



NSW Police Force
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FIREARMS REGISTRY

Probationary Pistol Licence

P 660

This FACT sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a Probationary Pistol licence for the genuine reason of Sport/Target Shooting. Reference section 16A of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

In NSW, a person wishing to take up the sport of pistol shooting for the first time must hold a Probationary Pistol licence prior to being issued with a full category H firearms licence.

What is a Probationary Pistol Licence?

A Probationary Pistol Licence (PPL) is a firearms licence issued to a person who has never held a category H firearms licence for the genuine reason of Sport/Target Shooting.

A PPL authorises the licensee to possess and use a registered pistol for the purpose of participating in shooting competitions and activities at a club approved for those activities by the Commissioner.

A PPL does not authorise the acquisition of a firearm during the first six month term of the PPL. Nor does a PPL authorise the possession or use of a prohibited pistol.

Training Courses

Pistol Safe Handling Course - applicants for a PPL are required to complete an initial 'Pistol Safe Handling Course' conducted by a pistol shooting club. The 'Pistol Safe Handling Course' completion certificate must be attached to your online application.

Pistol Safety Training Course must be completed within the first 6 months of the term of the PPL. You must successfully complete the Pistol Safety Training Course conducted by the pistol club of which you are a member and you must complete 3 recorded competition shoots to the satisfaction of the pistol club. The pistol club will provide a copy of your PPL Completion Certificate to the Firearms Registry.

Are there restrictions on the PPL?

Yes. For the first six (6) months of the term of the PPL you cannot possess or use a pistol unless:

1. You are on the pistol shooting club premises, and
2. You are under the supervision of a person who holds a full category H Sport/Target Shooting Firearms Licence and the level of supervision meets the requirements of clause 156 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017*.

For the second six (6) months of the PPL you can only be issued with two Permits to Acquire (PTA) and these will only be issued if you have successfully completed the 'Pistol Safety Training Course' - see 'Training Courses' above. Check that your pistol club has sent your PPL Completion Certificate to the Firearms Registry before applying for a PTA.

What firearms can I acquire during the second six months of the PPL?

During the second six months you may acquire no more than two pistols, any one of which is:

- * A centrefire pistol, or
- * A rimfire pistol with a calibre of no more than .22 inch, or
- * An air pistol with a calibre of no more than .177 inch, or
- * A black powder pistol.

However, you must not possess a centrefire and rimfire pistol at the same time - section 31(3C) of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

When can I acquire additional firearms?

If you have already had two PTAs issued to you in the second six months of your PPL, you may only acquire additional firearms when your full category H firearms licence has been issued.

When do I get my full category H firearms licence?

You must hold your PPL for the full term of the licence and your club must confirm you have successfully completed the Pistol Safety Training Course before your full category H firearms licence can be issued.

A letter will be mailed to you 90 days prior to the expiry of your PPL and will include instructions on how to apply for a full category H firearms licence online at Service NSW. You must apply online prior to the expiry of your PPL.

Applications submitted prior to the expiry of the PPL provide for continuing authority to possess and use firearms on your PPL licence until your full category H firearms licence is issued or refused.



Probationary Pistol Licence

Firearms Registry

What if I have previously held a category H firearms licence in NSW?

If you have previously held a category H firearms licence in NSW for Sport/Target Shooting, you may not be required to obtain a PPL. However, section 11(3A) of the *Firearms Act 1996* confirms you may be required to undertake a Pistol Safety Training Course.

What if I have previously held a category H firearms licence Interstate?

If you have previously held a category H firearms licence for Sport/Target Shooting in another State or Territory, you may not be required to obtain a PPL.

What if I hold a PPL in another State and I am moving to NSW?

If you have held the PPL for the full term of the licence and complied fully with the requirements of that interstate licence, then you may not need to obtain a PPL prior to being issued a full category H firearms licence in NSW.

What if I am moving to NSW during the course of my interstate PPL?

If you are moving to NSW and you hold a PPL in another State or Territory that has not run the full term of the licence, you will need to apply for a PPL in NSW.

What is the term of the PPL?

A PPL is issued for a period of 12 months.

How much will the PPL cost?

The prescribed fee for a PPL is \$100. A pensioner is exempt from the fee for the licence. If you are claiming this exemption you must provide a copy of your Centrelink pension concession card, disability card or Veteran's Affairs card (including concession and health care cards) with your application.

Where do I pay?

Payment is made by credit card at the time of completing the online application.

For a comprehensive list of fees and fee exemptions, see the 'Fee Schedule' available on the Firearms Registry website.

How do I make application for a PPL?

You can apply for a PPL online at Service NSW (www.service.nsw.gov.au).

To complete your online application you will need:

- * A MyServiceNSW Account linked to NSW Police Force
- * Your Pistol Safe Handling Course Certificate
- * Pistol Club Membership details
- * A credit card for payment of the licence fee (if applicable).

If you are claiming exemption from the licence fee as a pensioner you will also need to attach a copy of your Centrelink pension concession card, disability card or Veteran's Affairs card (including concession and health care cards).

How long will it take to obtain my PPL?

Once received, your application will be reviewed and you will be informed of the outcome, usually within 6 - 8 weeks.

Related Information - see FACT Sheets:

'Information on obtaining a Firearms Licence in NSW',
'Fee Schedule',
'Sport/Target Shooting Genuine Reason',
'Safe Storage Level 2 - Category C, D and H Requirements',
'Participation Requirements for Club Members',
'Transportation of Firearms',
'Ammunition Safe Storage, Acquisition and Possession'.

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Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only.

Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 1996* and the associated Regulation, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.



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