



**Te Tari Pūreke**  
Firearms Safety Authority

# VISITOR INFORMATION PACK GUIDED HUNTING

## 1 PURPOSE

This document aims to provide information on the visitor firearms licence application process to visiting hunters and other related parties such as hunting guides and outfitters.

If you want to use a firearm unsupervised during your visit to New Zealand (NZ), you must obtain a visitor firearms licence. This includes if you want to undertake shooting activities such as hunting or enter shooting competitions in New Zealand without the supervision of a New Zealand firearms licence holder.

## 2 PROCESS

**Apply for Visitor Firearms Licence (minimum 4 months prior to arrival)**

**Apply for permit to import any firearms and/or ammunition (if required).**

Subsequently, apply for export permit or exemption.

**Te Tari Pūreke process firearms licence application.**  
Applicant will receive an email with the approval if issued.

### ARRIVE IN NZ

**The Airport Police will issue a physical copy of the licence and your permit to import firearms (if applicable).**

Police will check the firearms ammunition coming across the border aligns with what is on the permit (if applicable).

### DEPART NZ

**If you depart by air,** go to the New Zealand Police station or counter at the airport.

**If you depart by sea,** go to the nearest Police station.

### 3 VISITOR FIREARMS LICENCE

If you want to bring a firearm to New Zealand (NZ) or use a firearm unsupervised during your visit, you must obtain a visitor firearms licence. You can use a firearm under the direct supervision of a New Zealand firearms licence holder without a visitor firearms licence.

To ensure your licence application is processed in time for your arrival to New Zealand, we recommend you apply a **minimum of four months before your visit**. This includes any permits to import firearms/parts and/or ammunition.

#### 3a VISITOR FIREARMS LICENCE

You must have a **RealMe account** with a username and password to create a MyFirearms account.

RealMe is not part of NZ Police applications, it is a NZ Government authentication and identity verification service.

If you need to create a RealMe login you can do this here: [RealMe – Login](#). You do not require a 'verified' RealMe account, only a login.

#### IMPORTANT:

Visitors are not currently required to interact with the Firearms Registry when bringing firearms into New Zealand. Visitors will need to agree to the declaration for Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority to put information into the Firearms Registry on their behalf.

You can find more information about visitor firearms licence applications and eligibility [HERE](#)

#### 3b APPLICATION DETAILS

##### Applicant

Make sure all details match your passport and adhere to criteria for Photo ID.

Passport photos from commercial outlets typically meet these requirements. Te Tari Pūreke cannot accept a scanned copy of a photo.

##### Home country

Visitors need to make sure their home country firearms licence is valid for the entire duration of the visit.

If you are from a country or state that does not issue firearms licences, you will need to provide proof that you can legally own a firearm in your own country/state, and that you have been trained in the safe use of firearms. You can do so by uploading a copy of one of the following:

- Concealed carry permit
- Hunter education certificate
- Other relevant document
- Hunting permit.

##### Purpose of visit – Guided Hunting

Your application will ask for the purpose of your visit. Please include the following details in your application:

- Flight details (number, arrival date, airline and airport) must be the international flight you come in on, NOT the domestic flight within New Zealand. This is because the visitors licence is issued at the airport of arrival from overseas.
- Under 'Purpose' it states, 'brief itinerary', please expand on the hunting itinerary, providing your proposed hunting areas/locations and intended dates. If you do not know this, please contact the recognised guided hunting outfitter or guide you are hunting with.
- Make sure your primary address is an actual address within New Zealand (such as that of the outfitter you are hunting with). If you will be staying in multiple locations during your trip, Te Tari Pūreke may ask for more information as part of your application process.
- Include if you will be travelling and hunting with a NZ firearms licence holder.
- Name other visitors licence applicants that you are travelling or hunting with, so we may be able to process together.
- Include any correspondence with your Guided hunting outfitter and/or Department of Conservation ballot confirmation documents.
- Include type of hunting you are planning (i.e., Deer, Tahr, etc.)

