

ENDORSEMENT HOLDER EMAIL

Hello

Police wants to ensure we are doing all we can to connect with the firearms community and we would appreciate if you would please share the information below with your members on changes to the Arms Act. It's important everyone is aware of how the changes to the Arms Act will affect them.

Summary of the immediate changes

- A small [group of additional firearms are now prohibited](#), including some semi-automatic pistols and centrefire pump-action rifles capable of being used with a detachable magazine; or that have a non-detachable magazine capable of holding more than 10 cartridges. There are also new requirements for [lawful possession of a pistol carbine conversion kit](#).

An amnesty is in place from criminal prosecution for continued possession of the above noted items if you don't use them. Regulations will be passed to enable a new buy-back and this will be well publicised when dates are confirmed. We ask that if you have one of the prohibited items or a pistol carbine conversion kit, that you please safely and securely store these items. The amnesty will last until those regulations have been in force for 6 months.

You can visit the Police website to find out if you are [eligible to apply for an endorsement](#) and [permit to possess](#) to retain and use these items.

- A first time firearm licence will only be valid for five years. In some other circumstances (such as when a person reapplies after their licence expires, or their previous licence has been revoked or surrendered) a subsequent licence would last for five years. All other licences will be for a duration of 10 years.
- Some endorsements now have a shorter duration and will need to be renewed before the firearms licence if you wish to continue the endorsed activity. The criteria for a P endorsement has also been expanded to now include agricultural, horticultural, or silvicultural business activities.
- Visitors to New Zealand will no longer be able to buy and take ownership of a firearm for use during their visit (they can buy and export only).
- New and updated offences and penalties to address criminal offending.
- A Minister's advisory group will be established to provide ongoing advice to the Minister of Police.
- The Arms Act is set to be reviewed again in 2025.

Changes for endorsement holders

As you may be aware, the Arms Act has been amended. Some changes are in effect now, others will come into effect over the next two years. NZ Police want to support the firearms community and ensure these changes are as easy to navigate as possible.

The information below summarises the immediate changes that are most relevant to endorsement holders. There are also other changes that impact on all licence holders beyond what's described above. You can find more information on the [Police website](#) which you are encouraged you to visit.

B or C endorsement holders with semi-automatic pistols

Semi-automatic pistols apart from those that meet the definition of a “small” semi-automatic pistol are now prohibited firearms. The bulk of semi-automatic pistols used by pistol club members will be unaffected.

A “small” semi-automatic pistol - which is *not* a prohibited firearm - is a semi-automatic pistol that no more than 400 millimetres in length, has a barrel length of at least 101 millimetres, fires ammunition which is a type specified for an approved target pistol shooting discipline and at a muzzle velocity of 1600 feet per second or less, and is suitable for shooting on a certified pistol range.

Other semi-automatic pistols (for example, those between between 400mm and under 762mm) are now prohibited firearms. If your semi-automatic pistol is in this category, you will need to check if you are eligible to retain it. Some of these pistols already held on a collector, theatrical/broadcasting, heirloom/memento, or museum director/curator endorsement will be able to remain there and continue to be treated as pistols rather than prohibited firearms while held in that capacity. Otherwise, you will need to apply for a [P endorsement](#) on your current firearms licence, and obtain a [permit to possess](#). You can find more information on eligibility and how to apply on the Police website.

Pistol carbine conversion kits

Pistol carbine conversion kits now have [special requirements](#) in order for you to lawfully possess them. To possess a pistol carbine conversion kit, in addition to a firearms licence, you must also have:

- an endorsement for a pistol – such as a target pistol shooting or collector endorsement
- AND
- either a permit to import a pistol or a permit to possess a pistol; and
 - a permit to import the pistol carbine conversion kit or a permit to possess the pistol carbine conversion kit.

On-site theatrical armourers used by dealers

A dealer hiring out firearms for theatrical/broadcasting purposes etc will need to have an on-site theatrical armourer to supervise the use and secure storage of those items.

Only holders of endorsements under section 30(1)(c) or 30B(3) (theatrical/broadcasting endorsements to possess pistols, restricted weapons, prohibited firearms, or prohibited magazines) can be used as armourers. In addition, the armourer’s endorsement needs to specify that those items may be handled at sites other than the dealer’s place of business; and the armourer needs to obtain written consent specifying the location of the particular site, duration and description of the production.

Prohibited firearm/magazine endorsements

If you have a P endorsement for pest control, the duration has now been changed to two years and six months (up from two years).

The criteria for applying for a P endorsement for pest control has also been expanded to include farming agricultural, horticultural, or silvicultural activities.

This endorsement is only to be granted if there is a real possibility that the commercial viability of that business would be detrimentally affected to a significant extent by the presence of prescribed wild animals or animal pests on any land used for that business.

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 on you.

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.

There is comprehensive information on [our website](#) and this will include detail on later changes in due course. The website will be our main source of information and will be kept updated.

If you can't find the information you are looking for on our website, you can call 0800 311 311.

Kind regards

Mike McIlraith

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