

Specific commencement dates for provisions in the Arms Legislation Act

The table below sets out the specific commencement dates for the provisions in the Act. In summary, there are five commencement dates, as follows:

1. The day after Royal assent: including, but not limited to, the Purpose Statement, prohibition on visitors possessing a firearm in New Zealand, the five year duration of a licence (with some transitional exceptions), the duration of endorsements, the majority of updated offences and penalties, updated and new regulation-making powers, updated cost recovery provisions, provisions empowering the establishment of a Commissioner’s Firearms Advisory Group, and a provision to review the Act five years after all of the provisions are fully in force.
2. Six months after Royal assent: including, but not limited to, restrictions on the possession, selling or supply ammunition and on the manufacture of prohibited items, criteria disqualifying a person from holding a licence, criteria for a fit and proper person test, amendments to the suspension and revocation of a licence, new improvement notices, a new right of review of licensing decisions and a requirement for health practitioners to consider notifying Police of concerns regarding the safe use of firearms.
3. 12 months after Royal assent: new dealer licensing provisions, including the dealer specific fit and proper person test.
4. 2 years after Royal assent: shooting clubs and ranges.
5. 3 years after Royal assent: the registry provisions and Direct Data Access (DDA) provisions. These provisions can be brought into force sooner by Order in Council.

Two provisions, amendments to the Extradition Act 1999 and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1992 come into force by Order in Council [which would follow upon NZ accession to UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition].

Date of coming into force	Section in principal Act	Content of section
Day after Royal assent	1A (inserted)	Purposes of Act
	2 (amended)	New definitions of air pistol carbine conversion kit, ammunition seller, arms item, blank-firing gun, pistol carbine conversion kit, semi-automatic pistol, small semi-automatic pistol, specified ammunition, theatrical armourer, part, pistol.
	2A (replaced)	Meaning of prohibited firearm
	2B (amended)	Meaning of prohibited magazine
	3 (amended)	How Act binds the Crown
	4A (amended)	Persons who may apply to import, sell, possess, or use prohibited items – to include owners or managers of an agricultural business
	5C	On-site theatrical armourers to supervise firearms use in certain cases
	6A	Conditions on dealer’s licence

Date of coming into force	Section in principal Act	Content of section
	7	Place of business that dealers operate from
	7A (amended)	Gunshows
	8, 8A, 8B, 8C	Duration, renewal, and surrender of dealer's licence
	9, 9A, 9B	Revocation of dealer's licence
	10 (amended)	Restriction on possession of prohibited firearms, prohibited magazines, pistols, restricted weapons, and pistol carbine conversion kits
	11 (replaced)	Employees of licensed dealer to hold firearms licence bearing appropriate endorsements
	13 (amended)	Seizure of items held by licensed dealer
	14 (replaced)	Disposal of items of dealer whose licence is revoked
	15 (replaced)	Offence to carry on dealer activities following revocation of dealer's licence
	16 (replaced)	Offence to import firearms, etc, without permit
	16A (replaced)	Offence to import prohibited ammunition
	17 (repealed)	Burden of proof on defendant removed for s 16 offences
	18 (replaced)	Issue of permit to import firearms, etc
	18AA (inserted)	Issue of permit to import pistol carbine conversion kits
	18AAB	Issue of permit to import air pistol carbine conversion kits
	18AAC	Revocation and validity of permit to import
	18AAD	Permit to import issued for items to be brought into or sent into New Zealand in single or multiple consignments
	18B	Production of samples
	18C	Export of specified items not corresponding with sample or otherwise approved for importation
	19 (replaced)	Seizure of illegally transported items
	19A	Restriction on possession of prohibited firearms and prohibited magazines
	19B	Restriction on possession of prohibited parts
	19C	Restriction on possession of pistols and restricted weapons
	20 (amended)	Restrictions on possession of non-prohibited firearms
	21	Restrictions on possession of airguns
	22C	Restrictions on possession of pistol carbine conversion kits
	22F	Visitors may not take ownership of firearm
	22G	Restriction on manufacture of prohibited items
	25 (amended)	Duration of firearms licence (change to 5 yrs for 1 st time licences)
	27 (replaced)	Revocation and surrender of firearms licence
	28 (replaced)	Effect of revocation or surrender of firearms licence
	29 (amended)	Application for endorsements in respect of pistol or restricted weapon
	30 (amended)	Power to make endorsement in respect of pistols or restricted weapons
	30A (amended)	Application for endorsement for prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine
	30B (amended)	Power to make endorsement for prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine
	31 (amended)	Possession of items for stage, film or television

