

Firearm Permits

Purpose of this Information Sheet

- Provides guidance on the requirement to apply for a firearm permit for any person who wishes to possess, transport or use a firearm that is not licensed in the state of Western Australia (WA).
- Summarises the different types of firearm permits available in WA, including example scenarios, key requirements and important information.

What is a Permit?

- A permit is a firearm authority that may be granted by the Commissioner of Police to allow certain activities involving firearms, related things or firearm technology in WA.
- Depending on the circumstances, a permit may authorise a person to:
 - possess or use a firearm or related thing;
 - acquire or supply a firearm or related thing;
 - create, develop, possess or disseminate firearm technology; or
 - undertake another activity that the *Firearms Act 2024* or *Firearms Regulations 2024* allows to be authorised by a permit.
- Two (2) types of permits are available: equivalent authority permit and miscellaneous possession permit.
- A person may hold more than one permit at the same time.
- A permit cannot be granted to authorise the possession or use of a firearm for personal protection.
- Applicants must satisfy the Commissioner that there is a genuine reason for the permit.
- Where a permit authorises the use of a firearm, the Commissioner must also be satisfied that the firearm is suitable and appropriate for the intended use.
- All firearm permits are subject to the requirements of the *Firearms Act 2024*. The Commissioner must consider public safety and whether the applicant is fit and proper to hold a firearm authority.

Equivalent Authority Permit

- An equivalent authority permit may be granted to a person who holds a firearm authority issued in another Australian state or territory, or another country.
- This type of permit allows the person to carry out activities in WA that they are already authorised to undertake in their home jurisdiction, including:
 - possessing or using a firearm or related thing;
 - acquiring or supplying a firearm or related thing; and
 - creating, developing, possessing or disseminating firearm technology.

Examples

- An interstate hunter obtains a permit to possess and use their licensed firearm while hunting in WA.

- An interstate competition shooter obtains a permit to possess and use their licensed firearms while attending a shooting competition in WA.
- An interstate firearms dealer or repairer obtains a permit to undertake activities in WA that are authorised by their equivalent interstate firearm authority.
- An overseas competition shooter obtains a permit to possess and use their licensed firearms while attending a shooting competition in WA.

Important notes

- An equivalent authority permit does not create additional authority in WA.
- The permit only allows a person to do what they are already authorised to do under their interstate or overseas firearm authority. It cannot be used to authorise activities not permitted by their existing authority.
- For interstate clubs wishing to attend a shooting competition in WA, a single permit for the club is available for the body corporate, but this does not extend to individual club members.* Instead, each club member will be required to apply for their own equivalent authority permit.

*The *Firearms Act 2024* does not include an equivalent provision to the former section 17A Interstate Group Permit under the *Firearms Act 1973*.

Supervision of young persons

- A suitably experienced interstate or overseas firearm licence holder with a valid equivalent authority permit may be authorised to supervise a young person participating in competition shooting, hunting, or paintball activities in WA.
- To be eligible to supervise a young person, the supervisor must:
 - hold an equivalent authority in their home jurisdiction that corresponds to a Western Australian Individual Licence; and
 - have held that firearm authority continuously for at least five (5) years.

Miscellaneous Possession Permit

- A miscellaneous possession permit may be granted if the Commissioner is satisfied that the person could not be granted a licence authorising possession of the firearm or related thing.
- This type of permit is intended for temporary or exceptional circumstances.
- A miscellaneous possession permit may authorise:
 - possession of a firearm or related thing forming part of a deceased estate;
 - possession of a firearm or related thing for transport or temporary storage;
 - possession of a firearm or major firearm part for the purpose of obtaining a serviceability certificate from an approved person; or
 - possession of a firearm by an enforcement officer while carrying out enforcement functions.**
- A miscellaneous possession permit that authorises possession of a firearm does not automatically authorise possession of ammunition or magazines for that firearm. If ammunition or magazines also need to be possessed, they must be specifically authorised by the permit.

****For the purposes of miscellaneous possession permits, an enforcement officer includes a sheriff, deputy sheriff, bailiff, assistant bailiff or a person appointed under the *Civil Judgments Enforcement Act 2004*.**

Examples

- An executor of a deceased estate possesses firearms while arrangements are made for their transfer, sale or surrender.
- A person moving to WA temporarily possesses and stores their firearms while obtaining the required Western Australian licences.
- A person who inherits a firearm transports it to a licensed dealer pending licensing or disposal arrangements.
- A person possesses a firearm or major firearm part solely for the purpose of obtaining a serviceability certificate.
- A sheriff or bailiff possesses a seized firearm while carrying out enforcement functions.

Additional Information

Permit duration

- A permit can only be issued for a period of up to three (3) months.

Permit renewal

- A permit may be renewed for a further period of up to three (3) months if an application is made:
 - before the permit expires; or
 - within three (3) months after the permit expires.
- If a renewal application is lodged before the permit expires, the permit remains in force until the application is determined, unless it is suspended or cancelled.
- If a permit has expired for more than three (3) months, it cannot be renewed and will require a new permit application.

Maximum period for a particular firearm

- A permit cannot authorise a person to possess or use a particular firearm for more than six (6) months in any 12-month period.

Permit fees

- The prescribed fees (as at the date of publication) are:
 - Equivalent authority permit: \$136 per application.
 - Miscellaneous possession permit: \$30 per application.

References to Legislation

Legislation	Relevant Provision
<i>Firearms Act 2024</i>	Sections 21, 22, 134, 135, 136, 137, 167(3)
<i>Firearms Regulations 2024</i>	Regulations 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217