

New Zealand Police

Secure Storage Guide for Firearms and Ammunition

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NEW ZEALAND
POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

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Section 1

Storing Firearms Safely



1.1 Purpose

1. All firearms licences are subject to conditions that require the safe and secure storage of their firearms. There are additional conditions that apply to endorsement holders in relation to pistols, prohibited firearms, prohibited magazines and restricted weapons.
2. This document was first created in November 2018 by Police with assistance from a secure storage subcommittee (members of the Firearms Community Advisory Forum) to assist firearms licence and endorsement holders and applicants by providing guidance on how the security conditions can be met and to facilitate national consistency. To recognise legislative changes, updates to this document were made in September 2020 and February 2022.

1.2 Regulatory Context

1. The purposes of the Arms Act 1983 (the Act) include to promote the safe possession and use of firearms and other weapons and to impose controls on their possession and use. Secure firearms storage is an important tool in delivering these objectives by protecting against the risk of harm caused by theft and criminal use of firearms and ensuring young children do not have ready access to the firearms.
2. Every firearms licence is subject to the conditions relating to security precautions set out in regulation 19 of the Arms Regulations 1992 (the Regulations).
3. In addition, every pistol, prohibited firearms or restricted weapon endorsement holder is required to observe the more stringent security precautions in regulation 28¹.
4. **Note:** The relevant regulations 19 and 28 are set out at the end of this document.

1.3 Checks on the Storage of Firearm

1. Police approval of an individual's security arrangements is decided on a case-by-case basis following inspection. Security will usually be reviewed if:
 - (a) An individual has applied for a firearms licence (including if they have previously held a firearms licence).
 - (b) An individual has applied for an endorsement to possess a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted weapon.
 - (c) An individual is the holder of a firearms licence and has notified Police that they have changed address.
2. Police usually try to arrange these inspections at a mutually convenient time. Existing licences and endorsements are subject to conditions requiring the holder to permit Police to enter for security inspection and to produce firearms and other weapons.²
3. The inspecting member of Police will discuss any weaknesses identified in the individual's firearms security and provide options for improvement and, if necessary, arrange a time to do a follow up inspection.
4. Police may also ask to check firearms security following an event that requires reassessment of a licence holder's continued suitability to hold a firearms licence, e.g. such as a licence holder receiving a criminal conviction.

¹Sections 32 and 33A of the Act.

² For endorsements, inspection can be done on demand (s 31A). For licences, at least 7 days' notice is required (s 24B(1)(c) and (3)).



2.1 Overview

1. Regulation 19(1) provides that:

Every firearms licence is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The holder must not put a firearm in a place where a young child has ready access to it.
- (b) The holder must take reasonable steps to ensure that any firearm in their possession is stored separately from any ammunition for the firearm so that a person who obtains access to the firearm cannot obtain access to the ammunition.
- (c) The holder must take reasonable steps to ensure that any firearm in their possession is secured against theft.
- (d) The holder must keep any firearm in their possession that is a flare pistol, humane killer, or stock marking pistol in a locked container except when they are using it, or it is under their immediate and personal supervision.

2. The reasonable steps that need to be taken to prevent theft under regulation 19(1)(c) are set out in regulation 19(2) as follows:

- (a) keeping on the holder's premises:
 - (i) a lockable cabinet, container, or receptacle of stout construction in which firearms may be stored; or
 - (ii) a lockable steel and concrete strong room in which firearms may be stored; or
 - (iii) a lockable display cabinet or rack in which firearms may be immobilised so that none of them may be fired; and
- (b) Securely fixing to the premises all locked cabinets, containers, racks and receptacles in which firearms are stored; and
- (c) Keeping locked or immobilised and locked in the cabinet, container, receptacle, strongroom, display cabinet, or rack required by paragraph (a) every firearm that is on the holder's premises and

that is not under the immediate and personal supervision of the holder or some other holder of a firearms licence; and

- (d) Complying with guidance notices issued by the Commissioner under section 87(1)(b) of the Act (if any) that relate to the secure storage of firearms by licence holders.

3. The Police will assess storage against the four areas covered in regulation 19(1) which are:

- (a) Ensuring that young children do not have access to the firearms.
- (b) Ensuring that firearms are stored separately from ammunition.
- (c) Preventing theft of the firearms.

4. Police will look at the materials used, method of construction (including locks, doors and hinges) and how the storage rack, safe, box or cabinet is anchored to the premises/structure.

5. The following recommendations for:

- (a) cabinets, containers or receptacles of stout construction; and
- (b) display cabinets or racks

provide a good standard of security, but do not exclude other methods which the applicant can demonstrate to the member of Police undertaking the security check that they are of a similar or higher standard.

2.2 Lockable Cabinets, Containers or Receptacles

1. The lockable cabinet, container, or receptacle must be of 'stout construction'⁴.

2.2.1 Steel Cabinets, Containers, or Receptacles

For steel cabinets, Police recommends the following:

1. A continuous resting/bracing plate inside the doorframe to prevent the flexing of the walls and the door from being pushed in.

³ A non-prohibited firearm is a firearm that is not a prohibited firearm or a pistol or a restricted weapon, section 2, Arms Act 1983.

