSAA ACT Range pass when on the SSAA ACT Shooting Complex and show these upon request.

Any person, who refuses to comply with these rules, or a command given by a Range Officer, may be asked to leave the range by an SSAA ACT Inc. Range Officer or Official.

Children

Children and junior license holders must be under adult supervision at all times while on the SSAA ACT shooting complex.

Children are not allowed on or near the firing line while the range is open to shooting unless they are licensed minors under appropriate supervision.

Handling firearms

Firearms are not to be handled in the carpark areas unless bagged or boxed and are being removed or replaced in vehicle.

Firearms are to be removed from vehicles in a safe condition. Bolt removed where possible, action broken, action held open and magazine empty. Firearms are to be covered.

Uncased firearms are to be carried to the storage rack or firing point with the muzzle pointed up in the air.

All firearms on benches and in racks will be inspected by the Range Officer prior to a cease fire. Bags and cases must be opened to allow inspection by Range Officers.

Firearms must be unloaded and the bolt removed (where possible) before removing the firearm from the firing line. Use of empty chamber flags is encouraged.

Firearm malfunction must be reported to the Range Officer immediately.

Adjustments to firearms that compromise range safety are not permitted behind the firing line (for example, adjustment of triggers, snapping actions testing the fit of ammunition).

Handling or touching of firearms in any way is not permitted when the range is closed to shooting, except with the express permission and supervision of the Range Officer.

Single round loading only for general shooting activities (this can vary at the discretion of Range Officer).

SSAA ACT does not provide storage for members firearms on the complex nor do we hire out firearms.

Club Armourers

A Club Armourer is appointed by the Club and can facilitate the transfer of firearms for SSAA members to other SSAA members. These transfers must take place face to face.

A Club Armourer cannot charge a fee.

ACT Firearms Regulation states the following conditions are prescribed in relation to a firearms dealer licence where the licence has been issued for the purposes of being a club armourer:

- a. the licensee shall only buy, sell or transfer firearms or firearms parts from or to persons-
 - i. who are members of the approved club of which the licensee is the armourer; or
 - ii. who are members of an approved club which is visiting that club

Firearm Dealers

A Firearm Dealer can facilitate the transfer of firearms between members, non members, from interstate gun shops, overseas. A Firearms Dealer can charge a fee.

SSAA ACT Firearm Instructors

SSAA ACT Firearm Instructors are able to provide immediate supervision to unlicensed persons on the range. Persons must be over the age of 12 years to handle and shoot a firearm.

SSAA ACT Range Officers

SSAA ACT Range officers are responsible for the running of the main Rifle range.

A Range Officer is on duty Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm, Sunday morning 9am – 12noon.

ACT Firearms Act 1996

MEANING OF A FIREARM

(1) In this Act:

firearm—

- (a) means a gun, or other weapon, that is, or at any time was, capable of propelling a projectile by means of an explosive force, however caused; and
- (b) includes—
 - (i) a blank fire firearm; and
 - (ii) an airgun; and
 - (iii) a paintball marker; and
 - (iv) something declared to be a firearm under section 31; and
 - (v) a modified item; and
 - (vi) a firearm frame or firearm receiver that does not form part of a firearm.

(2) However, **firearm** does not include—

- (a) something prescribed by regulation not to be a firearm; or
- (b) something declared not to be a firearm under section 31.

(3) In this section:

modified item means something that would be a firearm if—

- (a) it did not have something missing from it, or a defect or obstruction; or
- (b) something had not been added to it.

NOTE: The relevant sections of the ACT Firearms Act and Regulations should be read carefully by every applicant

LICENCE CATEGORIES AND AUTHORITY

CATEGORY OF LICENCE	FIREARMS TO WHICH LICENCE APPLIES	AUTHORITY CONFERRED BY LICENCE
Category A	a. Air guns b. Rimfire rifles other than self-loading c. Shotguns d. Shotguns and rimfire rifle combinations	Possess or use a registered firearm of the kind to which the licence applies, for the genuine reason
Category B	a. Muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols) b. Centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading) c. Shotgun and centre-fire rifle combinations	Possess or use a registered firearm of the kind to which the licence applies, for the genuine reason
Collectors	Kinds of firearms specified in the licence	Possess the firearms specified in the licence as a collector
Heirlooms	Kinds of firearms specified in the licence	Possess the firearms specified in the licence as an heirloom

