



NATIONAL HUNTING & SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Accredited with SAPS (CFR) as
Hunting Association: FAR 1300050
Sport-shooting Association: FAR 1300088

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Responsible and Accountable Firearms Ownership

CONCISE SUMMARY OF MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE FIREARMS CONTROL ACT, 2000 (ACT 60 OF 2000)

1. FIREARM LICENSES

- a. License to possess a firearm for self-defence (Section 13)
A person is allowed one firearm for self-defence purposes. It can either be a handgun which is not fully automatic or a shotgun which is not semi- or fully automatic. Application for such a license must be clearly motivated. This license is valid for five (5) years.
- b. License to possess a restricted firearm for self-defence (Section 14)
This is a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun. People who live in remote areas can apply for such a license with compelling motivation why such a firearm is the absolute last resort to ensure personal safety. This license is valid for two (2) years.
- c. License to possess a firearm for occasional hunting or sports shooting (Section 15)
Any handgun that is not fully automatic or any firearm or shotgun that is not semi- or fully automatic falls in this category. The maximum number of firearms that a person may possess under this category is four (4), which number includes one firearm for self-defence. This license is valid for ten (10) years.
- d. License to possess firearm for dedicated hunting or dedicated sports shooting (Section 16)
Any handgun, rifle or shotgun, which is not fully automatic, falls in this category. In the case of a semi-auto shotgun the magazine capacity is restricted to five (5) rounds. To qualify as a dedicated hunter or sports person the license holder must be a member of an accredited association and must have completed the specified course of that association. This license is valid for 10 years.
- e. License to possess a firearm in a private collection (Section 17)
Provision is made for the application of a license for any firearm approved by an accredited collectors association. This includes fully automatic firearms. The license holder must be a member of an accredited collectors association before application can be made. This license is valid for ten (10) years.

2. Permit to possess ammunition in private collection (Section 18)
Any ammunition approved by an accredited collectors association may be collected. The permit holder must be a member of an accredited collectors association. Ammunition collected in accordance with the FCA, may not be fired. This permit is valid for ten (10) years.
3. Lending of a firearm (Section 22)
In terms of the FCA, firearms may not be lent to someone else. But any person may use the firearm of a licensed person under that person's direct supervision (where it is safe and legal to use same). Persons may however, under certain circumstances apply to the Registrar for a temporary authorization (Section 21) to possess a firearm for a particular purpose and specified time limit. The application has to be properly and clearly motivated.
4. Ammunition (Section 90)
In accordance with the FCA a person may only have ammunition for firearms he or she has a license for. If a person wants to have ammunition other than that he or she has a license for, application for the necessary permit has to be made as set out under 2 above.
 - a. Occasional Hunters and Occasional Sports Persons (Section 90)
200 rounds of ammunition may be kept per licensed at any given time. This provision does not include ammunition bought from and fired at a shooting range.
 - b. Dedicated Hunters and Sports Persons (Section 90)
There is no restriction on the number of rounds of ammunition per licence held (irrespective of Section licence was awarded under if one holds dedicated status)
5. Reloading of Ammunition (Section 93)
A license holder may reload ammunition for a calibre for which he or she has a license. A person is restricted to 2400 primers for each calibre which he or she has a license for at any given time. This provision does not apply to dedicated hunters and sports persons. Other persons can apply to the Registrar of Firearms to possess more primers. The amount of propellant a person may have in his or her possession is regulated under the Explosives Act and is set at 2,4kg per licence holder. No person may reload ammunition for anybody else, unless that person is present while the reloading takes place.
6. Import and Export of Arms (Sections 74 to 76)
Hunters wanting to hunt in other countries can apply for a temporary import or export permit at their local Police Station. Permits will only be issued to license holders. This permit is valid for six months. Please note that it is necessary to, in advance, communicate with the authorities of the intended country concerning import permits for that country.
7. Storage of Firearms (Regulation 86(4))
In the event of the firearm not being in the possession or under direct supervision of the license holder it has to be stored in a specified safe, which is constructed in accordance

with the Regulations. The person who stores the firearm must be licence holder himself. Application forms at your SAPS station.

8. Carrying of Firearms in Public (Section 84)

The FCA requires that where a firearm is carried in public, the firearm, in the case of a handgun, must be carried in a holster, rucksack or similar holder out of sight. If it is any other type of firearm it must be carried in a case designed, manufactured or adapted specifically for the carrying of such firearm. In both cases the firearm must be completely covered and the person carrying the firearm must be in complete control of such firearm.

9. Air Guns (Section 5)

As from the 1st of July 2004 all No. 1 Air Guns, less than 5,6mm (.22 calibre) have been exempted from licensing. This means that all Air Guns, which fall in this category, can be bought without a license. Air Guns with a calibre greater than 5,6mm (.22 calibre) and a muzzle velocity of more than 8 joules have to be licensed.

10. Firearm Free Zones (Section 140)

In accordance with the FCA, the Minister has the power to declare certain areas firearm free zones. Always ascertain whether or not you are entering such a zone if you have a carry firearm in your possession.

11. Accessories and Parts not required to be licensed (Section 5)

In accordance with the FCA, the following are not deemed to be firearms:

- Signal gun;
- Paintball gun;
- Tranquillizer firearm;
- Air gun under 5,6mm (.22 calibre);
- Antique Firearm - (a muzzle loader manufactured before the 1st of January 1900);
- any captive bolt gun manufactured for use in an abattoir in the humane killing of animals; and
- any other items manufactured specifically for use in the building industry.