⁴ Regulation 19(2)(a)

2. Steel cabinets, containers and receptacles should have walls and a door of at least 3mm thick steel. If the cabinet, container or receptacle is constructed of steel less than 3mm, bracing must be added to provide equivalent strength. The bracing should be to such a level to stop the door or the safe from twisting.
3. A door may have an internal bracing frame of angle steel to prevent flexing or bending when closed. Alternatively, the door edge may be continuously folded in such a way as to prevent flexing or bending when closed.
4. The cabinet should be fixed to the building on two surfaces with at least 6mm fasteners and fastened to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support. Use heavy gauge 'coach' screws anchored by at least 50mm and a large washer placed under each coach screw head into the framing. If secured into concrete, use similar gauge chemical or expanding bolts. Floor fixing to a wooden floor to be completely through the floor. The bolts should have a stout backing plate or sufficiently large washers to prevent them from being pulled through the floor.
5. The door should have internal or protected hinges that are sturdily constructed of at least 3mm mild steel.
6. Locks and hinges should be located to prevent the door from being opened or bent using direct force or levers. If the risk can be minimised through other mechanical means then it will be considered by the Police employee.
7. Cabinet seams must be welded or folded to prevent the cabinet being accessed using direct force or levers.

2.2.2 Display Cabinets

To ensure the lockable display cabinet complies, Police recommends the following:

1. The lockable cabinet should have a lockable firearm rack or cable (4mm-6mm stainless steel and substantial padlock) to secure the firearms within the cabinet.
2. The cabinet should be affixed to the premises by a minimum of 6mm x 75mm screws or bolts to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud, rafter or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support.

Examples of steel cabinets



2.2.3 Securing a Single Firearm to a Building

To secure a single firearm to a building Police recommends the following:

1. The firearm is retained by a cable (4mm-6mm stainless steel with a substantial padlock) that is wound through the action of the firearm and retained by at least two 10mm x 100mm eye bolts or screws, alternatively through a stud or rafter or joist (stud).
2. If eye bolts are used the cable must weave through the firearm action and be locked to cover and prevent access to the eye bolts.
3. If the cable passes through a stud, the hole must be drilled so there is at least 50mm of material between the edge of the stud and the edge of the hole. The stud must be at least 50mm in depth where the hole has been drilled.
4. By passing the cable through the action the firearm is effectively immobilised; however, the bolt should be stored separately.
5. The firearm should be hidden from sight and not easily detectable.

2.2.4 Racks

1. Racks should secure the firearm to prevent access by young children and to minimise the chance of theft. The firearms must be locked in the rack and be immobilised, by for example using a trigger lock or by removing the bolt and securing the bolt elsewhere.

To ensure a rack complies, Police recommends the following:

2. The rack should be made of steel or other materials that have the equivalent or greater tensile strength.
3. The rack should be fastened to the premises by a minimum of 6mm gauge screws or bolts to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud, rafter or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support.
4. The firearm placed on the rack should prevent access to the securing bolts / screws when it is locked in place or the bolts / screws should be of a type that prevents removal when fitted, e.g. by using coach screws or welding the bolt or screw to prevent removal. This approach can prevent theft by the removal of the whole rack and firearm.
5. If at least two steel brackets, of at least 6mm are not securing the firearm, a security cable (of at least 6mm Stainless Steel and substantial padlock) should be used to lock the firearm to the rack.
6. The rack should be hidden from sight and not easily detectable.

Examples of; securing firearms to a building, bolts, cables, wall mounted racks



2.2.5 Trigger Locks

1. The use of trigger or action locks as additional security may be used in conjunction with the secure storage methods described in this guidance.
2. Without the key or combination for the lock the firearm is not able to be used immediately. There are different types of locks that are inexpensive and simple to use.
3. Cables or padlocks threaded through the trigger guard and behind the trigger can also be effective.
4. There are a broader range of trigger lock options to align with the wide range of firearms and magazine types available in NZ. The traditional trigger lock options (photos 1, 2 and 3) are fit for purpose and should continue to be used. In addition, photos 4, 5 and 6 show other locking systems (action locks) that prevent the firearm being able to fire.

2.2.6 Wooden Cabinets, Containers, or Receptacles

For wooden cabinets, Police recommends the following:

1. The cabinet and door should be constructed using construction ply (or panel product of a similar security rating) that is a minimum of 16mm. It should be securely fixed through the existing lining to the frame. New structures should have a similar construction if framed, or if built from other materials, be of similar resistance to attack.
2. All joints should be glued and secured with appropriate strength screws. Screw heads should be secured so that the screws cannot be removed.
3. The door should have a sturdy hinging system such as a 'piano' hinge (a continuous hinge installed inside the cabinet) and should be constructed with a hinge pin of at least 3mm.
4. The cabinet should have a locking system that is compatible with the overall strength of the cabinet. If a 'Hasp and Staple' is used, then it should be of the type known as 'Security Hasp and Staple'. The locking system (and all fittings) must be bolted through the cabinet and not screwed.
5. The cabinet should be secured to at least two surrounding surfaces to prevent firearms being stolen by removal of the whole cabinet. The cabinet is fixed to the building with at least 6mm fasteners to a rigid surface or support such as concrete, brick or through plaster board to a stud or dwang. Fasteners of 6mm x 75mm long will ensure at least 50mm of thread is engaged in the rigid support. Use heavy gauge 'coach' screws anchored by at least 50mm and a large washer placed under each coach screw head into the framing. If secured into concrete, use similar gauge chemical or expanding bolts. Where the cabinet is fixed to a wooden floor it should be fixed completely through the floor. The bolts should have a stout backing plate or sufficiently large washers to prevent them from being pulled through the floor.

