



# **NZDA**

**New Zealand Deerstalkers Association**

## **Reference Guide for NZDA Members to Arms Amendment Regulations 2021**

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## INTRODUCTION AND DISCLAIMER

This document is a guide for NZDA branches and members on the Arms Amendment Regulations 2021.

This guide summarises information from the regulations regarding the **storage** and **transport of firearms and ammunition** but does not cover changes to firearms dealers and firearms licencing.

The **guide is not law** and has not been prepared in conjunction with, or endorsed by, NZ Police. It is our initial practical interpretation of the regulations and is designed to support branches and members when applying the new regulation.

The guide is separated into '**summary**' sections and '**detailed**' sections. Refer to the '**summary**' sections for general guidance and to review the practical changes to firearm ownership. Refer to the '**detailed**' sections if you have specific questions or require more detailed comments on the summaries.

Please refer to the section "**To-do List for Licenced Firearms Owners**" for a step-by-step guide to checking your storage facilities and making sure you remain compliant with the new regulations. For more in-depth explanations and examples we have produced a practical "**How-to Guide for Licenced Firearms Owners**" to sit alongside the list.

For further guidance please refer to the Police Firearms and Safety website [here](#). *Be aware this has not been updated yet but remains the current guidance from NZ Police.*

For specific concerns relating to the amended regulations please contact NZ Police. Your local Firearms offices and contact details can be found following this [link](#).

We will advise you once Police updates its website and provides an official Police guide. We received correspondence from Police advising it will be a “number of weeks” before they release their guidance.

You can view the **regulations** [here](#) or download a copy [here](#).

## 1. GENERAL GUIDANCE (SUMMARY)

### 1.1 Storing your firearms and ammunition **on property**:

Previous Regulations	New Regulations
<p>1. You could store firearms and ammunition together as long as the firearm was stored in a way that it could not be discharged (e.g. using a trigger lock or removing the bolt and securing it separately).</p>	<p>1. Owners must now store ammunition and firearms separately.</p> <p>2. Ammunition must be stored in a separate secure storage container with a different key or combination to the firearms storage container.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The storage container can be a cash or ammunition box in secure storage or in a stout locked cupboard; or</li> <li>b. In a lockbox in a gun safe with a different key to the gun safe; or</li> <li>c. If the ammunition cannot be stored in one of the above two options, in a separate locked room or storage area that of sufficient robust construction to prevent theft and that has been inspected by Police.</li> </ol>

### 1.2 Storing your firearms and ammunition **in mobile homes**:

Old Regulations	New Regulations
<p>1. No specific regulations affecting storage in mobile homes.</p>	<p>1. Firearms and ammunition may only be stored in a mobile home, campervan or caravan unit while that unit is being used as a temporary or permanent home.</p> <p>2. The regulations regarding secure and separate storage of firearms and ammunition described above at section 1.1 apply to mobile homes.</p> <p>3. The storage of firearms and ammunition in a mobile home must be inspected by Police.</p>

1.3 **Transporting** your firearms and ammunition:

Old Regulations	New Regulations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Firearms may be transported in vehicles.</li> <li>2. No firearm may be left in a vehicle that is unattended.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Transporting firearms</b></p> <p>Firearms may be transported in vehicles if the following criteria are satisfied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Firearms <b>must be concealed</b> from view from outside of the vehicle.</li> <li>2. Firearms <b>must be made inoperable</b> if possible (by removing the bolt or other vital part) and storing that part on your person or out of sight and separate to the firearm.</li> <li>3. If the firearm cannot be made inoperable (e.g. because it is a single shot firearm), the firearm <b>must be fitted with a trigger lock or travel in a locked case or carry bag.</b></li> <li>4. Firearms <b>must not be loaded</b> with ammunition in the breech, barrel, chamber or magazine.</li> <li>5. Ammunition <b>must be concealed</b> from view from outside of the vehicle.</li> <li>6. Ammunition <b>must be stored separately</b> from any firearms and be in a locked glovebox or similar where practicable.</li> </ol> <p><b>Exceptions to Transport Requirements</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. The above requirements don't apply if your vehicle is being used on a farm undertaking farm-related activities or engaged in legally authorised hunting/pest control on farmland and agricultural/horticultural/silvicultural land or public land.</li> </ol>

8. The above requirements also don't apply if you are in the vehicle or in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle.

