



Collector Licence

Information Sheet

Important Information: Collector Licence

This Information Sheet provides essential guidance on the imminent changes brought about by the Firearms Act 2024.

Once enacted, new firearm laws will significantly impact both current firearm licence holders and all new firearm licence applicants, particularly in relation to changes in firearm licence types and who can obtain or retain a licence.

Purpose of Collector Licence

A Collector Licence may be granted for either or both of the following purposes; (each a licence purpose)

- The collection of firearms;
- The collection of ammunition.

When a Collector Licence is for both licence purposes, each of those licence purposes is a separate and distinct purpose of the licence.

Genuine reason requirements

All Collector Licence holders or applicants (firearms and ammunition) must prove that they are a ***student of arms*** and are a member of an ***approved society of collectors***.

The firearm and/or ammunition applied for must fall within the licence holder or applicants' scope of their applied interest.

For example, a licence holder or applicant wants to collect WW2 handguns. Each handgun applied for must have significant historical value related to WW2. A handgun manufactured after WW2 does not meet genuine reason requirements

Collector Licence restrictions

- Live ammunition that can be used with any firearm held on a Collector Licence cannot also be collected on that licence
- The collection of handguns is restricted to only those handguns whose date of manufacture is 50 years or more prior to the date of application.

What is a student of arms?

A ***student of arms*** is a person who can demonstrate prolonged and genuine interest in the study, preservation or collection of firearms.

What are the requirements for collectible firearms?

A Collector Licence for firearms must not authorise possession of a firearm unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the firearm has;

- Significant commemorative value;
- Significant historical value; or
- Significant thematic value.

The collection of handguns and Category C firearms is only allowed under significant historical value.

What are the requirements for collectible ammunition?

A Collector Licence for ammunition must not authorise possession of ammunition unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the ammunition has;

- Significant commemorative value;
- Significant historical value; or
- Significant thematic value

* This will be applied retrospectively to existing licence holders as they transition onto the new Collector Licence.

Heirloom firearms

Under the new legislation, heirloom firearms are no longer a collectible firearm. You will either need to make the firearm permanently innocuous or, subject to meeting licensing requirements, have them licensed accordingly.

VOLUNTARY BUYBACK SCHEME

For individuals affected by the legislation:

- Sell firearms through an Authorised Firearms Dealer.
- Utilise the recommended Voluntary Buyback Scheme.
- Lawfully dispose of firearms by other means.
- Surrender firearms to the police.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For further information and frequently asked questions, visit the [Police WA Firearms Help Centre](#).

Progress of the Act containing the new legislation can be obtained from:

[The Parliamentary of WA Website](#).

Voluntary Firearms Buyback Scheme: The WA Government have allocated \$64.3 million dollars to compensate firearm licence holders for the voluntary surrender of firearms. The Buyback is open until the **31 August 2024** or until the allocated funds are exhausted.