Examples of trigger locks



Examples of wooden cabinets



2.3 Ammunition Storage

2.3.1 Overview

1. Licence holders need to take reasonable steps to ensure that ammunition is not stored in such a way that a person who obtains access to the firearm also obtains access to the ammunition.⁵
2. In addition, regulation 19(4c) also requires that ammunition must be stored:
 - (a) In its own secure storage container (such as a cash box or an ammunition box that is in secure storage or in a stout locked cupboard) that has:
 - i. A locking mechanism that has a key or combination number that is different from the key or combination number for the person's container for firearms; or
 - ii. A padlock that has a key or combination number that is different from the key or combination number for the person's container for firearms; or
 - (b) In a lock box 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 must be stored in a different place from the other key; or
 - (c) If the ammunition is bulky and difficult to store in a container, in a locked room or storage area on the licence holder's premises that:
 - i) Is of sufficiently robust construction to prevent the theft of the ammunition; and
 - ii) Has been inspected and approved by a member of the Police.



Example of ammunition container stored in locked glove box



Examples of ammunition storage containers



⁵ Regulation 19(1)(b).

2.4 General Security of Building

The following are some additional precautions that could be taken in and around the premises where firearms are stored to reduce the risk of theft:

1. Locked gates at the entry of the property can restrict access; padlocking gates or doors that access the property is recommended.
2. Having a dog able to roam in a fenced off area around the house can potentially deter opportunistic theft.
3. Placing a rack, safe, box or cabinet so it cannot be seen through a window or when the garage door is open, or as 'out of sight' as possible.
4. Locating a rack, safe, box or cabinet in a confined space, such as a cupboard or a wardrobe where it is difficult to access with tools.
5. Locking access doors to the room where a cabinet, box or safe is located within a dwelling. This should be secured at all times when the premises are unoccupied. This may also apply to rooms where reloading or repairs are done, to prevent children accessing dangerous tools or components.
6. Locking up specialised tools so they may not be used by thieves to breach the security container.
7. Planting plants that prevent access to windows or fences, for example climbing roses.
8. Letting trusted neighbours know when no one will be home for long periods (e.g. when away on holiday) and asking them to be vigilant for any persons that are seen near the property.
9. The installation of security or trail cameras that can be monitored remotely, either by a company or individually on a cell phone.
10. Keeping a record of the make, model, serial number and any distinguishing marks on all firearms could enhance the recovery of stolen firearms; these may be written or photographic records and should be stored in a way that the records are not easily accessible by unauthorised persons to access embedded information such as location or ownership details. A record is also helpful for insurance purposes.

2.5 Additional Notes

1. For additional security ideas please consider elements suggested for endorsed items in section 4.
2. Centralised armouries will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis by Police. This could apply to an apartment building, campus or military camp which offer this service. To comply, they may require greater levels of security to enable a range of firearms to be secured and they must be under 24/7 controlled entry access.

Security examples



Section 3

Travelling with Firearms

3.1 Storage of Firearms in Vehicles During Transportation (r19B)

3.1.1 Overview

1. Regulation 19B requires firearms licence holders that are transporting firearms or ammunition in a vehicle on a road or public access way, unless otherwise permitted by a member of the Police, to meet the following requirements:

- (a) Firearms and ammunition must be concealed from view from outside the vehicle.
- (b) Firearms must be made inoperable if readily possible by removing the bolt or other vital part. The part should be kept on the licence holder's person or stored out of sight separately from the firearms. If this is not possible (e.g. the firearm is a lever action or semi-automatic or single shot firearm), then the firearms must be fitted with a trigger lock or travel in a locked case or carry bag.
- (c) Firearms must not be loaded with ammunition in the breech, barrel chamber or magazine.
- (d) Ammunition must be stored separately from any firearms and be in a locked glovebox or similar storage area where practicable.

2. The above requirements do not apply if-

- (a) using the vehicle on a farm undertaking farm-related activities, or is actively engaged in legally authorised hunting or wild animal pest control on farmland, public land, or land used for an agricultural/horticultural/silviculture business on which the licence holder is permitted to use firearms; and
- (b) is in the vehicle or the immediately vicinity of the vehicle with the firearms.

3.1.2 Unattended Vehicles

1. Any firearms or ammunition may be left unattended in a vehicle during a break in a journey for up to 60 minutes provided:

- (a) The licence holder remains in the immediate area or vicinity of the vehicle.
- (b) The firearms or ammunition are still secured and out of sight.

(c) If possible, vital parts of the firearms remain in the licence holder's possession.

(d) The vehicle is locked, windows are closed and keys remain in the licence holder's possession.

2. It is good practice to have an immobiliser and/or alarm fitted for any vehicle used in transporting firearms. Vehicles that are temporarily unattended should always be parked in an area that provides natural surveillance, such as a service station forecourt or parking area immediately outside an eatery that the licence holder has entered.

3. If the vehicle is going to be unattended for more than 60 minutes (or the licence holder cannot meet the above conditions for leaving the items unattended in the vehicle), any firearms and ammunition must be removed from the vehicle to a more secure location, or under the licence holder's direct possession and control. The exception to this is if the vehicle is a mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit with secure storage in accordance to regulation 19A where that mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit is being used at the person's temporary or permanent home.



3.1.3 Passenger Ferry

1. If the vehicle is travelling on a passenger ferry, then it can be left unattended for the duration of the journey if the driver and passengers are required to leave the vehicle decks. The vehicle must be locked, the windows must be closed, and the keys must not be left with the vehicle.

3.1.4 Motorcycles

1. A motorcyclist carrying a firearm must:

- (a) Render the firearm incapable of operation by removing the bolt or other vital part and keeping it on their person or by using a trigger lock.

- (b) Contain the firearm and anything removed from it within a locked case or carry bag.

3.1.5 Public Transport or in Public Places

1. Any firearms carried on public transport (where this is not excluded by the conditions of carriage) or in public places must be unloaded, rendered inoperable by removing the bolt or using a trigger lock, carried in a locked carrying case or bag, and remain with the licence holder at all times.

