



Western Australia Police

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**FAQ's**

**FIREARM DEALERS,  
REPAIRERS &  
MANUFACTURERS**

**Handgun Security  
Policy**

... a guide to lawful storage of  
handguns in Western  
Australia

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What if I do not want to deal in handguns?

- A. If you do NOT want to deal in handguns, simply provide us with an email or written notice of this fact and your licence will be endorsed to this effect. You will not have to implement the requirements of this policy.

## Who is affected by this policy?

- A. Any person, business or other entity that holds a Western Australia Firearms Dealers Licence; or a Western Australia Firearms Repairers Licence; or a Western Australia Firearms Manufacturers Licence who wish to trade in handguns.

## Why wasn't industry consulted on this?

- A. WA Police has undertaken considered consultation with industry and representative groups in determining this policy.

Those involved included both metropolitan and regional dealers, repairers and manufacturers as well as the WA Firearms Traders Association. It involved visitations to a number of premises as well as one-on-one discussions with individual business owners about the practical application of measures.

In broader terms the policy has been discussed with members of the WA Firearms Consultative Working Group. These members include representatives from the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia; WA Pistol Association; IPSC(WA); WA Shooting Association; WA Firearm Traders Association; WA Small Bore Rifle Association and others.

## What is the minimum that I have to do to continue trading in handguns?

- A. There are 3 key elements that must be complied with:
- i. storage is either in a "compliant strongroom" or a "compliant safe within a defined secure room" as set out in the policy; and
  - ii. a certified alarm system as set out in the policy, is in place; and
  - iii. a certified CCTV system as set out in the policy, is in place.

All these elements must be certified by a licensed security installer and those certifications provided to Licensing Services (Firearms).

### Why is this suddenly being introduced?

- A. The new requirements for security are the result of a number of factors which include ongoing intelligence that indicates individuals and groups within the community are seeking to unlawfully gain access to these firearms as well as analysis of past thefts which have highlighted the need to specify specific security requirements for this type of firearm.

### What right do you have to tell us how to secure our premises?

- A. Section 21 of the Firearms Act 1973 provides the Commissioner of Police with the authority to impose conditions, restrictions or limitations upon any licence, permit or approval granted under the Act. This can be done either at the time of the licence being issued or subsequently.

Section 32 of the Firearms Act 1973 already places an obligation upon dealers, repairers and manufacturers for the storage and safekeeping of firearms. This condition simply clarifies and specifies that obligation.

### Does this apply to storage of handgun ammunition?

- A. No, ammunition can continue to be stored in the normal secure method presently approved on your licence.

### Does this apply to storage of handgun parts?

- A. The requirement applies to handguns, as specified under the Section 4 of the Firearms Act 1973. It is not targeted at storage of parts that are required for the repair or manufacture of handguns.

However, once those parts have been brought together to the point of creating a handgun then the storage of that handgun becomes applicable.

(i.e. you can't simply break a handgun down into its various parts and then say it doesn't need to be stored appropriately, once the parts have formed a handgun then that totality of parts needs to be stored accordingly).

### What is a "compliant strongroom"?

- A. Pages 7 & 8 of the policy outline the requirements of a compliant strongroom. It essentially needs to comply with Australian New Zealand Standard 3809:1998 but with a relocker device in the door and an electronic or dial combination lock.

This will need to be certified by a Class 1 security installer as defined in the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.

## What is a "compliant safe"?

- A. Pages 9 & 10 of the policy outline the requirements of a 'compliant safe'. It essentially means a safe that is either:
- i. certified under the Australian New Zealand Standard as grade V or above;
  - ii. certified under the European Standard as grade V or above; or
  - iii. certified as having a cash rating of \$250,000 or above.

It must have a relocker device in the door and an electronic or dial combination lock.

It cannot be a key lock safe.

It must be housed within a defined secure room.

Any safe with a mass of less than 1000kg must be anchored by devices each capable of withstanding 100kN (kilo newtons) of thrust.

