

The Firearms Bulletin

Volume 4, Wednesday 11 October 2023



Regulatory
Services
Department

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

The Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) is constantly striving to improve service delivery. This quarterly newsletter raises issues with you to assist in resolution and resource sharing.

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

Current Status of Applications

Licensing and Regulation Division 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:

1. New firearms licence applications submitted: 28 August 2023
2. Firearms licence renewals submitted: 22 September 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.

New Online Enquiry Form

The Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) has launched their [new customer contact web page and online enquiry form](#) for Private Security, Firearms and Weapons stakeholders.

This newly launched online customer contact form aims to reduce the high volume of email enquiries received by LRD and captures all relevant information to respond to enquiries efficiently. This new web page also brings together the most frequently accessed website information in clear, concise lists.

Firearm Safety Course

Since receiving the Firearm Safety Course Survey results in July, the Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) have reviewed recreational longarm firearm safety course content, materials and delivery.

Currently, LRD has issued reconfirmation forms to be completed by all recreational (longarm and handgun) safety course instructors, which are due by 3 November 2023.

The purpose of these forms is to:

1. confirm the personal details and intentions of instructors who will continue delivery of the course, and
2. to understand current experience and qualifications of our instructors to inform future qualification requirements.

If you have not received a form by email or post and believe you should have, please email RSD-POLICY-PUBLICATIONS-MGR@police.vic.gov.au. If a form is not completed and returned to LRD, instructors will be removed from our list and will no longer be approved by Victoria Police to deliver recreational firearm safety courses in Victoria.

Please note that no changes are planned for recreational handgun safety courses.

Regarding next steps, LRD will continue to consult and work with instructors about future qualification criteria. Discussions about the inclusion of practical handling and instructional (live-fire) components of future courses are ongoing.

Safe Firearm Storage

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.

1. Firearms must be stored in a purpose-built steel storage receptacle.
2. The steel must be of a thickness of at least 1.6mm.
3. If the receptacle weighs less than 150 kilograms when it is empty, it must be bolted to the structure of the premises.
4. 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](#).

Summer Period Phone Hours

The Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) will reduce phone services during the summer holiday period. The LRD 1300 number will be unavailable between Friday 15 December and Monday 15 January.

Normal phone services will resume at 10am on Tuesday 16 January.

Any urgent enquiries during this period should be directed to LRD via our online enquiry form, which is available at this link: [Contact the Licensing and Regulation Division | Victoria Police](#).

Outdated Application Forms

The Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) has received an increased number of outdated firearms application forms. This is a reminder that all updated, current forms are available on the Victoria Police website and e-Services portal.

Remember

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