PROHIBITED FIREARMS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	A machine gun, sub-machine gun or other firearm capable of propelling projectiles in rapid succession during 1 pressure of the trigger
2	A self-loading rimfire rifle (including such a firearm described elsewhere in this schedule)
3	A self-loading centre-fire rifle (including such a firearm described elsewhere in this schedule)
4	A self-loading or repeating action, eg. Shotgun (including such a firearm described elsewhere in this schedule)
5	A self-loading centre-fire of a kind designed or adapted for military purposes
6	A self-loading shotgun of a kind designed or adapted for military purposes
7	A firearm that substantially duplicates in appearance (regardless of calibre or manner of operation) a firearm referred to in item 1,5 or 6
8	A firearm, having a barrel not less than 400mm in length not being a pistol, of the Uberti or Armi-Jager brands, or a similar firearm fitted with a revolving ammunition cylinder (other than a firearm manufactured before

	1920) designed to accept multiple rounds of ammunition which, when operated by mechanical or other means, introduces the rounds to a central firing position (commonly known as a revolving carbine)
9	A shotgun fitted with or designed to be fitted with a drum magazine of the Striker 12 assault shotgun type or any similar firearm
10	A firearm to which there is attached any article or device capable of muffling, reducing or stopping the noise created by firing the firearm
11	A firearm, not being a pistol, fitted with a stock that is specially designed so as to be readily detachable, or to operate on a swivel, folding or telescopic basis
12	A firearm made up in the form of a stylographic or propelling pen or pencil, capable of being used for the discharge of gas, bullets, shot, dye or pyrotechnic flares
13	A firearm capable of discharging by any means (a) any irritant matter in liquid, powder, gas or chemical form (b) any pyrotechnic flare or dye (c) any article known as a "paint ball"
14	A firearm which substantially duplicates in appearance a walking stick or walking cane
15	A canon or other firearm by whatever name known of a type which- a. will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant ; and b. has a barrel with a bore in excess of 10 gauge c. not being a firearm of the Very or rocket type designed and intended for use for life saving or distress signalling purposes, an antique muzzle loading firearm, or a rifle or shotgun manufactured before 1920
16	A firearm which, or part of which, has a dimension less than the minimum dimension prescribed for the firearm or part by the regulations
17	An imitation or replica of any firearm (including an imitation or replica pistol, blank fire pistol, shortened firearm, machine gun or sub-machine gun) unless it is of a type approved by the Registrar
18	A device known as a "powerhead" that can be attached to the end of a spear gun and that is designed to propel a projectile by means of an explosion

Genuine reasons for having a licence

The Registrar shall not issue a licence unless it has been established to the satisfaction of the Registrar that the applicant has a Genuine Reason for possessing or using the firearm

GENUINE REASON	EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION
Sport / Target Shooting	Active member of an approved club
Recreational hunting / vermin control	Evidence of permission of owner or occupier of land to shoot on the land Active member of approved recreational hunting club
Primary production	A person whose occupation is the business of a primary producer and intends to use firearms solely in connection with farming or grazing
Vertebrate pest animal control	A professional contract shooter A person employed/authorised by a prescribed government agency that has functions re control of vertebrate pests
Business or employment	Applicant shall demonstrate the necessity to possess or use the firearm for which the licence is sought
Occupational requirements relating to rural purposes	Applicant shall be employed or engaged in a rural occupation that requires possession or use of the firearm
Animal welfare	An officer of the RSPCA A veterinary surgeon A person employed by an administrative unit with animal welfare responsibilities An owner, drover, transporter or handler who may need to destroy animals to avoid suffering
Firearms collection	Applicant shall be a member of a collectors' club or association
Composite entity	Security organisation Approved club

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING FOR A LICENCE

Applications for licences

An application for a licence shall

- be in a form approved by the Registrar
- be accompanied by the determined fee

An applicant for a licence shall

- be of or above the age of 18 years
- provide proof of the applicant's identity
- provide such other particulars or documents as are prescribed

An applicant at the time of applying is to be provided with

- information re firearms safety training course that is required by the regulations to be completed by the applicant
- information concerning the firearms storage and safety requirements under the Act

A licence shall not be issued until after the end of the period of 28 days following the day on which the application is made

Minor's Firearms permits

An application for a Minor's Firearms Permit shall

- be or above the prescribed age and under the age of 18 years
(ACT Firearms Regulation the age of 12 years is prescribed)
- have completed a firearms safety training course
- be a member of an approved club

ACT Firearms Registry do not issue ACT Minors with any type of Hunting license.