3.1.6 Overnight

1. Where firearms and ammunition are being carried on a journey which involves them being kept away from the licence holder's usual secure storage, the licence holder must still comply with their obligations under regulation 19, including keeping their firearms locked (or immobilised and locked) in a safe, cabinet, rack etc whenever they are not under the licence holder's (or another licence holder's) immediate and personal supervision. In no circumstances can firearms, ammunition or other arms items be left in a vehicle overnight.
2. When firearms are being taken to venues involving overnight or longer periods away from their usual storage facilities, security of firearms is best achieved by:
 - (a) arranging storage with a local licence holder or firearms dealer OR
 - (b) making use of secure storage provided by competition organisers OR
 - (c) if neither of these options is possible security of firearms can be managed by obtaining accommodation that already provides secure firearms facilities OR
 - (d) utilising portable security devices, such as the security cords or cable locks to secure firearms to a piece of fitted furniture or solid fixtures in the accommodation while the licence holder remains present but asleep.

3.1.7 Security Cords/Cables

1. Suitable flexible or semi-rigid devices (security cords and cable locks) for the secure fastening of a single firearm should provide restraint equal to:
 - (a) spun steel security cables, at least 4mm-6mm Stainless Steel (excluding any sleeve) that is wound through the action of the firearm;
 - (b) secured by a close-fitting padlock not less than medium security up to high security or in-built security locking device.

3.2 Secure Storage in Mobile Homes, Campervans or Caravan Units (r19A)

3.2.1 General

1. A firearms licence holder may only store their firearms and ammunition in a mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit while that vehicle or unit is being used as the person's temporary or permanent home.
2. The conditions set out in regulation 19(2) and (3) apply with the necessary modifications to firearms and ammunition stored in mobile homes, campervans, and caravan units.
3. 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.

Examples of secure storage in campervans



3.2.2 Secure Storage

1. The rules for secure storage in standard building premises described in Section 2 of this document apply equally to mobile homes, campervans and caravans. Firearms licence holder must always have secure storage facilities that are appropriate to the type and quantity of firearms they have in their possession.
2. In accordance with regulations 19A(2) and 19(2), secure storage in mobile homes, campervans and caravans must be in the form of a lockable cabinet, container, or receptacle of stout construction; or a lockable cabinet or rack in which firearms can be immobilised. Such cabinet, box or safe and must be securely attached to the vehicle.

The cabinet must be:

- (a) attached directly to the chassis or main frame of the vehicle
 - (b) attached with a minimum of two 10 mm bolts or equivalent mode of attachment
 - (c) the securing system must not be easily removed from under vehicle, such that bolts could be easily loosened or removed, or accessed from within the vehicle
 - (d) steel bolts should be attached internally through the cabinet, box or safe into the chassis rails, this should be by tapping into the rail if they are more than 10mm thick or welding nuts to the rail to prevent removal
 - (e) if the chassis rail cannot be drilled into then two U-bolts of at least 10mm can be used. The U-bolts must go around the chassis rails and allow the cabinet, box or safe to be fixed to the chassis rails
 - (f) the storage should not be visible to a passer-by.
3. Ammunition must be kept in a separate and secure container elsewhere in the vehicle and where possible vital parts of the firearms, such as bolts, must be removed and secured or concealed elsewhere in the vehicle.

3.2.3 Additional Vehicle Security

1. Mobile homes, campervans and caravans should also be fitted with alarm and immobilizer systems.

3.3 During Specified Hunting or Pest Control Activities (r19B(2))

3.2.1 Overview

1. Vehicle storage requirements above do not apply to a firearms licence holder who is using a vehicle (for example, a quadbike, motorbike or other farm vehicle) on a farm, and undertaking farm-related activities, if the licence holder is in the vehicle with the firearms or in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle with firearms in it.
2. Vehicle storage requirements above do not apply to a firearms licence holder who is using a vehicle when actively engaged in legally authorised hunting or wild animal pest control and doing so on farmland, public land, or land used for an agricultural, a horticultural, or a silviculture business on which they are permitted to use firearms if the licence holder is in the vehicle with the firearms or in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle with firearms in it.

NOTE: Persons holding a prohibited firearm endorsement in one of the pest control-related capacities must only carry their prohibited firearms/prohibited magazines beyond the curtilage of their dwelling in accordance with conditions endorsed on their firearms licence. Relevant conditions will be set at the time the endorsement is granted.

NOTE: the above is not an exemption from the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (clause 7.21(1)). A motor vehicle must not be operated while carrying a loaded firearm.

All other safe handling requirements per Arms Regulations 1992 r19 apply in full.





4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Regulation 28(1)

1. Every person who is lawfully entitled to possess a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon, other than an air pistol, by virtue of a permit under section 18 of the Act or a firearms licence endorsed under section 30 or section 30B of the Act shall ensure that, except when the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon is in his or her immediate physical possession, or is being used, in accordance with section 31 of the Act, for the purpose of making a broadcast or producing or staging a play or filming a cinematic production or television film, or is in the custody of a licensed dealer or a member of the Police, it is:
 - (a) kept in a steel and concrete strong room of sound construction and of a type approved for the time being in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police; or
 - (b) kept in a room of stout and secure construction capable of being adequately secured against unlawful entry, being in every case a room which is approved for the purpose by a member of the Police and which meets the following requirements:
 - i. the room shall be in structurally sound condition
 - ii. the doors that give access to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings shall be in good condition
 - iii. the windows, skylights, or other things intended to cover openings to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings shall be in good condition
 - iv. the doors referred to in subparagraph (ii) and the windows, skylights, and other things referred to in subparagraph (iii) shall be capable of being secured against unlawful entry; or
 - (c) locked in a steel safe or steel box or steel cabinet (being in every case a safe, box, or cabinet of sound construction and of a type approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of

the Police) bolted or otherwise securely fixed (in a manner approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) to the building within which the pistol or prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine or restricted weapon is kept.

