



# Purchasing ammunition and use of firearms in the NT by interstate licence holders

## What is happening?

The Firearms Policy and Recording Unit and Northern Territory Police Legal Branch recently reviewed the operations of the Northern Territory *Firearms Act 1997* ('the Act') and Northern Territory *Firearms Regulations 1997* ('the Regulations') with respect to the sale of ammunition to persons who hold an interstate firearms licence.

The review established that the Act and Regulations does not provide any automatic ability for an NT firearms dealer or NT ammunition retail permit holder to sell ammunition to an interstate firearms licence holder, and also identified limitations in the use of firearms in the NT by interstate licence holders.

## What is the problem?

Sections 68A and 69 of the Act stipulate that ammunition can only be sold to, or possessed by, the holder of a licence. The definition of a licence within the Act does not include a corresponding licence (i.e. an interstate licence). This means that interstate licence holders cannot purchase or possess ammunition under these sections.

Section 92 of the Act enables the holder of a corresponding category A / B / C or H firearms licence to attend the Northern Territory for the purpose of participating in an approved shooting competition. This section allows the holder to possess and use firearms in the NT for the shooting competition, and therefore allows the possession of ammunition. However, it does not provide an avenue for the holder to purchase ammunition in the NT.

Regulation 33 of the Regulations provides that the holder of a corresponding category A or B licence may possess firearms in the NT for up to three months. This regulation does not provide the holder with an ability to use a firearm or to possess or purchase ammunition. Section 58(3) of the Act permits a licence holder to use their firearms under the supervision of a NT firearms licence holder.

Section 93 of the Act provides that the holder of a corresponding category A or B licence will be taken to be a 'licence' authorising the possession and use of firearms (of those categories) for 3 months, provided that the holder has notified the Commissioner in writing, and subject to any directions of the Commissioner.

Section 93 of the Act further provides that the holder of a corresponding category C / D or H licence will be taken to be a 'licence' authorising the possession and use of firearms (of those categories) for 2 days, provided that the holder has notified the Commissioner in writing, and subject to any directions of the Commissioner.

## What does this mean for me?

You do not need to do anything if:

- you are the holder of a firearms licence and are attending the NT to participate in an **approved** shooting competition; and
- you do not need to purchase ammunition (bringing your own); or
- you are the holder of a corresponding category A or B firearms licence and you are temporarily in the NT (less than 3 months); and
- you are in possession of your firearms only (no ammunition) and not intending to use your firearms (unless under the supervision of a NT firearms licence holder) while in the NT.

## What you should do?

If you are attending an **approved** shooting competition in the NT and need to purchase ammunition in the NT, you will need to provide notification in writing to the Commissioner via the Northern Territory Firearms Policy and Recording Unit ([firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au)). You must provide information regarding your stay in the NT, including the firearms that will be in your possession. You will be provided with a notice formally recognising your corresponding licence to be an NT licence for the purposes of your stay. This will enable you to purchase ammunition for up to 3 months (category A or B licence) or 2 days (category C / D or H licence). When purchasing ammunition, you must produce the notice along with your corresponding licence.

If you are intending to be temporarily in the NT (less the 3 months) and wish to bring your category A or B firearms (and ammunition) to use for recreational hunting or shooting, you will need to provide notification in writing to the Commissioner via the Northern Territory Firearms Policy and Recording Unit ([firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au)). You must provide information regarding your stay in the NT, including the firearms that will be in your possession. You will be provided with a notice formally recognising your corresponding licence to be an NT licence for the purposes of your stay. This will enable you to also possess and purchase ammunition for up to 3 months. When purchasing ammunition, you must produce the notice along with your corresponding licence.

Any notification to the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit for either of the above purposes must be made at least 4 weeks prior to your intended travel into the NT.

## Contact

[firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:firearmsregistry@pfes.nt.gov.au) or 8922 3543