FIREARMS LICENCING CONDITIONS UNDER THE ACT FIREARMS ACT 1996

Form of Licence

A licence shall

- contain a recent photograph of the person
- bear the signature of the licensee
- specify the licence category
- specify the registered firearm/s to which the licence relates
- specify the genuine reason
- specify the premises where the firearm is authorised to be kept
- contain a reference to the requirement relating to safe storage
- contain other particulars as prescribed

Conditions of Licence

A licence under the ACT *Firearms Act 1996* may be issued by the Registrar subject to such conditions as the Registrar may impose. Some of the conditions are:

- The licensee shall comply with the requirement of safe keeping of the firearms
- The licensee shall not permit any other person to possess or use any firearm in the licensee's possession if that other person is not authorised to possess or use the firearm
- The licensee, at any reasonable time, permit inspection by a police officer of the licensee's facilities in respect to storage and safe keeping of the firearm in the licensee's possession

Term of licence

A licence issued under the *ACT Firearms Act 1996* continues in force from the time it is issued for a period of 5 years (or a shorter period as may be prescribed, unless it is sooner surrendered or cancelled or otherwise ceases to be in force)

Under *ACT Firearms Regulation* the period of 2 years is prescribed in relation to a licence for any category of firearm where the genuine reason is 1 of the following:

Vertebrate pest animal control ; Business or employment ; Occupational requirements relating to rural purposes ; Animal welfare ; Composite entity

Production of licence on demand

A person to whom a licence is issued shall on demand by a police officer at any time:

- a. if the person has the licence in his or her immediate possession, produce it for inspection by the police officer
- b. if the person does not have the licence in his or her immediate possession, produce it as soon as practicable (but not more than 24 hours) after the demand is made to the police officer who made the demand or to another police officer nominated by the officer; or
- c. state the person's full name and residential address to the police officer

Change of address

Under provision of the *ACT Firearms Act* a licensee must provide the Registrar with particulars of change of address within 7 days after the change occurs

Licence which is lost, stolen or destroyed

The holder of licence which is lost, stolen or destroyed must notify the Registrar within 7 days of becoming aware of its being lost, stolen or destroyed. Upon payment of the prescribed fee a copy of the licence can be obtained from the Registrar

Suspension and Cancellation of licence

The Registrar may, if the Registrar is satisfied there may be grounds for cancelling a licence, suspend the licence.

The Registrar may cancel a licence by serving personally or by post on the licensee a notice that the licence is cancelled and the reason for cancelling it.

REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS

The ACT Firearms Act 1996 states "A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, sell, purchase, possess or use a firearm that is not registered".

Under the *ACT Firearms Act 1996*, The Registrar of Firearms maintains a ***Register of Firearms***, which comprises:

- a. particulars of each registered firearm (including its serial number if any) as are sufficient to identify the firearm and the person in whose name the firearm is registered
- b. particulars of the licence or permit of the person to whom the firearm is registered
- c. such information as may be required by regulation

An application for registration of a firearm shall

- a. be in a form approved by the Registrar
- b. be accompanied by the determined fee

The Registrar may refuse to register a firearm if any firearm to which the application relates is not first produced for inspection by a police officer

Notice of Registration

The Registrar is to issue a notice of registration to the person in whose name the firearm is registered

The following information if required to be included in the Register in relation to each firearm:

- a. The name, address, date of birth and gender of the person in whose name the firearm is registered
- b. Particulars of the licence for the firearm
- c. Identifying number of any spare barrel for the firearm where the barrel and the firearm are of a different calibre
- d. The State or Territory which licensed the person in whose name the firearm is registered
- e. The date on which the person acquired it and disposed of it and the name and address of the person from whom it was acquired

Requirements relating to registered firearms

The person in whose name a firearm is registered shall:

- a. produce the firearm for inspection by a police officer at any reasonable time when requested to do so by the officer
- b. if the firearm is sold, lost, or stolen from that person, notify a police officer of the sale, loss or theft and provide the Registrar, within 7 days, with the particulars.

In accordance with *ACT Firearms Regulations*, the particulars of sale, loss or theft of a firearm/s to be provided to the Registrar in writing and include the following:

- a. In the case of a **sale**: the date of the sale and the name and licence details of the licensed firearms dealer or other person to whom the firearm was sold
- b. In any other case: the date of the **loss or theft**, the circumstances and the particulars relating to the identification of the firearm.

