

INFORMATION SHEET

TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY



Transitional Authority

On 31 March 2025, the *Firearms Act 2024* and *Firearms Regulations 2024* came into effect. At that time, sections 440 and 441 of the Act repeal the *Firearms Act 1973* and *Firearms Regulations 1974*.

What happens to my licence? (s.413 *Firearms Act 2024*)

A person who held a 1973 Act authority immediately before commencement day is taken to hold a firearm authority under this Act (a **transitional authority**) to replace the 1973 Act authority on and from commencement day.

Simply put, on commencement of the new legislation, old licences no longer exist and existing licence holders are automatically deemed to have a transitional authority.

Term and renewal of transitional authority (s.416 *Firearms Act 2024*)

A transitional authority remains in force for the remainder of the term of the 1973 Act authority that it replaces unless -

- The term of the transitional authority is changed by the regulator by notice in writing to the holder of the transitional authority for the purpose of effecting the transition required because of the enactment of the *Firearms Act 2024*; **or**
- The transitional authority is sooner replaced under s.419 or cancelled.

A transitional authority cannot be renewed as a transitional authority but may be replaced with a firearm authority under the *Firearms Act 2024*.

Grant of firearm authority to replace transitional authority (s.419 *Firearms Act 2024*)

The Regulator may replace a transitional authority by granting the holder of the transitional authority a firearm authority under the *Firearms Act 2024* (a **replacement authority**).

A replacement authority is to be granted as a firearm authority of a kind, and subject to the conditions, that the Regulator considers suitable and appropriate to replace the transitional authority and give effect to any conditions, limitations and restrictions to which it was subject.

A transitional authority ceases to have effect if and when a replacement authority is granted.

The term of a replacement authority is the remainder of the term of the transitional authority that it replaces unless the Regulator otherwise determines in a particular case.

What do I need to do?

The Firearm Reform Program Transition Team are in the process of contacting existing licence holders to enable the appropriate transition of their licence to one of the new licence types. You should familiarise yourself with the new requirements specific to your circumstances and you will be contacted after commencement, but prior to your expiry date, when contacted you will need to provide the requested information within the nominated timeframes.

At commencement, until you are contacted you could consider logging into the Portal and follow the *sign-in* instructions.

In the meantime, a number of information sheets covering the firearm reform are available on the WA Police website, and the *Firearms Act 2024* and *Firearms Regulations 2024* can be viewed or downloaded from the Legislation WA website.

What if I can't comply with the new legislation?

You will either need to lawfully dispose of your firearms or utilise the amnesty and surrender your firearms at a police station (Part 10, *Firearms Act 2024*).