

Collector Licence

Purpose (s.65 Firearms Act 2024)

A licence for the purpose of collecting ammunition and/or firearms.

Genuine reason requirements (s.67 Firearms Act 2024)

All existing Collector Licence holders or new applicants must prove they are a student of arms and are a member of an approved society of collectors.

In addition, each firearm, major firearm part or ammunition already held or applied for must fall within the scope of the applicants applied interest. For example, the applicant wants to collect rifles used by British Forces during World War 1.

What is a student of arms? (s.67(2) Firearms Act 2024)

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

How do I prove that I am a member of an approved society? (r.117 Firearms Regulations 2024)

An application for the grant of a Collector Licence must include a letter, in the approved form, from an authorised office bearer of the approved society confirming the applicant is a member of the society and the period for which they have been a member. This is like a 'Club letter' which is issued by Licenced Clubs for competition shooting.

How long do I have to be a member of an approved society before I can apply for a Collector Licence? (r.118 Firearms Regulations 2024)

At all times during a 6-month period prior to the day on which you apply.

Collectable ammunition requirements (s.69 Firearms Act 2024)

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.

Collectable firearm requirements (s.69 Firearms Act 2024)

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

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

Significant values explained

Significant commemorative value: A firearm, major firearm part, or ammunition (relevant item) has significant commemorative value because of the special significance the relevant item has with a particular *event* in history.

The collected item must have been in existence at the time of the event or be a faithful reproduction of the item used in the event.

Example:

A firearm used in a gun salute during the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge would have commemorative value. The event has important historical significance for Sydney.

A faithful reproduction of the firearm/s used in a gun salute at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge would also have commemorative value.

Significant historical value: A firearm, major firearm part, or ammunition (relevant item) has significant historical value because of its use during a period of history and its significant impact on that period of history

Example 1:

The relevant item is a firearm that was used in the assassination, or attempted assassination, of an important historical figure which in turn had an important impact on a period of history.

Example 2:

Firearms were used in one or more significant events that occurred during a period such as military conflict, revolution or colonial settlement.

Significant thematic value: A firearm, major firearm part, or ammunition (relevant item) has significant thematic value because of the special significance the relevant item has in connection with the development, manufacture or use of the relevant item.

The item must provide an example of a change in the design, function, manufacture or characteristic of those items.

The item must have been in existence at the time of the change or be a faithful replica of one.

Example 1:

A firearm made of a particular material and in existence just prior to the first or last use of a new material for firearms may have relevance for a significant change in a characteristic of firearms.

Example 2:

A major firearm part that incorporates, for the first time for that type of part, a safety switch to prevent discharge may be an example of a significant change in a characteristic of major firearm parts.

Example 3:

Ammunition for a shotgun that uses, for the first time for that type of ammunition, plastic casing for the shell of the ammunition may be an example of a significant change in a characteristic of ammunition.

Record keeping requirements – possession of ammunition (*r.128 Firearms Regulations 2024*)

A licensee under a Collector Licence must record the following about ammunition that the licensee possesses under the authority of the licence:

- A description of the ammunition, including the quantity and type of ammunition;
- The day on which the licensee acquired the ammunition;
- If the licensee ceases to possess the ammunition under the authority of the licence, the reason the licensee is no longer in possession of the ammunition, including:
 - The name of any person the ammunition was given to; **and**
 - The authority number for the licence or permit held by the person that authorises possession of the ammunition.

The licensee must keep the information recorded above for:

- Ammunition in the licensee's possession; **and**
- If the licensee ceases to possess the ammunition – the period of 5 years after the day on which the licensee ceases to possess the ammunition.

Restrictions on Collector Licence (*s.67, s.69 Firearms Act 2024*)

Ammunition

Live ammunition that can be used within any firearm held on a Collector Licence cannot also be collected on a Collector Ammunition Licence held by that same person.

Restrictions on Category C firearms

Category C firearms can only be collected if they have significant historical value.

Restrictions of Category H firearms

Category H firearms can only be collected if they have significant historical value and were not manufactured within the 50 years preceding any application to collect it.

Heirloom firearms

Heirloom firearms are not collectable firearms. They will either need to be made permanently inoperable, or subject to meeting licensing requirements and be licensed accordingly.