A person who **acquires** a firearm shall provide the Registrar, within 7 days after the firearm is acquired with such particulars as are prescribed

Endorsement on licences ACT (Registered Users)

ACT License holders can apply to be the registered user of another persons firearm, this allows two people to store these endorsed firearms in the same safe or to transport them on their behalf. A registered user form and fee should be submitted to the ACT Firearms Registry, there is no waiting period for it to be approved.

NSW License holders can possess and use a registered firearm of the category and for the genuine reason authorised by their firearms licence.

NSW Licensed holders can possess and use the category of firearm they are authorised for their licence, whether the firearm is registered to you or registered to another firearms licence holder. Each licensee has a legal obligation to ensure that the safe storage address details provided to the NSW Commissioner are accurate and up to date. Should there be a change in the address where firearms are stored, the licensee must, within 14 days after the change occurs, notify the Firearms Registry in writing of the new safe storage location and other particulars.

Purchasing or selling a Firearm

A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, sell, purchase, possess or use a firearm that is not registered

A permit is required to authorise a person to acquire a firearm and an application for a permit shall be made in the prescribed manner and accompanied by the determined fee. A separate permit to acquire is required for each firearm to be acquired

A person other than a licensed firearms dealer shall not sell a firearm to another person unless:

- the other person is a licensed firearms dealer; or
- the sale, in accordance with regulations, has been arranged through a licensed firearms dealer

Firearms must be acquired and disposed of using a Club Armourer or Firearms Dealer.

Permit to acquire

A permit to acquire will not be issued:

- unless the person is the holder of a licence authorising the person to use or possess the firearm concerned ;
- until after the end of the period of 28 days following the day on which the application for the permit is made ;
- unless the Registrar is satisfied that the applicant has good reason for acquiring the firearm

The permit to acquire a firearm remains in force from the time it is issued for a period of 30 days, or until the firearm to which the permit relates is acquired, whichever is sooner

Storage of category A and category B firearms, collectors, Act, s 180 (3)

(1) A person who holds a collectors licence takes reasonable steps to ensure that a category A or category B firearm stated in the licence is stored safely if the firearm is stored in accordance with this section.

(2) If not more than 10 category A or category B firearms are stated in the licence—

(a) the firearms must be stored in a metal lockable container and the firing mechanisms must be stored in a separate lockable metal drawer or container that may be external or internal to the metal lockable container; or

(b) the firearms must be stored in a security container that is constructed of a recognised hardwood and lined with steel sheeting, the door of which is fitted with metal hinges and either—

- (i) an appropriate deadlock; or
- (ii) 2 sliding bolts fitted with padlocks of an appropriate strength.

(3) If a container mentioned in subsection (2) (other than a container for firing mechanisms) weighs less than 150kg when empty, it must be fixed to the floor or wall with no fewer than 2 appropriate anchor bolts.

(4) If more than 10 category A or category B firearms are stated in the licence, the firearms must be stored in a metal safe or a concrete or brick safe of a kind described in section 47 (3).

Transportation of firearms, reasonable steps in storing—Act, s 180 (3)

(1) A person who transports a firearm takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the firearm is stored safely while the firearm is being transported if the firearm is stored in accordance with this section.

(2) A firearm must—

- (a) not be loaded with, and must be kept separate from, any ammunition; and
- (b) if the firearm is being transported using a vehicle other than a motorcycle—
 - (i) be rendered temporarily incapable of being fired; or

Examples

1 by removing the bolt or the firing mechanism

2 by using a restraining device such as a trigger lock.

Note An example is part of the regulation, is not exhaustive and may extend, but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it appears (see [Legislation Act](#), s 126 and s 132).

(ii) be stored in—

- (A) a securely locked container that is securely attached to the vehicle; or
- (B) a securely locked compartment within the vehicle; and
- (c) if the firearm is being transported using a motorcycle—be stored in a lockable hard-case pannier, luggage box or other container appropriate for transporting the firearm; and
- (d) not be able to be seen by a person who is not responsible for transporting the firearm.

(3) However, subsection (2) does not apply if the firearm is being transported by—

- (a) a person whose occupation involves the business of a primary producer, and it is reasonably likely that during transportation of the firearm the person will need to use it for a purpose related to the business; or
- (b) a person employed, or authorised, by a primary producer, and it is reasonably likely that during transportation of the firearm the person will need to use it for a purpose related to the primary producer's business; or
- (c) a conservation officer, and it is reasonably likely that during transportation of the firearm the officer will need to use it for a purpose related to the officer's duties; or
- (d) a person employed, or authorised, by a government agency to kill fauna, and it is reasonably likely that during transportation of the firearm the person will need to use it for a purpose related to the person's employment or authorisation.