4.1.2 Key Points

1. Security requirements are more stringent for arms items needing endorsements, which are pistols, restricted weapons, prohibited firearms, and prohibited magazines.

Note: Individuals intending to construct a room of stout construction to secure these items, should engage in early discussion with Police, and prior to the design stage, to ensure that the room complies with the required level of security.
2. Regulation 28 requires anyone lawfully entitled to possess a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon to ensure that the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted weapon is:
 - (a) kept in a steel and concrete strong room; or
 - (b) kept in a room of stout and secure construction; or
 - (c) locked in a steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet.
3. Police's approval of an individual's security is decided on a case-by-case basis following inspection.
4. Restricted weapons must be rendered inoperable (by removal of a vital part) and maintained in an inoperable condition.⁶ Best practice for the removed vital part would see it being stored in a separate container constructed to the same level of security.
5. Prohibited firearms possessed by a person exempt under s4A(1)(b), (c), (d) or (e) as a collector, holder of an heirloom or memento, museum director or curator, or employee/member of a theatre/film/TV/video production company (except the item is being used in a production) must be rendered inoperable by removal of a vital part and maintained in an inoperable condition. The vital part must be kept at a separate address from the prohibited firearm.⁷

⁶ Section 32(1)(b).

4.2 Steel Safe, Steel Box or Steel Cabinet

4.2.1 Minimum Standards

1. A steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet must be:
 - (a) of sound construction; and
 - (b) bolted or otherwise securely fixed (in a manner approved in writing by a member of Police) to the building within which the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted weapon is kept;⁸ and
 - (c) approved in writing by a member of Police.

Note: *Ammunition must not be kept with the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted weapon in the same steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet.*⁹

4.2.2 Police Recommends

1. The steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet should be constructed from 6mm mild steel or its equivalent. The steel safe, box or the cabinet should be built and finished in a competent manner with negligible gaps between all fixed parts. If its proposed to construct the safe, box or cabinet from a single plate of mild steel measuring less than 6mm thick, then evidence must be provided to a member of Police, to demonstrate the material will perform to the same standard or exceed the performance of 6mm mild steel.
2. The steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet is to have a locking mechanism(s) of no less strength and security performance than a five lever mortise dead lock that engages the door with the frame at least at two or more points. If the door on a steel box is of a reduced size, e.g. intended for pistols, only one locking mechanism may be sufficient. However, the door should be constructed in a way that prevents distortion due to a direct force or leverage.
3. The door handle fitted should either be designed to break off under leverage or operate the locking mechanism through a clutch system designed to slip before causing the lock to fail. Alternatively, the handle could be of a design that a lever cannot be applied to the handle, without the use of tools, to use force to cause the lock to fail and allow access into the safe.
4. A steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet is to be bolted to a minimum of two surfaces, one of which must be the floor. Bolt shafts shall be a minimum of 10mm in diameter and when bolted into concrete, expanding or chemical setting bolts may be used.

⁷ Section 33A(1)(c)(ii) and (iii) and section 4A(1)(b)-(e)

⁸ Regulation 28(1)(C).

⁹ Regulation 28(1).

5. Where the steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet is bolted to a wooden floor, it should be bolted through the floor to a 6mm mild steel plate (or equivalent), which exceeds the floor area of the cabinet and is retained on at least two floor joists in the sub-floor space. All nuts or bolts should be attached to the inside of the cabinet. External nuts or bolts welded or burred to resist removal. The steel safe, steel box or steel cabinet should be bolted into a confined space, such as a wardrobe or a cupboard.

4.3 Rooms of Stout Construction

4.3.1 Minimum Standards

1. A room of stout construction must:
 - (a) be in structurally sound condition
 - (b) have doors to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings that are in good condition
 - (c) have windows, skylights, or other things intended to cover openings to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings that are in good condition and are capable of being secured against unlawful entry.

4.3.2 Room Construction

The following additional security features are recommended:

1. Doors

Doors to the room should be constructed of a material equal in security rating of 6mm mild steel strength, e.g. solid wood construction, no less than 40mm thick, covered on the outside with a sheet of steel no less than 16 gauge/1.52mm thick (applied to fully cover the door and bent to afford fixing to all edge surfaces), or armour coated or laminated glass protected by substantial grilles or other shutter covering. The doors, where practicable, should be hung on the inside with three heavy duty hinges. Hinge security bolts should be fitted. Where doors are required to be hinged on the outside, componentry must be fitted or adapted to prevent the removal of hinge pins or component parts. Door framing should include a rebate and be of a substantial construction to resist splitting or forcing and fitted to prevent prising or stretching.

2. Locks

A locking mechanism of no less strength and security performance than a five-lever mortise dead lock should be fitted to entry doors to the room. Where mechanisms other than mortise locks are used, internally operated drop bars or shooting bolt mechanisms retained by a lock to the same standard should be fitted. If padlocks are used, they should be of a key retaining variety of a high security rating with hardened steel closed shackles. Pad bars or hasp and staples with a similar high security rating to the padlock should be used with the padlock. Where closed shackle padlocks are not used, the mechanism should be completely shielded by being enclosed within a tunnel welded to the body of the door. In the case of double opening doors, penetrating bolts should be used on the top and bottom of the first leaf, or flush bolts should be fixed in the edge of the first leaf. The second leaf shall be securely locked, as described above.

