

SHOOTING CLUB MEMBERS

This guide is provided to assist sporting shooters to understand the key legislative changes contained in the *Firearms Act 2015* and *Firearms Regulations 2017* commencing on 1 July 2017. This guide should be read in conjunction with all the provisions of the new legislation as it does not detail all legislative changes or legislation that has not changed.

You can find further information on the operation and effect of this legislation by accessing the various guides located on the SAPOL website at www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons

Membership of a shooting club

If you hold a category 1 (shooting club) licence you must be a member of a shooting club for each year of your licence. You are required to notify the Registrar within 28 days of becoming a member of a shooting club and provide contact details of the club, regardless of whether you already have membership of any other shooting club.

If you are authorised to use a category C or H firearm under your category 1 (shooting club) licence you must be an active member of a shooting club, meaning:

- for category C firearms - participate in shooting club organised competitive shooting matches for category C firearms at least four times each year; or
- for category H firearms - participate in shooting club organised competitive shooting matches for category H firearms at least six times each year; or
- satisfy the Registrar that your inability to do so is due to ill health, employment obligations or some other reason accepted by the Registrar.

Clay target shooters using category C firearms

In addition to the active membership requirement set out above, you may only possess a category C firearm for the purpose of clay target shooting if:

- you are a member of the South Australian Clay Target Association (SACTA) or the Australian Clay Target Association (ACTA); and
- you are an active member of a shooting club affiliated with ACTA or SACTA for each licence year of your licence; and
- you only use that firearm for the purpose of an activity of the shooting club conducted in accordance with ACTA rules; **and either:**
 - you must have a special need for the firearm that cannot be met by a firearm of any other category because of your lack of strength or dexterity, or because of some other physical characteristic (supported by such evidence or documents required by the Registrar); **or**
 - immediately before 15 November 1996, you were a member of a shooting club affiliated with ACTA and at that time were in lawful possession of a self-loading or pump action shotgun used for competitive clay target shooting.

Licensing of junior competitive shooters

Under previous legislation a firearm licence issued to a junior competitive shooter was non-renewable and could be issued for a maximum term of one year only. As of 1 July 2017, a category 1 (shooting club) renewable licence can be issued to a junior (age 12-18) who needs the licence to participate in competitions held interstate or overseas for a maximum term of three years.

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Carriage of a firearms licence (copy)

Under the new legislation, while you will still be required to carry your firearms licence whenever you have possession or control of a firearm, or when you are supervising the lawful use of a firearm by another person, you will now be permitted to carry a legible copy of your licence which can include a legible electronic copy (e.g. a photograph on a mobile phone) instead of carrying your actual plastic licence.

Barrel length of shotguns

Under previous legislation you were not permitted to acquire, possess or use a shotgun with a barrel length below 450 millimetres. From 1 July 2017, you may (subject to all requirements and approvals of the permit to acquire a firearm) acquire, possess and use a shotgun with a barrel length of at least 400 millimetres, provided the overall length is at least 750 millimetres.

Where can I find more information?

The information provided in this document is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 2015* and the *Firearms Regulation 2017* which are available at www.legislation.sa.gov.au A suite of information guides on the legislative changes is provided on SAPOL's website at www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons

For further information, contact Firearms Branch via sapol.firearmsbranch@police.sa.gov.au or by telephone 7322 3346.