Offence—disposal of inherited firearms

A person commits an offence if—

- (a) the person inherits a firearm; and
- (b) the person is not authorised by a licence, permit or otherwise under this Act to possess the firearm; and
- (c) the person—
 - (i) applies for a licence or permit in relation to the firearm and does not give the firearm to a licensed firearm dealer to temporarily store; or

Note A firearm is **temporarily stored** by a licensed firearms dealer for a person who inherits the firearm and applies for a licence or permit in relation to the firearm if the dealer stores the firearm until the application is finally decided (including any application

to the ACAT for review of the decision and any subsequent appeal

(ii) does not dispose of the firearm to a licensed firearms dealer; or

(iii) does not surrender the firearm to a police officer.

AMMUNITION

Ammunition basically consists of three different types

- Rimfire, Centrefire and Shotgun cartridges

It is very important that you do not mix your ammunition. You should only carry with you the correct ammunition for the firearm you are using. It is very easy to confuse centrefire rounds of different calibres. The wrong ammunition in a firearm could result in a firearm exploding and injuring the user

It is very important that you are able to identify and recognise the different types of ammunition to ensure that you avoid mixing your ammunition.

Blank cartridges contain gunpowder and are therefore dangerous. 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 applies to a firearm loaded with blanks

Purchase of ammunition

A person shall not buy ammunition unless the person

- (a) is the holder of a licence or permit for a firearm which takes that ammunition; or
- (b) is authorised to buy it by permit or by the Registrar in writing

Possession of Ammunition

A person shall not possess ammunition unless the ammunition is of a kind that is capable of being discharged from a firearm registered or endorsed on a licence held by that person.

Collector of Ammunition

A person may apply to the Registrar for approval to collect ammunition and the application shall be in a form approved by the Registrar

The collection of ammunition would not consist of more rounds of ammunition that are identical as to

- i. manufacture
- ii. date of manufacture
- iii. calibre of type ; or
- iv. if the ammunition bears a cartridge headstamp – the headstamp that the Registrar considers reasonable in the interest of safety of members of the public

CARRIAGE AND USE OF A FIREARM

A person shall not carry or use a firearm-

- a. in or on any premises in a manner likely to
 - i. injure, or endanger the safety of , another person;
 - ii. cause reasonable fear of the infliction of injury; or
 - iii. destroy or damage any property; or
- b. with disregard for his or her own safety or for the safety of other persons

Carriage and use of a firearm - public place

1. A person shall not, without reasonable excuse-
 - a. have a firearms in his or her possession in or near a street or public place; or
 - b. discharge a firearm in, near or onto a street or public place; except with the written approval of the Registrar
2. A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, have a firearm in his or her possession in a place (other than a street or public place) so as to endanger the life of another person

Discharge of a firearm - general

1. A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, discharge a firearm on, onto or across-
 - a. land (other than land that is in or near a street or public place) that is
 - i. leased land;
 - ii. occupied pursuant to a licence granted by the Territory; except with the written consent of the lessee or occupier of that land or other person apparently acting with the authority of the lessee or occupier; or
 - b. any other land, except with the approval of the Registrar
2. Subsection 1 does not apply in relation to a person who is on a shooting range owned or occupied by an approved club if the person is taking part in a competition or activity conducted by or in association with the club

CONDITIONS WHICH COULD CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF THE LAW AFFECTING THE USE OF FIREARMS

Possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs

A person shall not possess, carry or use a firearm while the person is under the influence of alcohol or any other drug

Shortening firearms

A person shall not, unless authorised to do so by permit

- (a) shorten any firearm (other than a pistol)
- (b) subject to Subsection 96, possess any such firearm that has been shortened; or
- (c) sell or give possession of any such firearm that has been shortened to another person

Modification of firearms

Refer to *Section 250 of ACT Firearms Act 1996* for definitions and details

Defacing or altering identification marks

A person, shall not, unless authorised by the Registrar to do so

- (a) deface or alter any number, letter or identification mark on any firearm or barrel for a firearm ; or
- (b) have possession of any firearm or barrel for a firearm on which any number, letter or identification mark has been defaced or altered

Possession of a firearm under another licence

A licensee shall not, without reasonable excuse, possess a firearm that is specified on a licence which has been issued to another person unless-

- (a) particulars of that firearm are endorsed on his or her licence ; or
- (b) the licensee is otherwise authorised by this Act to have the firearm in his or her possession.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FIREARMS OPERATION