3. Walls, ceilings and floor structure

The existing walls, ceiling and floor structure should be strengthened by internally fixed, substantially gauged steel mesh (1.97mm minimum) to the framing, or the addition of 16 mm construction ply or a panel product of similar security rating should be securely fixed through the existing lining to the frame. New structures should have a similar construction if framed, or of a similar resistance to attack if constructed of other materials.

4. Windows

All windows and skylights should have glass fitted so that it cannot be removed without tools and must be affixed with substantial steel grilles with a performance-rating equal to 19 mm mild steel rod erected no larger than 127 mm centres apart, which incorporate welded cross ties (of at least 6mm), at most 305 mm apart to prevent spreading. The grille should be secured with coach bolts, burred or counter sunk to prevent removal, or secured with substantially gauged, one-way screws, commensurate with the gauge of the bars. Where there are other security measures that are of a high standard, such as where laminated or armour coated window glass are used, substantial steel grilles, as described above, may be dispensed with or substituted with lesser grilles, as agreed with a member of police.

5. Alarms

The Police encourages the installation of a monitored intruder alarm system. Such intruder warning devices should be monitored and audible, but other arrangements may be suitable, such as trail cameras (security cameras that can be fitted in trees etc. and can run on batteries), depending on the particular circumstance.

4.4 Steel and Concrete Strong Rooms

1. Regulation 28 requires that a steel and concrete strong room is of:

- (a) sound construction
- (b) a type approved in writing, either generally or in particular by a member of Police.

2. If considering building a steel and concrete strong room:

- (a) The steel or concrete strong room should be constructed in its entirety of no less than 100mm concrete with a minimum strength of 20 MPa. The concrete shall incorporate 10 mm reinforcing steel rods set a maximum of 200mm centres, or other equivalent reinforcing, such as steel, which should be lapped and tied with steel to the walls, floor and roof. Whenever concrete masonry blocks are used, they should be of a minimum of 140mm thick reinforced with 10mm steel spaced at a maximum of 400mm centres. Reinforcing steel is to be lapped and tied at joints of the walls, floor and roof. All block cavities shall be fully grouted. The strong room door should be constructed of no less than 6 mm mild plate steel and of a comparable security performance to the walls, hung with heavy-duty hinges, where practicable, on the inside. Hinge security bolts should be fitted. Where doors are required to be hinged on the outside, the standard required is outlined above in relation to steel cabinet doors (4.3.2).

- (b) Door framing should include a rebate and be of a substantial construction to resist splitting or forcing and fitted to prevent prising or stretching. Locking mechanisms should be of no less strength and security performance than a five lever mortise dead lock as outlined for safe doors above (section 4.3.2). Such locks may be keyed alike, though they should differ from other locks within the premises, and be fitted towards the top and the bottom of the door with steel strapping behind each lock.

- (c) Where mechanisms other than mortise locks are used, internally operated drop bars or shooting bolt mechanisms retained by a lock to the same standard should be fitted. If padlocks are used, they should be of a key retaining variety, of a high security rating, with hardened steel closed shackles. Pad bars or hasp and staples with a similar high security rating to the padlock should be used with the padlock. Where closed shackle padlocks are not used, the mechanism should be completely shielded by being enclosed within a tunnel, which is welded to the body of the door.

Section 5

Extracts from Arms Regulations 1992 (SR 1992 / 346)



5.1 r19 Conditions relating to security precautions

1. Every firearms licence shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) the holder shall not put a firearm in such a place that a young child has ready access to it;
 - (b) the holder must take reasonable steps to ensure that any firearm in their possession is stored separately from any ammunition for the firearm so that a person who obtains access to the firearm cannot obtain access to the ammunition;
 - (c) the holder must take reasonable steps to ensure that any firearm in their possession is secured against theft;
 - (d) the holder must keep any firearm in their possession that is a flare pistol, humane killer, or stock marking pistol in a locked container except when they are using it or it is under their immediate and personal supervision.
2. The reasonable steps required by subclause (1)(c) are –
 - (a) Keeping on the holder's premises –
 - (i) a lockable cabinet, container, or receptacle of stout construction in which firearms may be stored; or
 - (ii) a lockable steel and concrete strongroom in which firearms may be stored; or
 - (iii) a lockable display cabinet or rack in which firearms are immobilised so that none of them may be fired; and
 - (b) Securely fixing to the premises all locked cabinets, containers, racks, and receptacles in which firearms are stored; and
 - (c) keeping locked or immobilised and locked in the cabinet, container, receptacle, strongroom, display cabinet, or rack required by paragraph (a) every firearm that is on the holder's premises and that is not under the immediate and personal supervision of the holder or some other holder of a firearms licence; and
 - (d) complying with guidance notices issued by the Commissioner under section 87(1)(b) of the Act (if any) that relate to the secure storage of firearms by licence holders.
3. The steps taken under subclause (2) must be approved by a member of the Police following an inspection carried out—
 - (a) at the time the holder's firearms licence is issued (or renewed); or
 - (b) during an inspection under section 24B of the Act that includes an inspection of the holder's steel and concrete strongrooms, storage boxes, cabinets, safes, racks, and similar items, and of the manner in which they are locked and secured on and to the premises.
4. In addition to the condition in subclause (1)(b) relating to ammunition, ammunition must be stored –
 - (a) in its own secure storage container (such as a cash box or an ammunition box that is in secure storage or in a stout locked cupboard) that has –
 - (i) a locking mechanism that has a key or combination number that is different from the key or combination number for the person's container for firearms; or
 - (ii) a padlock that has a key or combination number that is different from the key or combination number for the person's container for firearms; or
 - (b) in a lock box 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 must be stored in a different place from the other key; or
 - (c) if the ammunition is bulky and difficult to store in a container, in a locked room or storage area on the licence holder's premises that –
 - (i) is of sufficiently robust construction to prevent the theft of the ammunition; and
 - (ii) has been inspected and approved by a member of the Police.
5. Guidance issued by the Commissioner (other than a guidance notice under section 87(1)(b) of the Act) for the purpose of assisting people to comply with subclause (2)(a), (b), or (c) may be used for the purpose of establishing compliance with that provision if the guidance is-