Date of coming into force	Section in principal Act	Content of section
	33C	Duration of endorsements
	34 (amended)	Notification of change of address
	34B (amended)	Effect of non-compliance with requirements in relation to photograph or calling-in of licences
	35 (amended)	Issue of permit to possess pistol or restricted weapon
	35AAA	Issue of permit to possess pistol carbine conversion kit
	35A (amended)	Issue of permit to possess prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine
	36 (amended)	Offence to carry pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon without authority
	38 (amended)	Removal of pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon out of New Zealand
	39–41 repealed	These sections are replaced by ss 66A, 66B, and 66C
	41A	Marking of firearms in accordance with regulations
	42 (replaced)	Offences in respect of licences
	43 (replaced)	Selling or supplying firearm or airgun to unlicensed person
	43AA (replaced)	Selling or supplying prohibited ammunition
	43A (replaced)	Mail order or Internet sale of arms items or ammunition
	44 (replaced)	Selling or supplying pistol or restricted weapon to person who does not hold permit to import or permit to possess
	44AA	Unlawful sale or supply of pistol carbine conversion kit
	44A (amended)	Offence to sell or supply prohibited firearm/magazine
	46 (replaced)	Carrying of imitation firearm, except for lawful, proper, and sufficient purpose
	48 (replaced)	Discharging firearm, airgun, pistol, or restricted weapon in or near dwelling house or public place
	50AA	Unlawful possession of pistol carbine conversion kit
	50CA	Unlawful possession of prohibited ammunition
	50D (amended)	Unlawfully carrying or possessing prohibited ammunition
	52 (amended)	Presenting firearms, airgun, pistol, or restricted weapon at other person
	53A (amended)	Use or attempted use of prohibited firearm to resist or prevent arrest or commit offence
	54 (amended)	Use or attempted use of airgun, etc, to resist or prevent arrest or commit offence
	55B (amended)	Offence of failing to produce prohibited firearm, etc, on demand or to permit inspection of firearm, etc
	55C	Offence of failing to produce firearm other than pistol, restricted weapon, or prohibited firearm on demand or to permit inspection of firearm
	55D	Offences relating to illegal manufacturing of arms items
	55E	Offences relating to illegal trafficking of firearms, parts, or ammunition
	55F	Offences relating to falsifying firearm markings
	55G	Offences relating to removing or altering firearm markings
	55H	Extraterritorial jurisdiction for offences against section 55D, 55E, 55F, or 55G
	55I	Attorney-General's consent required

Date of coming into force	Section in principal Act	Content of section
	59 (amended) 59A (replaced) 59B (replaced) 63 (amended) 65 (amended) 66A 66B 66C 66D 69 (replaced) 70 (amended) 72A (amended) 73 (amended) 74 74A(a) & (c) replaced 74D 79 – 86 87 88 – 91 95 Schedule 1 Schedule 2	Unsafe firearms or pistols Surrender by licensed dealer of firearms, etc Voluntary delivery to Police of firearms Appeal to district court in respect of compensation Restoration of articles received Notifying Police of loss, theft, or destruction of firearm, etc (previously s 39) Person in possession of firearm, etc, must give identifying information to Police (previously s 40) Powers of Police to require surrender of airguns or antique firearms (previously s 41) Obligations of owner or operator of craft temporarily visiting New Zealand and carrying firearms, etc Forfeitures Authorising disposal of firearms detained by Police Service of documents Savings in respect of carriers and persons with seizure powers Regulations – new regulation-making powers Order in Council re prohibited firearm Making regulations providing for transitional matters Cost Recovery Guidance Notices Minister’s arms advisory group Review of this Act Part 2: Clauses 8 to 10, 11, and 15 to 19 Part 1: Amendments to other Acts, Part 2: Amendments to legislative instruments
6 months after Royal assent	22A 22B 22D 22E 22H 23 (amended) 24 (replaced) 24A 24B 24C 24D 27A repealed 27B 27C 43B repealed 60	Restriction on possession of non-prohibited magazines and non-prohibited parts Restriction on possession of ammunition Restrictions on selling or supplying ammunition Ammunition seller to keep record of ammunition sales Persons disqualified from holding a firearms licence Application for firearms licence Issue of firearms licence Fit and proper person to possess firearm or airgun General conditions of firearms licence Special condition of firearms licence relating to sale and supply of ammunition Breach of condition to which firearm licence is subject Covered in new 24A Revocation and surrender of licence if holder becomes disqualified Revocation of suspended firearms or dealer’s licence This section replaced by s22C Improvement Notices

Date of coming into force	Section in principal Act	Content of section
	60A 60B 60C 62 (replaced) 62A 62B 62C 64 (amended) 92 Schedule 2	Temporary suspension of licence pending possible revocation Effect of temporary suspension of firearms licence Effect of temporary suspension of dealer's licence Right of review of official decisions How review to be conducted Right of appeal to District Court Further provision relating to appeals Appeal on a question of law Health practitioners may give Police medical reports of persons unfit to use firearm Part 2: amendment to District Court Rules
12 months after Royal assent	5 5A 5B 6 6B 12 (amended) Schedule 2	Dealers to be licensed Application for dealer's licence Issue of dealer's licence Fit and proper person to hold dealer's licence Special condition of dealer's licence relating to manufacture of firearms, etc Record of dealing by licensed dealers Part 2 – amendments to some regulations
2 years after Royal assent	29 (amended) 38A 38B – 38K 38L – 38T 38U – 38X Schedule 1	Application for endorsements in respect of pistol or restricted weapon – to include ref to members of certified shooting clubs Interpretation for shooting clubs and shooting ranges Shooting clubs Shooting ranges Compliance for clubs and ranges Part 2, Clauses 12 and 13 transitional provisions for shooting clubs and ranges Part 2 amendment to regulation 22(1)(a) to refer to range certification
3 years after Royal assent or sooner by OIC	38Y – 38ZH 58A 93 – 95 Schedule 1 Amendments to other Acts	Direct access by certain government agencies to registry Offences relating to Registry Registration of firearms and dealings Part 2: Clause 14 – Obligation to provide info to registry Amendment to Intelligence and Security Act 2017
Order in Council [upon accession to UN Firearms Protocol]	Amendments to other Acts	Amendments to Extradition Act Amendment to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act