This will need to be certified by a Class 1 security installer as defined in the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.

## What is a defined "secure room"?

- A. Pages 11 & 12 of the policy outline the requirements for a 'secure room'. The details are quite specific and should be read carefully to ensure the correct material and dimensions of those materials are used in the construction or renovation of premises to achieve compliance.

There are also specific criteria outlined in these pages should a licence holder wish to utilise a shipping container or similarly constructed storage container as a secure room.

You should obtain a letter of certification from your builder to outline the compliance of your room with this policy. This will require them to outline that the part of your premises to be defined as a secure room meets all of the structural elements of the policy. It should have full details of themselves and their registered building company.

## How do I know if my alarm system is compliant?

- A. You need to talk to your alarm installer or existing monitoring company and outline the new requirements under this policy.

The first step is to ensure that they are a Class 2 security installer under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.

All of the components of your system should meet Australian New Zealand Standards, and there must be the level of componentry outlined in pages 13 & 14 of the policy.

Your alarm system must be monitored by an Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL) grade A1 control room, capable of visual verification of any alarm.

## How do I know if my CCTV system is compliant?

- A. You need to talk to your CCTV installer or existing alarm company and outline the new requirements under this policy.

The first step is to ensure that they are a Class 2 security installer under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.

All of the components of your system must meet Australian New Zealand standard 2201, and there must be the level of componentry outlined in pages 15 & 16 of the policy.

You can get a copy of the Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency recommendations and the WA Police interpretation guide at :

<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Our-Community/Western-Australian-State-CCTV-Strategy/CCTV-Criteria-Guidelines-and-Procedures>

## What if I can't put in security shutters?

- A. The details provided in regard to security shutters are only recommendations to provide guidance to those licence holders who wish to add these to their total security package.

They are part of the external security recommendations along with physical barriers and perimeter fencing. None of these are compulsory parts of the policy.

## What if I can't put in bollards?

- A. The details provided in regard to physical barriers are only recommendations to provide guidance to those licence holders who wish to add these to their total security package.

They are part of the external security recommendations along with security shutters and perimeter fencing. None of these are compulsory parts of the policy.

## When do I have to meet compliance?

- A. As outlined in the correspondence you have been sent, the end date to achieve compliance is January 1, 2018.

However we urge you to take pro-active steps to achieve compliance and notify Licensing Services (Firearms) ahead of this cut-off, to ensure your ability to continue trading as normal.

### What if I do nothing?

- A. Licence holders who do nothing will have their licence endorsed as “Not to trade in Handguns”.

If this occurs and it is subsequently determined that you are in breach of this condition action may be commenced under Section 21(2) of the Firearms Act 1973.

### What if I am already compliant?

- A. If you believe you are already compliant you should provide Licensing Services (Firearms) with copies of your certification for the applicable strongroom or safe, together with certification on the alarm system and CCTV system.

You should also provide certification from your builder about the compliance of the secure room where applicable.

### Where can I get a compliant safe or strongroom?

- A. WA Police are not able to nominate external businesses for this purpose. However, there are many reputable safe companies operating within WA who will be able to provide you with options suitable to your business.

The key is to ensure that they are Class 1 security installers under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.

### Who are the ASIAL grade A1 alarm companies?

- A. There are a number of companies in WA (and Australia) that meet this criteria. These companies provide monitoring services to a wide range of alarm companies in both metropolitan and regional areas of the state.

Talk to your alarm company and ensure they are Class 2 security installers under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996. Once you have explained the type of monitoring required under the policy they will be able to provide you with options for the correct monitoring of the alarm and CCTV systems.

### What do I do with the handguns I have if I no longer intend to deal in them?

- A. You will need to dispose of them prior to the compliance date of January 1, 2018.

### Who is responsible for all this additional costs / expense to implement these requirements?

- A. Each individual, business, or other entity will be responsible for the cost of ensuring that they or their business is compliant with this condition of their licence.