- (a) issued after consultation with persons or organisations, or representatives of organisations, that appear to the Commissioner to be affected or likely to be affected by that guidance; and
 - (b) publicly available free of charge on an Internet site maintained by or on behalf of the Commissioner.
2. Subclause (1) does not apply to a firearms licence holder if—
 - (a) the holder is using a vehicle on a farm and undertaking farm-related activities, or is actively engaged in legally authorised hunting or wild animal pest control on farmland, public land, or land used for an agricultural, a horticultural, or a silviculture business on which they are permitted to use firearms; and
 - (b) the licence holder is in the vehicle with the firearms or in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle in which the firearms are located.

5.2 r19A Conditions Relating to Storage of Firearms and Ammunition in Mobile Homes

1. A firearms licence holder may only store their firearms and ammunition in a mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit while that vehicle or unit is being used as the person's temporary or permanent home.
 2. The conditions set out in regulation 19(2) and (3) apply with the necessary modifications to firearms and ammunition stored in mobile homes, campervans, and caravan units.
 3. 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.
3. Any firearms or ammunition may be left unattended in a vehicle during a break in a journey for up to 60 minutes if—
 - (a) the licence holder remains in the immediate area or vicinity of the vehicle; and
 - (b) the firearms or ammunition are secured and out of sight; and
 - (c) if possible, vital parts of firearms remain in the licence holder's possession; and
 - (d) the vehicle is locked, the windows are closed, and the keys remain in the holder's possession.

5.3 r19B Conditions Relating to Storage of Firearms in Vehicles During Transportation

1. Unless otherwise permitted by a member of the Police, if a firearms licence holder is transporting firearms or ammunition in a vehicle on a road or public access way,—
 - (a) firearms must be concealed from view from outside of the vehicle; and
 - (b) firearms must be 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 from the firearms) or, if that is not possible (for example, because the firearm is a lever action or semi-automatic or single shot firearm), firearms must be fitted with a trigger lock or travel in a locked case or carry bag; and
 - (c) firearms must not be loaded with ammunition in the breech, barrel, chamber, or magazine; and
 - (d) ammunition must be concealed from view from outside of the vehicle; and
 - (e) ammunition must be stored separately from any firearms and be in a locked glovebox or similar storage area where practicable.
4. If the vehicle is to be left unattended for more than 60 minutes, any firearms and ammunition must be removed from the vehicle to a more secure location or under the licence holder's direct possession and control, unless the vehicle is a mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit with secure storage in accordance with regulation 19A.
5. If the vehicle is travelling on a passenger ferry in accordance with the conditions of carriage,—
 - (a) the vehicle may be left unattended for the duration of the journey, if drivers and passengers are required to leave the vehicle decks; and
 - (b) the vehicle must be locked, the windows must be closed, and the keys must not be left in the vehicle.
6. A motorcyclist carrying a firearm must—
 - (a) render the firearm incapable of operation by removing the bolt or other vital part and keeping the bolt or vital part on their person, or by affixing a trigger lock; and
 - (b) contain the firearm and anything removed from it within a locked case or carry bag.
7. In this regulation road and vehicle have the same meanings as in section 2(1) of the Land Transport Act 1998.

5.4 r19C Conditions Relating to Carriage of Firearms on Public Transport

1. Any firearms carried on public transport (where not excluded by the conditions of carriage) or in public places must be unloaded, rendered inoperable by removing the bolt or affixing a trigger lock, carried in a locked carrying case or bag, and remain with the holder at all times.
2. The requirement in subclause (1) relating to public places does not apply to a firearms licence holder—
 - (a) undertaking legally authorised wild animal or animal pest control services on public land; or
 - (b) undertaking legally authorised hunting or shooting activities on public land or on a shooting range that occupies any publicly-owned land.
3. If firearms are carried in a vehicle travelling on a passenger ferry, regulation 19B(5) must be complied with.

5.5 r28 Security Precautions in Relation to Pistols, Prohibited Firearms, Prohibited Magazines, and Restricted Weapons

1. Every person who is lawfully entitled to possession of a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon other than an air pistol by virtue of a permit under section 18 of the Act or a firearms licence endorsed under section 30 or section 30B of the Act shall ensure that, except when the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon is in his or her immediate physical possession or is being used, in accordance with section 31 of the Act, for the purpose of making a broadcast or producing or staging a play or filming a cinematic production or television film or is in the custody of a licensed dealer or a member of the Police, it is:
 - (a) kept in a steel and concrete strong room of sound construction and of a type approved for the time being in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police; or
 - (b) kept in a room of stout and secure construction capable of being adequately secured against unlawful entry, being in every case a room which is approved for the purpose by a member of the Police and which meets the following requirements:
 - i. the room shall be in structurally sound condition:
 - ii. the doors that give access to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings shall be in good condition:

- iii. the windows, skylights, or other things intended to cover openings to the room, and their locks, bolts, hinges, and other fastenings shall be in good condition:
- iv. the doors referred to in subparagraph (ii) and the windows, skylights, and other things referred to in subparagraph (iii) shall be capable of being secured against unlawful entry; or
- (c) locked in a steel safe or steel box or steel cabinet (being in every case a safe, box, or cabinet of sound construction and of a type approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) bolted or otherwise securely fixed (in a manner approved in writing either generally or in the particular case by a member of the Police) to the building within which the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted weapon is kept.