### **Leaving Firearms and Ammunition in Vehicles**

9. You can only leave firearms and ammunition in a vehicle for **up to 60 minutes** if you are taking a break whilst transporting them.
10. **If you wish to take a break for less than 60 minutes** you need to remain in the immediate area or vicinity of the vehicle, the firearms need to be out of sight and secured, if possible vital parts (e.g. the bolt) should be removed and be in the owner's possession and the vehicle must be locked with all windows closed and the keys in the firearm owner's possession.
11. **If you wish to take a break for longer than 60 minutes**, the firearms need to be removed to a more secure location or be under the owner's direct possession.

### **Other means of transport (Ferry and Motorbike)**

12. If the vehicle is on a passenger ferry, the vehicle may be left unattended for the duration of the journey as long as drivers and passengers are required to leave the vehicle decks. The vehicle must be locked, with windows closed and with the key in the owner's possession.
13. If you are travelling with firearms on a motorbike you must **render the firearm incapable of operation** by removing the bolt or other vital part or by using a trigger lock. You must contain the firearm and any part removed from it in a locked case or carry bag.

## 2. TO-DO LIST FOR LICENCED FIREARM OWNERS (SUMMARY)

### Step 1: Review your current firearm storage facilities

- Is your firearm in a location where a young child does not have ready access to it?
- Is your firearm secured against theft? It is secured against theft if you satisfy at least one of the following:
  - It is in a lockable cabinet, container or receptacle of stout construction; OR
  - In a lockable steel and concrete strong room; OR
  - In a lockable display cabinet or rack in which the firearm is immobilised so that it cannot be fired.
- Is your firearm container securely fixed to the premises?

***If you answered yes to all of the above, move to step 2. If you answered no then your current firearm storage facilities are insufficient.***

### Step 2: Review your ammunition storage facilities

- Is your ammunition stored in its own **separate**<sup>1</sup> and secure storage container?
- Does your secure ammunition storage container have a locking mechanism (or padlock) with a **different key or combination number** to your firearm storage container?
- If you are storing your ammunition in a locked storage room, has the storage room been inspected and approved by the Police?

***If you answered yes to all of the above, move to step 3. If you answered no then your current ammunition storage facilities are insufficient.***

### Step 3: Review your transport methods

- Do you travel with your firearm concealed from view from outside the vehicle?
- Do you travel with your firearm rendered inoperable? It is inoperable if you satisfy at least one of the following:
  - You are able to remove the bolt or another vital part (e.g. the trigger or barrel) of the firearm; or
  - You place a trigger lock on your firearm; or
  - Your firearm is in a locked case or carry bag.

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<sup>1</sup> **Separate** means the ammunition could not be accessed by a person who was able to obtain access to your firearms. This means either a different safe to your gun safe or a lock box within your gun safe with a separate key or a separate robust storage room.

- Do you travel with your firearm **unloaded**<sup>2</sup>?
- Do you travel with your ammunition concealed from view from outside the vehicle?
- Do you travel with your ammunition secured separately? It is secured separately if you satisfy all of the following:
  - It is transported separately to your firearm; and
  - It transported in a locked glovebox or similar storage area.

***If you answered yes to all of the above, your storage and transport methods are likely sufficient to satisfy the new regulations. If you answered no then your current transport methods are insufficient.***

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<sup>2</sup> **Unloaded** means there is no ammunition in the breech, barrel, chamber or magazine (whether the magazine is in the firearm or not).



### 3. HOW-TO GUIDE FOR LICENCED FIREARM OWNERS (SUMMARY)

#### CHOOSING YOUR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION STORAGE

##### **Remember, your firearms must be:**

1. In a location a young child could not access it;
2. Secured against theft;
3. Stored in one of the following which is securely fixed to the premises:
  - a. A lockable cabinet or receptacle of stout construction;
  - b. A lockable steel and concrete strong room;
  - c. A lockable display cabinet or rack in which the firearm is immobilised so that it cannot be fired.

##### **Your ammunition must be:**

1. In separate storage to your firearms; and
2. In a secure container with a locking mechanism.

When choosing your firearms and ammunition storage, it is now required they be kept separately. Please see the list below for our **options for firearms storage listed in green boxes**

We have included two options marked **in red boxes which a common ways of storage but are no longer acceptable** storage methods.

<i>Description</i>
A secure strong room for firearms. A safe in that strong room for ammunition. The keys to the strong room and safe stored separately or on your person at all times.
A firearms safe affixed to your premises for firearms. An ammunition safe built-into your firearms safe. The keys to the firearms safe and ammunition safe stored separately or on your person at all times.
A firearms safe affixed to your premises for firearms. A cash-box or locked steel box for ammunition stored inside your firearms safe.

