

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide general information to private museums, historical societies and R.S.L.'s who wish to collect and display firearms and other weapons.

What is a Collectable Firearm?

A collectable firearm is a firearm registered and held under the authority of a Collectors Licence (Weapons) that is of obvious and significant commemorative, historic, thematic or investment value.

What are the requirements for the collection of firearm?

An individual, organisation or group wishing to collect and display firearms and other weapons must first make application for a Collector Licence (Weapons). The application must be made by an individual or representative of the organisation or group personally at a police station.

A Collectors Licence (Weapons) may be endorsed for Category A, B, C, D, H, M and R weapons. There are restrictions however in relation to each of the categories. The restrictions are:

- Category D,M or R weapons that are firearms must be permanently inoperable
- Category D,M or R weapons other than firearms must be inert
- For category A, B or C weapons that are manufactured on or after 1 January 1901, the weapons must be collectable firearms and made temporarily inoperable; or

- For category H weapons –
- (i) that are manufactured on or after 1 January 1901 and before 1 January 1947 - must be collectable firearms and made temporarily inoperable, ('collectable handguns'); or
- (ii) that are manufactured on or after 1 January 1947 - must be collectable firearms, held temporarily inoperable, and the licensee's licence is must be endorsed to allow possession of modern collectable firearms, or
- (iii) otherwise – they are permanently inoperable.

What are the requirements for the storage of Collectable Firearms?

A licensee who has control of a weapon at a place must keep the weapon in secure storage facilities at the place when a person is not in physical possession of the weapon.

Under *The Weapons Act Regulations 1996*, where there are less than 30 weapons at the premises, they must be stored unloaded in a locked steel container with the container affixed to either the floor or wall of a permanent structure.

Further storage requirements exist for collections greater than 30 weapons. These requirements are detailed on the Weapons Licensing Branch website at: <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/>

How to ensure safe storage and display Collectable Firearms

The public or private display of firearms generally does not comply with the storage requirements of the Weapons Act and Regulations. To enable the display of firearms it is necessary to obtain a separate approval.

Section 63 of the *Weapon Regulations 1996* allows for the Authorised Officer to, upon written application, give the applicant, including private museums, historical societies and R.S.L.'s, written approval to take particular safety measures for the safe storage and display of weapons instead of a measure required under the legislation.

If you wish to apply for approval to take particular alternate safety measures to allow for the display of category D, H, M and R collectable firearms instead of measures required under the legislation, you will need to submit a letter in writing to the Authorised Officer, Weapons Licensing Branch, detailing what alternate safety measures would be used.

The Authorised Officer must be satisfied the proposed safety measure provides at least the same level of safety and security as the replaced legislative requirements.

Category A, B or C firearms that have been certified as permanently inoperable do not need to be licensed and can be displayed without further restriction. However, in the interest of public safety, organisations displaying firearms should ensure the firearms are displayed in such a manner to prevent theft, loss or misuse.

Measures the Authorised Officer may consider in granting an approval for alternate safety measures to allow for the display of category D, H, M and R collectable firearms instead of measures required under the legislation include but are not limited to the following:

Collectable Firearms to be displayed must be Permanently Inoperable

Any collectable firearm or weapon intended for displayed must be rendered and certified permanently inoperable or inert.

Making a firearm permanently inoperable means the firearm has been permanently altered in a prescribed manner to ensure that a projectile can no longer be fired.

A firearm is not taken to be permanently inoperable unless a licensed armourer or a person approved by the Commissioner of Police certifies the firearm is incapable of being discharged.

The current requirements to render a firearm permanently inoperable can be found on the Weapons Licensing Branch website at:

<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/>

A Form 31 – *Certificate of a firearm/weapon being permanently inoperable* will be provided by the armourer once:

- (a) A firearm has been rendered permanently inoperable; or
- (b) A firearm has been inspected and confirmed permanent inoperable.

You will need to provide a copy of the Form 31 to the Weapons Licensing Branch and be able to produce it on demand by a Police Officer.

The Authorised Officer may, on written application, give the applicant written approval to make a particular firearm or type of firearm incapable of being discharged, in a stated way. If you wish to apply for alternate approval, you need to submit a letter in writing to the Authorised Officer; Weapons Licensing Branch detailing what methods would be used to render the firearm permanently inoperable. This may apply to weapons that have been sectionalised.

The Premises

The premises must be a permanent structure and:

- All external walls of the premises and / or walls of the display room housing the collectable firearms within the premises must be of solid construction consisting of concrete, brick, steel or timber.
- The perimeter doors and / or doors to the display room must be of solid construction (solid core doors / bandit resistant glass) securely hinged in stout framework and fitted with mortised locks or deadlocks.
- All perimeter windows and / or internal windows to the display room and roof skylights must be fitted with either external or internal security grills.

An Alarm System

The premises must be fitted with a professionally installed intruder alarm system incorporating the following:

- Sufficient internal motion detectors, contacts or reed switches, tamper switches and a line cut systems to monitor the entire premises including the display room and
- An external siren box and strobe security light and
- Off site 24 hour monitoring.

Securing Firearms on Display

Collectable firearms on display in a display case or otherwise must be secured in such a manner as would reasonably prevent their removal or misuse by unauthorised persons by:

- Steel wire rope, cable or steel ribbon of no less than 4mm passing through the trigger guard or the weapon or over the weapon and secured to the wall or
- Case harden steel chain of equivalent strength passing through the trigger guard of the firearm or the weapon and secured to the wall or
- Other methods approved by the Authorised Officer

The steel wire rope, cable, steel ribbon or case harden steel chain is to be secured to the wall or floor by:

- Masonry anchors into brick, stone or concrete
- Coach screws into wall studs or floor bearers

- A pin welded to a metal plate and with the pin passing through timber studs or floor bearers, steel or plywood, brick, stone or concrete (not gyprock) or part thereof and the plate secured to the reverse
- Security fixers or fasteners should be utilised were practicable.

Display Case or Cabinet

A display case or cabinet may be considered by the Authorised Officer as an alternative safety measures for the safe storage of weapons instead of a measure required under the legislation.

However, the use of the display case or cabinet must be in conjunction with the other methods already determined as suitable alternative measures for the safe storage of Collectable Firearms for display.

Samples of Good Operating Practice

Bren Light Machine Gun





The Bren Light Machine Gun is a Category R Weapon on display. It is:

- Rendered and Certified Permanently Inoperable by Armourer;
- Secured to solid flooring by pin and plate passing through mounting blocks;
- Stored within cabinet fastened to floor and wall and
- Behind Bandit Resistant Glass

Webley Revolver Mark VI



The Webley Revolver Mark VI is a category H Weapon on display. It is:

- Rendered and Certified Permanently Inoperable by Armourer;
- Secured to timber wall by pin and plate and steal wire;
- Stored within cabinet fastened to floor and wall and
- Behind Bandit Resistant Glass.

SMLE Rifles & Martini – Henry Rifle



The SMLE and Martini – Henry are Category B Weapons on display. They are:

- Rendered and Certified Permanently Inoperable by Armourer;
- Secured to timber wall by pin and plate and steal wire;
- Stored within cabinet fastened to floor and wall and
- Behind Bandit Resistant Glass.

Where can I find more information?

The information provided in this Fact Sheet is for guidance only. More information can be found by:

- Referring to the Weapons Branch Web Site:
<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/>
- Contacting the Weapons Licensing Branch on 3015 7777.
- Contacting your local police station.