

Collector Licence

What This Information Sheet Is About

- This information sheet explains what a Collector Licence is, who it is for, and the key requirements you must meet if you apply for or hold this licence. It is intended to help members of the public understand the rules around collecting firearms, major firearm parts, and ammunition.

What is a Collector Licence?

- A Collector Licence allows you to possess firearms, major firearm parts, and/or ammunition for collection purposes only.
- Items held under a Collector Licence:
 - must not be used, and
 - must form part of a genuine and defined collection.

Who Can Apply for a Collector Licence?

- To apply for a Collector Licence, you must be able to show that:
 - you are a student of arms, and
 - you are a member of an approved collectors' society.
- Both of these requirements must be met before you apply.

What Is a 'Student of Arms'?

- A student of arms is a person who can demonstrate a genuine and long-term interest in the study, preservation, or collection of firearms, major firearm parts, or ammunition.
- This interest should be ongoing and supported by evidence, such as your collecting activities, research, or involvement with a collectors' society.

Membership of an Approved Collectors' Society

- You must be a member of an approved collectors' society for at least six months before applying for a Collector Licence.
- Your application must include a letter from an authorised office bearer of the society confirming:
 - that you are a member, and
 - how long you have been a member.

What Can Be Collected Under a Collector Licence?

- Every firearm, major firearm part, or item of ammunition you collect must have at least one of the following:
 - significant commemorative value, or
 - significant historical value, or
 - significant thematic value.
- In addition, each item must fit within the scope of your collecting interest. For example, a collection focused on rifles used by British forces during World War I must only include items relevant to that theme.

What Does 'Significant Value' Mean?

Significant commemorative value

- An item has significant commemorative value if it has a special connection to an important historical event.
- The item must:
 - have existed at the time of the event, or
 - be a faithful reproduction of an item used during that event.
- Example:
 - A firearm used in a gun salute during the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, or a faithful reproduction of that firearm.

Significant historical value

- An item has significant historical value if it:
 - was used during an important period in history, and
 - had a meaningful impact on that period.
- Examples:
 - A firearm used in the assassination or attempted assassination of a historically significant figure.
 - Firearms used during major events such as military conflicts, revolutions, or periods of colonial settlement.

Significant thematic value

- An item has significant thematic value if it is important to the development, design, manufacture, or use of firearms or ammunition.
- The item must:
 - demonstrate a meaningful change in design, function, materials, or characteristics, and
 - have existed at the time of that change or be a faithful reproduction.
- Examples:
 - A firearm made just before or after a major change in manufacturing materials.
 - A major firearm part that introduced a new safety feature for the first time.
 - Ammunition that was the first of its type to use a plastic shell casing.

Record-Keeping Requirements – Ammunition

- If you collect ammunition under a Collector Licence, you must keep records that include:
 - a description of the ammunition, including type and quantity
 - the date you acquired it
 - if you no longer possess it:
 - who you gave it to, and
 - that person's licence or permit number.
- You must keep these records:
 - while you possess the ammunition, and
 - for five years after you no longer possess it.

Restrictions That Apply to Collector Licences

Ammunition

- You cannot collect live ammunition if it can be used in any firearm you hold under a Collector Licence.

- Likewise, ammunition collected under a Collector Ammunition Licence (a separate licence purpose) cannot be usable in firearms you collect.

Category C firearms

- Category C firearms may only be collected if they have significant historical value.

Category H firearms

- Category H firearms may only be collected if they:
 - have significant historical value, and
 - were not manufactured within the 50 years before your application.

Heirloom firearms

- Heirloom firearms are not considered collectable firearms.
- If you possess an heirloom firearm, it must either:
 - be made permanently inoperable, or
 - be licensed under another appropriate licence type, if you meet the requirements, or
 - be lawfully disposed of.

References to Legislation:

Legislation	Relevant Provision
<i>Firearms Act 2024</i>	Sections 39, 65, 67, 67(2), 69
<i>Firearms Regulations 2024</i>	Regulations 35-41, 117, 118, 128