The keys to safe and cash-box stored separately or on your person at all times.

A lockable display cabinet or rack for firearms with your firearms immobilised with a trigger lock.  
A cash-box or locked steel box for ammunition stored outside of your display cabinet but out of reach of young children (e.g. on top of your display cabinet)  
The keys to the display cabinet and cash-box stored separately or on your person at all times.

A single firearms safe for both your firearms and ammunition.  
Your bolt stored separately in a drawer.

A firearms safe for your firearms.  
A separate safe for your ammunition.  
The keys to both safes being stored in the same drawer at home.

CHOOSING YOUR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION TRANSPORT

**STORAGE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ON PROPERTY (DETAILED)**

- 1.1 There are new regulations about the storage and most importantly the **separation of firearms and ammunition** held on owner's properties.
- 1.2 Section 19(1)(b) of the **regulations** requires owners to take **'reasonable steps'** to store ammunition separately to their firearm so that a person who obtains access to the firearm or ammunition cannot also access the other.
- 1.3 The **same requirements for the storage of firearms** remain in place. Owners must take reasonable steps to secure any firearm against theft. Reasonable steps are defined as storing firearms in a:
  - 1.3.1 Lockable cabinet, container or receptacle of stout construction in which firearms may be stored; or
  - 1.3.2 A lockable steel and concrete strongroom in which firearms may be stored; or
  - 1.3.3 A lockable display cabinet or rack in which firearms are immobilised so that none of them may be fired; and
  - 1.3.4 Securely fixing to the premises all locked cabinets, containers, racks and receptacles in which firearms are store; and
  - 1.3.5 Keeping locked or immobilised and locked in the cabinet, container, receptacle, strongroom, display cabinet or rack, every firearm that is not under the immediate and personal supervision of the licenced owner or some other holder of a firearms licence.
- 1.4 There are **new requirements for the storage of ammunition**. Owners must take reasonable steps to store ammunition separately from any firearm. Reasonable steps are defined as storing ammunition:
  - 1.4.1 In its own secure storage container (such as a cash box or ammunition box that is in secure storage or in a stout locked cupboard) that has a locking mechanism or padlock that has a

**key or combination that is different** from the key or combination used for the firearms storage container<sup>3</sup>; or

1.4.2 In a lockbox in a gun safe cabinet that has **a different key from the key for the gun safe cabinet**, and the key for the gun safe cabinet is stored in a different place from the other key<sup>4</sup>; or

1.4.3 If the ammunition is bulky and difficult to store in a container, it must be stored in a locked room or storage area that is of sufficiently robust construction to prevent theft and has been inspected and approved by a member of police.<sup>5</sup>

1.5 The **key take away** is that you can no longer simply store the bolt to your firearm separately and keep your ammunition and firearm in the same safe. You now need to ensure that your ammunition and firearm are separated when in storage.

Please refer to section 19 of the Arms Amendment Regulations 2021 [here](#) for further information.

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<sup>3</sup> You must also ensure that the key or combination to both storage containers **cannot be obtained at the same time**. For example, you will not be able to keep both combination numbers in a single password book.

<sup>4</sup> You **cannot have both keys on the same keychain** unless they are on your person at all times.

<sup>5</sup> You must store ammunition in a secure storage container or a lockbox in a gun safe **unless** it is bulky and difficult to store. Your first choice should be one of the first two options. If you find you aren't able to store the ammunition in a secure storage container and don't have a lockbox in your gun safe you will need to contact Police to come to inspect the storage room you wish to use to store your ammunition. **Remember:** it must be a separate storage room to where you keep firearms and they must use a different key or combination number to get in.

#### 4. STORAGE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IN MOBILE HOMES (DETAILED)

- 4.1. There are new regulations about the storage and transport of ammunition and firearms in mobile homes.
- 4.2. Firearms and ammunition may only be stored in a mobile home, campervan or caravan unit while that unit is being used as a temporary or permanent home.<sup>6</sup>
- 4.3. If you do live permanently or temporarily in a mobile home and store firearms and ammunition in your mobile home, your storage must satisfy the same standards as a permanent physical property. Please refer to [section 3](#).
  - 4.3.1. This means in practice that mobile homes must have a secure gun safe affixed to the chassis of the vehicle and a separate and secure storage container<sup>7</sup> for ammunition.
- 4.4. "The storage of firearms and ammunition in a mobile home, campervan or caravan unit must be inspected and approved by a member of the Police."
- 4.5. The **key take away** is that you can only store firearms in mobile homes if you are residing in that mobile home and that the storage facilities for your firearms and ammunition must be equivalent to what you would have in a permanent physical property.

