



Regulatory
Services
Department

The Firearms Bulletin

Volume 3, Tuesday 11 July 2023

Welcome to our third edition of the *Firearms Bulletin* for 2023!

The Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) is constantly striving to improve service delivery. This quarterly newsletter will be used to raise issues with you and assist you in resolution.

To stay up-to-date with current information, please refer to the [Victoria Police website](#).

Current Status of Applications

LRD is currently processing firearms Permits to Acquire (PTA), both online and manual, within 7-days of receipt.

LRD is currently processing applications for new firearm and renewal licences received on:

- New firearms licence applications submitted: 17 May 2023
- Firearms licence renewals submitted: 19 June 2023

Application processing time frames are updated on the [Victoria Police website](#). Licence applicants are reminded not to contact LRD unless an application was lodged before the processing dates published on our website.

LRD continues to work diligently to process applications but please note that timeframes may exceed 28-days due to an application's complexity, suitability concerns or incompleteness.

Change to LRD Phone Hours

The general public phone service times for the Licensing and Regulation Division has changed. The new phone hours are 10am–2pm on a Tuesday and Thursday only.

These changes are occurring to further streamline the processing of applications while still providing phone services. For information about application processing timeframes, please refer to the Victoria Police website for [firearms licensing](#).

Licence Renewals – Common Delays

Licence renewal applications are sent to the licence holder 12-weeks prior to expiry of the current licence. If a renewal application is received prior to expiry, the licence continues to remain current in accordance with Section 41A of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

However, to ensure a new licence is issued as soon as possible, licence holders are encouraged to lodge their renewal applications as soon as they can. Please ensure that you complete the renewal application in full and attach all the required supporting documents, including evidence of your genuine reason and a signed and dated firearms list.

Failure to lodge a renewal prior to licence expiry will void current licences. If a licence expires, the licence holder will be required to dispose of their firearms to a Licensed Firearms Dealer and lodge application for a new licence.

Change of Address

Any changes to addresses must be reported to LRD within 7 days of the change occurring. This is a legislative obligation and failure to comply will result in licence expiry.

Any changes to residential, postal or storage addresses must be reported to LRD within 14-days of the change occurring. Failure to notify LRD of a change of address is a breach of Section 139 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

If you have any further questions regarding Change of Details, please refer to the [Victoria Police website](#).

Firearm Storage Requirements

A reminder that firearms are to be safely stored according to the *Firearms Act 1996* to prevent theft. If they are not stored safely, firearm owners are committing an offence under section 121.

- Firearms must be stored in a purpose-built steel storage receptacle.
- The steel must be of a thickness of at least 1.6mm.
- If the receptacle weighs less than 150 kilograms when it is empty, it must be bolted to the structure of the premises.
- The receptacle must be locked, with a lock of sturdy construction, when the firearm is stored in it.

For further information regarding safe firearm storage and transport, visit the [Victoria Police website](#).

Firearm Safety Course

On 6 and 7 June 2023, the Licensing and Regulation Division hosted four forums with firearm safety course instructors across Victoria. We were so pleased with the turn out! The attendance and contributions of the instructors was extremely pleasing and constructive.

The central reason for holding the forums was to discuss the future of the Firearms Safety Course in Victoria. As you may be aware, Victoria Police has begun a transition from Divisional Firearms Officers primarily administering the course to external instructors delivering the course. In addition to this, we are exploring options which ensure instructors are suitably qualified to complete this important work. It was pleasing to see that many instructors already held qualifications in training and education.

Notably, we were very impressed with the depth of knowledge, experience and community-mindedness of the instructors. We acknowledge their significant contributions to the delivery of the safety course over the years.

Generally, the instructors were supportive of an uplift to course delivery and approach but, there were some valid concerns that we will continue work to resolve and mitigate with the group.

The key take-away from the forums was that we are privileged to have so many passionate and dedicated instructors, many of whom are volunteers, who are committed to supporting the Victorian community to participate safely in genuine firearm activities.

Proof of Firearm Licence

Firearms dealers must ensure that licence holders produce a current and valid firearm licence before they release the firearm, regardless of whether the person has a valid permit to acquire.

Penalties for disposing of a firearm to a person who does not produce a valid licence include terms of imprisonment from 12 months to 4 years.

Remember

We are always open to feedback and encourage you to contact lrd@police.vic.gov.au if you have any suggestions.