

FIREARMS REGISTRY



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PROHIBITED WEAPON – LASER POINTER PERMIT

This fact sheet provides information on the requirements for obtaining a Prohibited Weapons Laser Pointer Permit - clause 15 of the *Weapons Prohibition Regulation 2017*.

It is an offence in NSW to possess a prohibited weapon without the authority of a permit.

What is the definition of a laser pointer?

A laser pointer means a hand-held battery-operated device, designed or adapted to emit a laser beam, that may be used for the purposes of aiming, targeting or pointing.

If the laser pointer is over 1 milliwatt, it is classified as a prohibited weapon by virtue of clause 4(8) to Schedule 1 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*.

Am I allowed to own a laser pointer under 1 milliwatt?

You may own a laser pointer of 1 milliwatt or less, but it is an offence in NSW to carry or use the laser pointer in a public place without a reasonable excuse.

What is a reasonable excuse?

A reasonable excuse would be an amateur astronomer, teacher, lecturer or builder who has the laser pointer in their possession at a time and place related to that purpose (i.e. lawful pursuit of that occupation).

What about a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt?

If you wish to possess and use a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt, you must obtain a prohibited weapon permit from the NSW Firearms Registry, unless you are exempt.

Who is exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit?

A member of an astronomical organisation approved by the Commissioner of Police for use of a laser pointer for activities associated with astronomy. A member means a person who is currently a member and has been a member for 3 months or more, OR

A person who holds a licence or permit under the *Firearms Act 1996*, for use of a laser pointer in connection with a firearm to which the licence or permit applies.

What astronomical organisations are approved by the Commissioner of Police for the purposes of this exemption?

The following astronomical societies, clubs or associations are approved by the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of an exemption to obtain a permit:

- All clubs, societies and associations listed with the Astronomical Society of Australia;
- The Astronomical Society of NSW;
- Any astronomical club, society or association linked to a recognised Observatory such as the Sydney Observatory or Parkes Observatory;

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

Mailing: Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

Tel: 1300 362 562

Interstate: 02 6670 8590

Website: www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

Contact us: <https://portal.police.nsw.gov.au/s/online-firearm-applications>

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- University astronomical clubs and lecturers associated with those clubs;
- Any other astronomical club, society or association approved by the Commissioner of Police (see approved list on the Firearms Registry Internet site).

Who should apply for this permit?

Any person who wishes to possess and use a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt and is not exempt.

What is the term of the permit?

The permit will be issued for a maximum term of 5 years.

How much will the permit cost?

The prescribed fee for this permit is \$127. Your payment must accompany the application. Please provide credit card details on the reverse of the application form.

What do I need to send with the application?

- A completed P638 'Application for a Prohibited Weapons Permit' form
- A completed 'Prohibited Weapon Laser Pointer Genuine Reason' form
- A completed 'Business Declaration' (business application only)
- Supporting documentation as requested on the genuine reason form

What level of safe storage applies to this permit?

Level 1 safe storage. See '*Safe Storage Prohibited Weapons Levels 1, 2 & 3*' & '*Prescribed Safe Storage Schedule 1 Prohibited Weapons*' available on the Safe Storage page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

How do I apply for a Laser Pointer Permit?

You must complete the P638 'Application for a Prohibited Weapons Permit' form and the 'Prohibited Weapon Laser Pointer Genuine Reason' form and where applicable provide any supporting documentation.

Further information / related information

Firearms Registry website: www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

- [Application for a Prohibited Weapons Permit](#)
- [Business Declaration form](#)
- [Fee Schedule](#)
- [100 Point Identification fact sheet](#)

See the [Safe Storage](#) page on our website for safe storage requirements.

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Instructions for completing the Prohibited Weapons Permit Application Form (P638)

NEW APPLICATION / REAPPLICATION

Mark the appropriate box, new application or reapplication. If you currently hold, or have previously held, a firearms licence or firearms or prohibited weapon permit, enter your licence or permit number.

SECTION A - PERMIT TYPE

From the drop-down list select the type of permit for which you are applying. If the permit is not listed in the drop-down list, enter 'Other' and describe the type of permit you require in the space provided.

SECTION B - NOMINATED PERSON/BUSINESS OR NOMINATED PERMIT HOLDER/INDIVIDUAL

Insert the full name, date of birth, gender, NSW drivers licence (if held), contact phone numbers, email address and supply details for the nominated person (business) or nominated permit holder (individual). If you have been known by any other names enter your alias here.

SECTION C - RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Insert your full residential address in this section.

SECTION D - POSTAL ADDRESS

If the postal address is the same as the residential address, mark the box. If your postal address is different to your residential address, insert your postal address in this section.

SECTION E - BUSINESS, CLUB OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY DETAILS

If this application is being made by a Business, Club or Government Agency, provide details in this section and attach supporting documentation.

SECTION F - SAFEKEEPING ADDRESS OF WEAPONS

If the safekeeping address is the same as the residential address, select 'YES' in the box. If your weapon safekeeping address is different to your residential address, insert the address in this section.

SECTION G - PERSONAL HISTORY

Answer each question by selecting a 'YES' or 'NO' from the drop-down list. If you answer 'YES' to any question, provide details as an attachment.

SECTION H - DECLARATION

The application must be signed and dated by the applicant.

SECTION I - FEE

The prescribed fee for a prohibited weapon permit is \$127. Your payment must accompany the application.