##### Transport and storage

All firearms licence holders must comply with the laws relating to secure storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition. Please refer to section 6 of this document and familiarise yourself with the secure firearms storage and transportation guide.

### 3c VISITOR FIREARMS LICENCE

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email with your application number. You will hear from our team either; if your application is incomplete and we require further information or once your application has been processed.

If you have any questions about the status of your application, you can contact [firearms@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearms@police.govt.nz).

Please reference your visitor firearms licence application number in your email.

### 3d MULTIPLE TRIPS TO NEW ZEALAND

You need to apply for a visitor firearms licence and any required permits each time you are coming to New Zealand. You can only apply for your next licence once you have left the country.

Licences should be applied for at least 4 months in advance. If there is less than 4 months between trips you should:

- Apply for your visitor firearms licence and any required permits as soon as possible once leaving New Zealand.
- Email [firearms@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearms@police.govt.nz) with your application number and arrival date so we can begin processing the application.

## 4 PROCESS

To carry firearms and/or ammunition in New Zealand, you require a Firearms Licence or Visitors Firearms Licence and have an import permit for any firearm/part and ammunition that is brought into the country. The import permit should be done at the same time as your visitor firearms licence application.

**IMPORTANT:** If you only applied for a visitor firearms licence and did not apply to bring firearms or ammunition with you as part of your application, then you will not be allowed to bring any firearms or ammunition into New Zealand with you. Any items brought into New Zealand without a permit to import will be seized by New Zealand Customs Service on arrival. Any seized items are then the responsibility of New Zealand Customs Service to determine what will happen to them. Permits for seized items will not be retrospectively issued.

### 4a PERMIT TO IMPORT

If you intend to bring your own firearms or ammunition into New Zealand, you need to include the following information in your visitor's licence application.

**Firearms details:**

- make
- model
- calibre/gauge
- action type, for example, bolt or semi-automatic
- serial number.

**Ammunition details:**

- type
- quantity

**Firearms Registry:**

Visitors will need to agree to the declaration for Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority to put information into the Firearms Registry on their behalf.

**IMPORTANT:**

When applying for your permit to import:

- Double check the firearms/parts and ammunition you have entered when you get the confirmation email at the end of the process, this will be the items on their permit (which is on the visitor's licence)
- Ammunition is by units not by boxes, e.g., enter 20 x .308WIN rather than one box of .308WIN.

You can find more information about permits to import [HERE](#)

## 5 DEPARTURE AND EXPORTS

If you brought firearms to New Zealand, taking them back out is a condition of your visitor's firearms licence.

On departure from New Zealand, Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority will update the Firearms Registry on a visitors behalf.

### 5a ARRANGE AND EXPORT PERMIT OR EXEMPTION

When you leave New Zealand with your firearms, you must have a permit. If you are exempt, you must have a notification of export.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade issue permits to export, and notifications of export.

On departure you must Report to the Airport Police (if leaving via an airport) or the nearest Police station (if leaving via seaport).

**IMPORTANT:** Pursuant to Section 22F of the Arms Act 1983 the holder of a New Zealand visitor firearms licence may not, during their stay in New Zealand, acquire ownership of any firearm or restricted weapon for possession in New Zealand. If this is contravened, the visitor licence is immediately revoked.

You can find more information about departures [HERE](#)

### 5b DELAYED DEPARTURES

Visitor licences have an end date of one day past the intended date of departure. If your departure is delayed longer than this, and you remain in New Zealand past the expiry date of your visitor firearms licence you will need to apply for an extension.

You can contact [firearms@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearms@police.govt.nz) who will assist you with this process.

