Storage and Security

Purpose of This Information Sheet

- This information sheet explains the storage and security requirements for general storers who are authorised to possess firearms, ammunition or major firearm parts.
- It is intended to help you understand what type of storage you need, when alarms or CCTV are required, and what to consider when storing firearms at a home or another storage place.

How To Work Out What Storage You Need

- To determine the level of storage and security that applies to you, consider:

1. How many firearms you have

- 1–5
- 6–15
- 16 or more

2. Where they will be stored

- Occupied: a home where someone normally lives.
- Unoccupied: a shed, outbuilding, business premises after-hours, or any place not continually lived in.

3. What categories of firearms you have

- A, B, C, E or H. If you have more than one category, use the highest category when checking the matrix.
- A Storage Matrix is used to determine what level of cabinet, alarm, and (if required) CCTV system you must have.

Examples

Example 1

- A person has four Category A & B firearms stored at an occupied home.
  Their existing approved storage can continue to be used, unless they add or replace a firearm.

Example 2

- A person has seven Category A & B firearms and two Category H firearms, stored at an unoccupied location.
  They must upgrade to a Level 2 cabinet with an alarm system and CCTV.

Storage Levels

Level 1 storage

- A Level 1 storage option must be one of the following:
  - A 3 mm steel cabinet with a 6 mm steel door, or
  - A Grade V safe, or
  - A compliant secure room or strongroom.

Level 2 storage

- A Level 2 storage option must be one of the following:
  - A 6 mm steel cabinet with a 10 mm steel door, or
  - A Grade V safe, or
  - A compliant secure room or strongroom.

Level 3 storage

- A Grade V safe, or
- A compliant secure room or strongroom.

Strongrooms and secure rooms

- A strongroom must meet a minimum resistance rating requirements set out in Regulation 266.
- A secure room must meet the compliant secure room standards in Schedule 5 of the Regulations.

Shared Storage

- Multiple firearm authority holders can use the same compliant cabinet if each firearm is made temporarily inoperable by either:
  - using a trigger or action lock, or
  - removing a bolt, firing pin, or other major component.

- This allows, for example, a family to share a single cabinet while ensuring people with access cannot use a firearm belonging to another family member.

Alarm System Requirements

- Some storage situations require an Operational Level 1 or Operational Level 2 alarm system.

Operational Level 1 alarm includes:

- motion sensors that detect movement,
- no sensor lights showing when movement is detected,
- an audible alarm if sensors are triggered,
- notification to at least one person who stores firearms at that location, and
- compliance with recommended alarm standards.

Operational Level 2 alarm includes everything in Level 1, plus:

- seismic sensors to detect physical attacks or attempts to move the cabinet,
- alarm activation if seismic activity is detected,
- notification to at least one person,
- a duress alarm (e.g., button activation), and
- a protected control panel not accessible to the public.

- Both levels must cover the full storage area and all entry points.
- Routine maintenance is required. Records of maintenance may need to be produced on request.

CCTV Requirements (When Required)

- Where CCTV is required, the system must:
  - record at 12.5 frames per second,
  - display the date and time without blocking the cabinet or entry points,
  - run on an uninterruptible power supply,
  - notify at least one person if recording stops,
  - be password protected,
  - be remotely accessible by at least one person storing firearms at the approved storage place,
  - keep access logs,
  - retain footage for 30 days,
  - export images or video while still recording,
  - capture faces clearly, consistent with CCTV standards, and
  - cover the entire storage area and entry points, using multiple cameras if needed.

Alarm Matrices

- The Storage Matrix and Alarm Matrix explain:
  - How the firearm numbers, their categories and their storage location combined affect alarm requirements.
  - When Level 1 or Level 2 alarms are mandatory.

Alarm matrix – Individual Licence, Primary Producer Licence, Collector Licence, Club Licence, Range Licence Holders.

Category	**<=5**		**6-15**		**16+**	
	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied
A &/or B				Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm
Including any C &/or E6		Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm
Including any H		Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm
E (other than E6)						

Alarm matrix – Business and Government Entity Licence Holders.

Category	<=5		6-15		16+	
	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied
A &/or B				Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm
Including any C &/or E6		Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm	Operational level 1 or 2 alarm
Including any H		Operational level 2 alarm	Operational level 2 alarm	Operational level 2 alarm	Operational level 2 alarm	Operational level 2 alarm
E (other than E6)						

References to Legislation:

Legislation	Relevant Provision
Firearms Act 2024	Sections 306, 311(3)
Firearms Regulations 2024	Schedule 6, Regulations 267, 268, 284

1.) How many firearms do you have?

2.) Is your storage location occupied or unoccupied?

3.) What categories of firearms do you have?

Category	< = 5		6 - 15		16 +	
	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied
A & / or B	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Level 1 **(3mm steel body & 6mm steel door)**	Level 1	Level 1 + Alarm	Level 1 + Alarm	Level 1 + Alarm + CCTV
Including any C & / or E6	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Level 1 + Alarm	Level 1 + Alarm	Level 1 + Alarm + CCTV	Level 1 + Alarm + CCTV	Level 2 + Alarm + CCTV
Including any H	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 2 **(6mm steel body & 10mm steel door)** upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Level 2 + Alarm	Level 2 + Alarm	Level 2 + Alarm + CCTV	Level 2 + Alarm + CCTV	Level 3 **(Grade V Safe)** + Alarm + CCTV
E (other than E6)	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**	Grandfathering of existing approved storage **(existing licences ONLY)** **Upgrade** to Level 1 upon addition / replacement of firearms. ***New applicants**