Please refer to section 19A of the Arms Amendment Regulations 2021 [here](#) for further information.

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<sup>6</sup> You cannot store firearms or ammunition in a mobile home permanently unless you live in that unit. For example, if you live in a house but travel often for hunting, you cannot leave your firearms and ammunition in that mobile home, even if stored securely.

<sup>7</sup> A secure storage container for ammunition is defined in section 3 of this document.

## 5. TRANSPORT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION (**DETAILED**)

- 5.1. There are new regulations about the transport of firearms and ammunition and rules around leaving vehicles with firearms or ammunition in them.
- 5.2. The regulations **do not apply to firearm owners** using a vehicle whilst doing the following:
  - 5.2.1. Farm-related activities on farms; or
  - 5.2.2. Legally authorised hunting or wild animal pest control on farmland, public land or land used for agricultural, horticultural and silvicultural purposes.
- 5.3. The regulations apply to **all other firearm owners** transporting firearms/ammunition in a vehicle on a road or public access way (including public tracks).
- 5.4. Firearm owners must ensure the following when transporting their firearms/ammunition in a vehicle:
  - 5.4.1. Firearms are **concealed** from view from outside of the vehicle<sup>8</sup>; and
  - 5.4.2. Firearms are made **inoperable if readily possible** by removing the bolt or another vital part (which should be kept on the licence holder's person or stored out of sight separately<sup>9</sup> from the firearms) or, **if that is not possible, firearms must be fitted with a trigger lock or travel in a locked case or carry bag**<sup>10</sup>; and
  - 5.4.3. Firearms are **not loaded** with ammunition in the breech, chamber or magazine; and
  - 5.4.4. Ammunition **must be concealed** from view from outside of the vehicle; and

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<sup>8</sup> This could include placing your firearm in a carry bag, under a blanket or cover or under a seat, so long as the firearm itself is not visible from outside the vehicle.

<sup>9</sup> **Separately** means that it could not be obtained if someone was able to gain access to the firearm. It is best to keep the bolt or other vital part on your person or potentially in a locked box.

<sup>10</sup> There is no regulation about the type of locked case or carry bag, so long as it could not be opened easily without the key or combination number.

- 5.4.5. Ammunition **must be stored separately**<sup>11</sup> from any firearms and be in a locked glovebox or similar storage area where practicable.
- 5.5. If a firearm owner is travelling with a vehicle on a **passenger ferry**:
- 5.5.1. The owner may leave the vehicle unattended for the duration of the journey *only* if drivers and passengers are required to leave the vehicle deck; and
- 5.5.2. The vehicle must be locked, the windows must be closed and the keys must not be left in the vehicle.
- 5.6. Firearm owners must ensure the following when transporting their firearms/ammunition on a **motorbike**:
- 5.6.1. The firearm must be rendered incapable of operation by removing the bolt or other vital part and keeping the bolt or vital part on their, or by affixing a trigger lock; and
- 5.6.2. Contain the firearm and anything removed from it within a locked case or carry bag.
- 5.7. If a firearm owner wishes to stop for a **break in a journey** whilst transporting firearms/ammunition, they may not stop and leave the vehicle unattended for more than 60 minutes. If they **do stop for more than 60 minutes** the firearms and ammunition must be **removed** to a more secure location or be under the owner's direct possession and control.
- 5.8. A firearm owner may leave their vehicle for **up to a 60 minute break** in their journey so long as they satisfy the following:
- 5.8.1. The owner remains in the **immediate** area or vicinity of the vehicle<sup>12</sup>; and
- 5.8.2. The firearms/ammunition are **secured** and **out of sight**; and

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<sup>11</sup> **Separately** from any firearms means that it must be stored separately from *all* parts of the firearm. In other words you cannot transport your bolt (or other vital part removed from the firearm) and ammunition in the same secure locked box. This means in practice you will either need to store the bolt or other vital part on your person or have two separate lockable and secure transport boxes, one for your ammunition and one for the part.

<sup>12</sup> Although not defined in the act, in principle this means the owner must be able to see and supervise the vehicle at all times. For example, if you stop at a petrol station or a café you need to ensure you can see your vehicle for as long as you are away from the vehicle.

5.8.3. If possible, vital parts of the firearm remain in the owner's possession; and

5.8.4. The vehicle is **locked**, the **windows are closed** and the keys remain in the owner's possession.