## 6 TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

**All people using firearms must be familiar with the storage and transportation requirements.**

### 6a IF YOU'RE STAYING WITH A NEW ZEALAND FIREARMS LICENCE HOLDER OR GUIDED HUNTING OUTFITTER

Te Tari Pūreke will request the location(s) where you will be staying during your trip to New Zealand. The visitor firearms licence applicant must provide the name, address and firearms licence number of the New Zealand licence holder(s) that they will stay with. Te Tari Pūreke requires this as their storage has been checked and approved by Te Tari Pūreke.

To satisfy the security section of your application, please expand on the arrangements you have in place for storing your firearm when not in use e.g., when you're overnight in the bush or if you are bringing your own firearm and travelling within New Zealand. For example, keeping the bolt and ammunition separately, lock box, etc.

### 6b OVERNIGHT OR LONG PERIODS AWAY FROM USUAL STORAGE FACILITIES

When firearms are being taken to venues involving overnight or longer periods away from their usual storage facilities, security of firearms is best achieved by:

1. Arranging storage with a local licence holder or firearms dealer OR
2. Making use of secure storage provided by competition organisers OR
3. If neither of these options is possible security of firearms can be managed by obtaining accommodation that already provides secure firearms facilities OR
4. Utilising portable security devices, such as the security cords or cable locks to secure firearms to a piece of fitted furniture or solid fixtures in the accommodation while the licence holder remains present but asleep.

**IMPORTANT** this is applicable when travelling to and from your main place of storage. For example, travelling to or from the airport in your trip.

### 6c INTENDING TO STORE IN A VEHICLE

**IMPORTANT** You may only leave a firearm in an unattended vehicle for a short period and in limited circumstances. You are not able to store your firearm in a vehicle as a means of storage when not travelling.

Any firearms or ammunition may be left unattended in a vehicle during a break in a journey for up to 60 minutes provided:

- The licence holder remains in the immediate area or vicinity of the vehicle.
- The firearms or ammunition are still secured and out of sight.
- If possible, vital parts of the firearms remain in the licence holder's possession.
- The vehicle is locked, windows are closed, and keys remain in the licence holder's possession.

## 7 INFORMATION FOR GUIDED HUNTING OUTFITTERS

If you have individuals or a group applying for a visitor's firearms licence it may be useful to **remind them to apply for their licence and any permits at least 4 months in advance.**

All people using firearms must be familiar with the storage and transportation requirements and [safety code](#).

### 7a TO ASSIST WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR GROUPS

You can email [firearms@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearms@police.govt.nz) with the following details for the group:

- Visitor name(s)
- Visitor licence application number(s)
- Details of the hunting trip i.e. location of hunting grounds, confirmation of land access permits (if required) and hut concessions.
- Confirming if any ammunition is being imported for the hunting trip.

### 7b LICENSED VISITORS HIRING OR BORROWING FIREARMS FROM GUIDED HUNTING OUTFITTERS

If the shooter is licensed (visitor) and using a firearm that isn't theirs (whether hired, borrowed, or other) then while it is in their possession they have responsibility for the safe storage, use, and transportation. Where the shooter (licensed visitor) is with a Guide then the Guides home storage is approved by us and meets requirements.

### 7c LICENSED VISITORS BRINGING THEIR OWN FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION

If the shooter is licensed (visitor) and using a firearm while it is in their possession they have responsibility for the safe storage, use, and transportation.

Visitors bringing firearms and/or ammunition must provide the name, address and firearms licence number of the New Zealand licence holder that they will stay with. Te Tari Pūreke requires this as their storage has been checked and approved by Te Tari Pūreke.

### 7d UNLICENSED VISITORS

If the shooter is unlicensed, then the licence holder (Guide) is solely responsible for the transportation and storage. The Guide has a shared responsibility for the safe use of the firearm by the unlicensed person.

Visitors without a firearms licence will only be able to use a firearm (not including pistols, restricted weapons and prohibited firearms) under the immediate supervision of a current New Zealand firearms licence holder. Immediate supervision means the licence holder:

- is physically present and actively supervising the shooter
- can take immediate control of the firearm being used by the shooter
- is not using another firearm while providing supervision.