

# FIREARMS CHANGES 2017

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

### STORAGE OF FIREARMS – for one to 19 firearms

Anyone in possession of a firearm in South Australia must comply with the *Code of Practice for the Security, Storage and Transport of Firearms, Ammunition and Related Items* set out in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Regulations 2017*. Most firearms licensees hold less than 20 firearms and will need to store their firearms in a Level 1 safe. This guide sets out minimum requirements for the storage of one to 19 firearms.

#### If you hold a firearms licence on 1 July 2017

There are transitional provisions to provide you time to make any required changes to your firearm security and to apply to the Registrar to continue to use a particular type of steel safe you may be using to store your firearms. Detailed information on Prescribed safes and the transition period is available on the SA Police website at [www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons](http://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons)

#### If your firearms licence was first issued on or after 1 July 2017

The information provided on the *Prescribed safes for existing licencees* and *Transitioning to the new firearms legislation* guides **does not** apply to you and you must comply with provisions of the new legislation.

#### General requirements regarding the storage of firearms

Firearms must be stored unloaded and you must take all reasonable precautions to prevent your firearm(s) from becoming lost, stolen or falling into the possession of an unauthorised person. Failure to do so may be an offence.

You can only change the manner of your firearm security if the Registrar of Firearms (Registrar) has approved the change in writing. However, if for a short-term, temporary basis you are residing at a residential premises other than your usual place of residence, or occupying a business premises other than your usual place of business, approval of the Registrar is not required so long as the firearm/s are kept at those other premises and you otherwise comply with the requirements of the Code.

*\*\* If you are an existing licence holder as at 1 July 2017, transitional provisions provide 12 months (i.e. to 1 July 2018) to make the required changes to your security arrangements.*

#### Storage location

You must store your firearm(s) at your principal place of residence, or if you possess your firearm(s) for the purpose of your business, at your principal place of business unless the Registrar has approved storage at an alternative premises. Ammunition must be stored separate from firearms.

#### Establishing the number and category of firearms for storage requirements

The number and category of firearms in your possession (excluding paint-ball and deactivated firearms) are those permanently kept at a particular residential or business premises. You can establish your storage requirements by considering the following:

- if you are the only person who keeps firearms at a premises, you need only consider those you keep there;
- if others reside at or occupy premises with you and keep firearms there:
  - the total number of all firearms permanently kept there by yourself and the others will determine your storage requirement (e.g. if you permanently keep 10 firearms and another person keeps seven firearms at the same premises your storage requirements will be for 17 firearms); and
  - your storage requirement will directly relate to any and all categories of firearm(s) permanently kept on the premises.

#### Joint storage of firearms

Under the new legislation you can now permanently store your firearms in the same safe:

- used by another person permanently residing at the same premises, or
- used by another person permanently occupying the same business premises

provided they are secured inside a separate locked compartment or are secured by a separate cable or other device which serves to prevent unauthorised access, removal or possession by another person. If you decide to jointly store your firearms in this manner you must notify the Registrar of the manner and place you are storing your firearm(s).

# FIREARMS CHANGES 2017

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### STORAGE OF FIREARMS – for one to 19 firearms

#### Storage of firearms (up to maximum number of 19 firearms)

If your firearms are all category A and B firearms:

- if **kept under the main roof** of your residential or business premises your firearms must be stored in a **Level 1 safe**; or
- if **not kept under the main roof** of your residential or business premises or are **kept in an outbuilding** at your residential or business premises your firearms must be stored in a **Level 2 safe**.

If **any** of the firearms include a category C, D or H firearm then all firearms in your possession must be stored in a **Level 2 safe**.

#### Level 1 safes and Level 2 safes

A **Level 1 safe** is one with a body and door made of structural grade mild steel of a thickness of not less than **2 millimetres**.

A **Level 2 safe** is one with a body and door made of structural grade mild steel of a thickness of not less than **3 millimetres**.

The specifications of manufacture are designed to prevent forced or unauthorised access and can be located in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Regulations 2017*.

A **Level 1 safe** or **Level 2 safe** that weighs less than 150 kilograms when empty must be bolted to a solid concrete, brick, metal or timber floor, wall or other permanent internal structure of the building or outbuilding with at least two solid anchor bolts. Firearms can no longer be stored in timber containers or chained to walls.

#### Outbuildings

An outbuilding is a building other than the main building at the premises, including a shed or garage (excluding a fully enclosed garage under the main roof) that must:

- be affixed to the land it is situated on; and
- be fully enclosed in a building in a structurally sound condition; and
- have a door or point of entry capable of being securely locked.

#### Security of safe keys

You must take all reasonable precautions to prevent your safe key, safe key card or safe key code, etc. from being lost, stolen or coming into an unauthorised person's possession or knowledge. This means you must not:

- tell another person your safe combination, key code or electronic access code, unless they are able to lawfully access the safe;
- leave a record of your safe combination, key code or electronic access code in a place it may be discovered by an unauthorised person;
- leave the safe key in the lock of the safe, give it to another person or advise of its whereabouts or leave it where it may be discovered by an unauthorised person;
- store your safe key in a container used to secure ammunition suitable for use in a firearm secured in your safe.

Holders of primary producer licences should note that clause 7(11) of Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Regulations 2017* allows you to permit licensed relatives and employees to access firearms safes in some circumstances.

#### Where can I find more information?

The information provided in this document is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 2015* and the *Firearms Regulation 2017* which are available at [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au) A suite of information guides on the legislative changes is provided on SAPOL's website at [www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons](http://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons) For further information, contact Firearms Branch via [sapol.firearmsbranch@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:sapol.firearmsbranch@police.sa.gov.au) or by telephone 7322 3346.



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**  
KEEPING SA SAFE



**Government**  
of South Australia