

EMAIL FOR DEALERS

Hello

As you are no doubt aware, the Arms Act has been amended. Some changes are in effect now, while others will come into force over the next three years. New Zealand Police wants to support the firearms community and ensure you are properly informed of the various changes to the law.

We have summarised the immediate changes that are most relevant to you as a dealer and encourage you to read the latest information below to find out more. There are also other changes that impact on you personally and they are described in the attached letter to firearm licence holders. There is also detailed information on the [Police website](#) which I encourage you to visit.

Immediate changes to Dealers

Sales to Visitors

Licences will continue to be issued to visitors to NZ (visiting for less than 1 year) enabling holders of these licences to possess and use firearms and buy ammunition and accessories while in New Zealand.

However, while dealers are able to make sales of firearms to visitors who are holders of a visitor firearms licence, the visitor can no longer take possession of a firearm they purchase for use while in New Zealand. The firearm/s must be exported by the dealer, subject to the usual export and import requirements of New Zealand and the visitor's own country.

Dealer endorsements

The Act is now clear that if you are dealing in pistols, restricted weapons, prohibited firearms and/or prohibited magazines, you will require endorsements on your **dealer's licence** (not your personal firearms licence). All existing endorsement will be transitioned to your dealer licence when you next renew. You will also need a permit to possess or import to record the transfer of each item to that endorsement.

Permits to import

The Act is now clear that from the commencement date, any person wishing to import any of the below must first obtain a permit to import:

- non-prohibited ammunition (except projectiles for airguns)
- pistol carbine conversion kits
- air pistol carbine conversion kits
- prohibited ammunition (if authorised or permitted expressly by or pursuant to this Act to be possessed).

Dealer locations

A dealer's licence may now be issued in respect of a principal place of business authorising the dealer to operate from more than one place of business providing there is a manager at each place who also holds a dealer's licence.

Dealers no longer have to close their principal business location for the duration of a gun show at which they wish to operate as a dealer. However, approval to conduct business at a gun show is still required and may be subject to any conditions specified by Police.

Dealers' employees

If the dealer activity involves pistols, pistol carbine conversion kits, restricted weapons, prohibited firearms or prohibited magazines, then the employee's firearms licence now needs an endorsement under section 30 or 30B of the Act authorising them to possess those types of items in connection with their duties as an employee of a licensed dealer.

For employees of licensed dealers with pistol, restricted weapon or prohibited firearms endorsements, the endorsement lasts for one year unless one of the following occurs first:

- the employee's firearms licence expires, is surrendered, or revoked;
- the licensed dealer's licence expires, is surrendered or revoked; or
- the dealer's endorsement is revoked; or
- the employee ceases to be employed by the licensed dealer.

The Act now clarifies that if a dealer's licence is revoked, then an employee of the dealer may not carry on any dealer activity for the dealer.

Hireage: Dealers may hire out arms items and parts to be handled at sites other than the dealer's licensed place of business if they are hired out for use by a broadcaster, bona fide theatre company or society or cinematic or television film or video recording production company. In such cases the items must all be used and stored securely under the supervision of a Theatrical Armourer (who has the necessary endorsements to possess these items).

Theatrical Armourer

A Theatrical Armourer is a person who holds a firearms licence or dealer's licence and:

- an endorsement issued under s30(1)(c) or 30B(3) authorising them to possess pistols, restricted weapons, or prohibited items for broadcasting/theatrical/cinematic purposes (s 2 and 5C); and in addition
- their endorsement has been updated (on application to Police) to specify that items may be handled at sites other than the dealer's place of business. The armourer also needs to obtain and hold written consent from Police for each theatrical production specifying the site location, and the duration, and a description of, the theatrical production at that site. (s 7(2))

Restriction on importing and possession of pistol carbine conversion kits (PCCKs)

- A person may not possess a PCCK unless they have been issued with a permit to import or a permit to possess it.

- An applicant for a permit to import or a permit to possess a PCCK must have a firearms licence with an endorsement that authorises the possession of a pistol, as well as a permit to possess or import a pistol.
- Dealers who are importing as an agent of the licence holder will require an appropriate endorsement to possess pistols on their dealer licence to be able to take possession of a PCC kit.

Restrictions on importing Air Pistol Carbine Conversion (APCC) kits

A permit to import an APCC kit (which can be actioned by a dealer as an agent of the applicant) can only be issued to a person who intends to personally use the kit as a member of an airsoft or paintball club that is affiliated with a national airsoft or paintball organisation.

An overview of changes after next six months

In six months from commencement changes to standard firearms licensing will come into force, including:

- Disqualification of certain persons from applying for a licence.
- Licence application changes.
- Clarification in legislation of the matters considered in deciding an applicant is a fit and proper person.

An overview of changes after next 12 months

Below is an overview of the areas which have changes coming into force after 12 months. We will update you in the future with specific information relating to these next changes and what these mean for you as a licence holder, and as a dealer interacting with your customers.

In 12 months from commencement changes to dealer firearms licensing include:

- Specifying those business activities involving arms items (to include hiring, auctioning, repairing or modifying) for which a person must have a dealer's licence. The dealer licence will need to specify the dealer activities authorised and also the classes of arms items that will be involved.
- Clarification in legislation of the matters considered in deciding an applicant is a "fit and proper" person to be a dealer.
- A senior manager of a body corporate (company) will be able to apply for and hold a dealer's licence on behalf of the company.
- Conditions relating to the manufacture of certain classes of arms items (pistols, restricted weapons, PCC kits, and air PCC kits).

Sharing information with your networks and customers

Police is also sending out email communications to all firearms licence holders who have provided email addresses. This information may also be useful to you personally.

We want to ensure we are doing all we can to connect with the firearms community so we would appreciate your help to ensure we have reached as many people as possible. It's important that everyone who is immediately affected knows about the changes to the Arms Act. I would appreciate it if you would please share the attached messages with your customers. Please also encourage them to visit the [Police website](#) for more information.

Further information

We want to ensure we do our best to keep you informed about the changes as they come into force and how they will impact you and your customers.

Police's role is to implement and enforce the changes and to give the firearms community guidance on how to comply with the changes as they come into force. We will keep you updated with further correspondence.

There is comprehensive information on our [website](#). This will be our main source of information and will be kept updated. It includes [questions and answers](#).

If you cannot find the answer you need please contact your [local firearms officer](#).

Kind regards

A/Supt Mike McIlraith

Business Lead: Firearms Transformation Programme

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