### I only deal / repair / manufacture 1 or 2 handguns a year, what am I required to do?

- A. There is no distinction made regarding the number of handguns involved. Any of the affected licence holders who wish to trade in and store handguns will have to meet all of the requirements in full as set out in the policy.

### What is a mechanical or keypad lock that the policy states is required?

- A. A mechanical lock refers to the spinning dial combination lock that most people would refer to on a safe.

A keypad is an electronic combination lock where the owner can program with one or more combinations to enable access into the safe.

Both of these must comply with the Australian New Zealand Standard 3809:1998.

The Class 1 security installer who will need to certify that any safe or strong room is compliant will be able to determine if this is the case and provide you with further guidance in regard to them.

### What is a relocker device as discussed in the policy?

- A. Relocker devices come in a variety of styles, however they are essentially a device that is fitted (normally) in the door of a safe that prevents external tampering with the locking mechanism.

If the device is triggered it results in the locking mechanism being frozen and then requires expert level intervention over considerable time to achieve entry into the safe.

### Why can't I have a safe with a key lock?

- A. Analysis of firearm thefts within Western Australia has determined that large numbers have occurred where the storage device being used has simply been opened using the keys which were either stored nearby or elsewhere within the premises.

The requirement to use combination or keypad locks will remove the vulnerabilities associated with key locks.



## What is a Class 1 or Class 2 security installer?

- A. All workers within the security or related industries in Western Australia must be licensed under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.

Class 1 security installers are licensed individuals who have the expertise and knowledge to be able to certify the compliance of a safe or strongroom under the standards outlined in the policy.

Class 2 security installers are licensed individuals who have the expertise and knowledge to design and install security systems (alarms & CCTV) and to certify that they are compliant with all of the requirements outlined in the policy.

## What are the LED walk test lights mentioned in the policy regarding alarm systems?

- A. Alarm systems, including the ones outlined in the policy, generally rely upon the use of 'passive infra-red' (PIR) detectors of different types to detect when an object is moving within a zone and then trigger the alarm.

These detectors have inbuilt Light Emitting Diode (LED) test lights that will show green/amber/red when objects are moving within their field of view. To prevent persons from using these lights as a measure of their movement they must be disabled at any time that the alarm is active (switched on).

The Class 2 security installer who certifies your alarm will be able to provide you with further guidance on this matter.

## What are the ANZPAA CCTV Guidelines?

- A. The Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) is a non-operational agency created by all Australian and New Zealand Police Commissioners to provide strategic analysis and advice to develop better outcomes for community safety.

ANZPAA have undertaken considerable work to develop the best CCTV system design and operation so that the community has a non-biased assessment of what system requirements provide the best outcomes from a security and law enforcement perspective.

It is also important that your Class 2 security installer refers to the WA Police local interpretation Guide to ensure full compliance with the policy.

<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Our-Community/Western-Australian-State-CCTV-Strategy/CCTV-Criteria-Guidelines-and-Procedures>

## Who can I contact for further detail on my requirements?

- A. Senior Sergeant Ken Walker can be contacted on the following email address:  
[ken.walker@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:ken.walker@police.wa.gov.au)

DO NOT COPY

## SUMMARY

This policy sets out a logical and systematic approach to ensuring the security of handguns stored on the premises of all dealers, repairers and manufacturers licence holders in Western Australia.

In achieving compliance with this policy those licence holders will have a premise, where all handguns are secured when the business is not open for trade, in either:

1. a 'strongroom' protected by an integrated alarm and cctv system that is monitored by an approved control centre.  
or
2. an approved 'safe' or 'safes' located within a secure room where both are protected by an integrated alarm and cctv system that is monitored by an approved control centre.

Compliance will be determined by the appropriate certification being provided by licence holders that ensures not only initial compliance but the ongoing maintenance of those security systems put in place under this policy.

The licence holder may also choose to follow the policy recommendations that the premise is further secured by the combined use of appropriate shutters, physical barriers and fencing to deter intruders.