THERE ARE SEVEN BASIC PRINCIPLE FUNCTIONS OF A FIREARM

1. FEEDS Inserts a live round or cartridge into the chamber
2. COCKS Compresses the firing pin main spring and engages the firing pin to the trigger mechanism
3. LOCKS Locks the bolt tight to the breech ready to fire when the trigger is pulled
4. FIRES Discharges (or shoots) one round
5. UNLOCKS Unlocks the bolt from the breech face
6. EXTRACTS Removes the case (fired or unfired) from the chamber
7. EJECTS Throws the case clear of the firearm

Each of the seven steps is employed each and every time a firearm is used, no matter what type of firearm. In some firearms, the seven steps may not be obvious, but rest assured they all need to take place for the firearm to operate correctly.

DETERMINING THE GENERAL CONDITION OF A FIREARM

1. Determining the general condition of a firearm is something that a person learns over many years involvement with the many different types of firearms available
2. Some of the more noticeable things in relation to the general condition of a firearm and could be checked personally would be –
 - The general appearance of the firearm
 - The condition of the bore and /or rifling
 - Any wear that may be evident in relation to any moving parts
3. Some of the more intricate things in relation to the general condition of a firearm, and possibly require the assistance of a licensed dealer or a licensed armourer would be-
 - The firearm head spacing
 - Wear in relation to the trigger mechanism and / or safety catch
 - Any defects in the actual materials e.g. metal fatigue

GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR THE HANDLING AND USE OF FIREARMS

FIREARM SAFETY CODE

TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS BEING LOADED

- Check every firearm yourself. Ensure that the firearm is unloaded and that the action is open when carrying, accepting, passing or when removing it from storage. Remember it is the “empty” firearms that kills
- Always check it yourself, do not accept the other persons word

ALWAYS POINT FIREARMS IN A SAFE DIRECTION

- Whether loaded or unloaded, make sure that the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction
- A safe direction is different in relation to where ever you are and you must always be aware of what or who may be on the other side of a wall or hill

NEVER HAVE LOADED FIREARMS IN THE CAR, HOME OR CAMP

- Ensure that when entering a car, house or camp that all ammunition has been removed from all firearms

IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEHIND IT

- Make certain of what is behind your target before shooting.
- Identify your target

NEVER FIRE AT HARD SURFACES OR WATER

- Consider the area your target is in: could a ricochet occur?
A ricochet will almost certainly result from shooting at smooth flat surfaces such as water or rocks

STORE AMMUNITION AND FIREARMS SEPARATELY

- When not in use, your ammunition and your firearm is to be stored separately under lock and key. Not only is this a safety requirement but it may be a legal requirement

NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WHEN HANDLING FIREARMS

- Alcohol, drugs and some medicines impair judgement. Good judgement is the key to the safe handling of firearms

DO NOT CLIMB FENCES OR OBSTACLES WITH LOADED FIREARMS

- Make sure before attempting to climb through a fence or negotiate any obstacles that your firearm is unloaded. Do not rely on safety catches

HUNTING

- DEVELOP SAFE PRACTICES
- WHEN CROSSING A FENCE ALONE SLIDE THE FIREARM UNDER THE FENCE WITH THE MUZZLE POINTING FORWARDS
- MAINTAIN CONCENTRATION
- BE A RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNER / USER
- INSIST THAT ANY SHOOTING COMPANIONS COMPLY WITH THEIR SAFETY, MORAL, LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS
- DO NOT CHAMBER A CARTRIDGE UNTIL READY TO SHOOT
- ALWAYS KEEP SHOOTING COMPANIONS IN SIGHT
- NEVER SHOOT FROM A MOVING VEHICLE OR BOAT
- ALWAYS SEEK PERMISSION OF LAND OWNERS
- WHEN SHOOTING AT GAME, ENSURE THAT THE ANIMAL IS KILLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

PERSONAL SAFETY STRATEGIES

LEARN, PRACTISE, TEACH AND PROMOTE THE GENERAL FIREARMS SAFETY RULES

ENSURE THAT ALL FIREARMS ARE KEPT IN GOOD WORKING ORDER

USE ONLY THE CORRECT AMMUNITION AS SPECIFIED FOR YOUR FIREARMS

NEVER SKYLARK OR ENGAGE IN HORSEPLAY WITH FIREARMS

REFUSE TO SHOOT WITH OTHERS WHO –

Have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs

Do not obey the general safety rules

Do not comply with their moral, legal and environmental obligations