2. Where a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon is kept in a steel box, steel cabinet, or steel safe in accordance with sub clause (1)(c), ammunition for that firearm shall not be kept in that steel box, steel cabinet, or steel safe.
3. Where the director or curator of a bona fide museum keeps a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine or restricted weapon in a room in accordance with sub clause (1)(b), that director or curator must ensure, if the room is one to which members of the public have access, that the pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon is adequately secured, in a manner approved in each case by a member of the Police, to prevent unlawful removal.
4. The Commissioner may, by writing, exempt any person from compliance with any of the provisions of sub clauses (1) to (3) where the Commissioner is satisfied that the precautions being taken by that person are sufficient to prevent unlawful removal of the pistol or restricted weapon; and any such exemption may in like manner be revoked.
5. Every permit under section 18 of the Act and every firearms licence that is endorsed under section 30 or section 30B of the Act shall be deemed to be issued subject to the condition that every person who is lawfully entitled to possession of a pistol, prohibited firearm, prohibited magazine, or restricted weapon by virtue of that permit or firearms licence (as so endorsed) will observe the provisions of this regulation to the extent that they are applicable to that person.





6.1 s24B General Conditions of Firearms

Licence

1. Section 24B(1)(c) and (d) of the Arms Act 1983 states that every licence holder must permit a member of Police to:
 - (a) Inspect all firearms in the licence holder's possession, the place or places where the firearms are or will be kept, and the place or places where the ammunition is or will be kept, and, for those purposes, to enter at all reasonable times upon the premises where that place or those places are situated.
 - (b) Inspect the security arrangements in any vehicle used by the holder to transport the licence holder's firearms.
2. When exercising their power under s(1)(c) or (d) every member of Police must:
 - (a) give at least 7 days' notice of proposed inspection
 - (b) Identify themselves to the licence holder
 - (c) Tell the licence holder of the firearms licence that the power is being exercised under this section of the Act
 - (d) if they are not in uniform, to produce on initial entry, and, if requested, at any subsequent time, evidence that they are a member of the Police.

6.2 s31A Conditions of Endorsements

1. Every endorsement is granted subject to the conditions that any person who is in possession of a pistol, restricted weapon (other than an air pistol), prohibited firearm, or prohibited magazine by virtue of that endorsement must—
 - (a) produce that pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited firearm, or prohibited magazine to any member of the Police on demand; and
 - (b) permit the member of the Police to inspect the pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited firearm, or prohibited magazine and the place where it is kept, and, for that purpose, to enter at all reasonable times upon the premises where the place is situated.
2. It is the duty of every member of the Police exercising any power conferred by subsection (1)—
 - (a) to identify themselves to the person in possession of the pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited firearm, or prohibited magazine; and

- (b) to tell the person in possession of the pistol, restricted weapon, prohibited firearm, or prohibited magazine that the power is being exercised under subsection (1); and
- (c) if they are not in uniform, to produce on initial entry, and, if requested, at any subsequent time, evidence that they are a member of the Police.

6.3 s32 Further Conditions of Endorsements in Respect of Pistols and Restricted Weapons

1. It is a condition of every endorsement made under section 30 that the holder of the firearms licence:
 - (a) observes, in respect of every pistol or restricted weapon or part of a restricted weapon in his possession, such security precautions as are required by regulations made under this Act; and
 - (b) ensures that every restricted weapon in his possession is both rendered inoperable by the removal of a vital part and maintained, by reason of the removal of a vital part, in an inoperable condition.
2. Any member of the Police may, on the direction of the Commissioner, impose, as conditions of an endorsement made by that member of the Police under section 30, such conditions with regard to the use or custody of the pistol or restricted weapon (being conditions additional to those specified in subsection (1)) as that member of the Police thinks fit.

6.4 s33A Further conditions of endorsement in respect of prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine

1. An endorsement on a firearms licence in respect of a prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine made under section 30B is subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) the holder of the firearms licence may only possess and use the prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine in their capacity as an exempt person; and

- (b) the holder of the firearms licence must observe in respect of every prohibited firearm or prohibited magazine in their possession all security precautions required by regulations made under this Act; and
 - (c) the holder of the firearms licence who is an exempt person under section 4A(1)(b), (c), (d), or (e) must—
 - i. not use live ammunition in the prohibited firearm in their possession; and
 - ii. ensure that the prohibited firearm is—
 - (1) rendered inoperable by removal of a vital part; and
 - (2) maintained, by reason of the removal of the vital part, in an inoperable condition; and
 - iii. ensure that the removed vital part is kept at a separate address from the prohibited firearm; and
 - (d) any other conditions regarding the use and custody of the prohibited item in their possession that the Commissioner thinks necessary.
2. In subsection (1)(c)(iii), separate address means an address approved by a member of the Police.

Section 7

Extracts from the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004



7.1 S7.21 Loaded firearms

1. A driver must not operate a motor vehicle on or in which is carried any firearm, airgun, or restricted weapon (as defined in section 2 of the Arms Act 1983) that is loaded with a bullet, cartridge, missile, or projectile, whether in its breech, barrel, chamber, or magazine.
2. Subclause (1) does not apply in relation to the carriage of firearms—
 - (a) for Police purposes; or
 - (b) for the purposes of the New Zealand Defence Force; or
 - (c) under the authority of a permit issued by a constable who is of or above the level of position of inspector.

