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1995



HV 8059 .C167 1995

Canada's firearms control  
law : safe storage, display,  
handling and transportation.  
Rev. [ed.], Jan. 1995





Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

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# Canada's Firearms Control Law

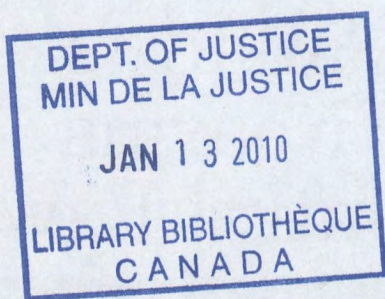
**SAFE STORAGE,  
DISPLAY,  
HANDLING AND  
TRANSPORTATION**



**AIMING  
FOR  
SAFETY**

Canada

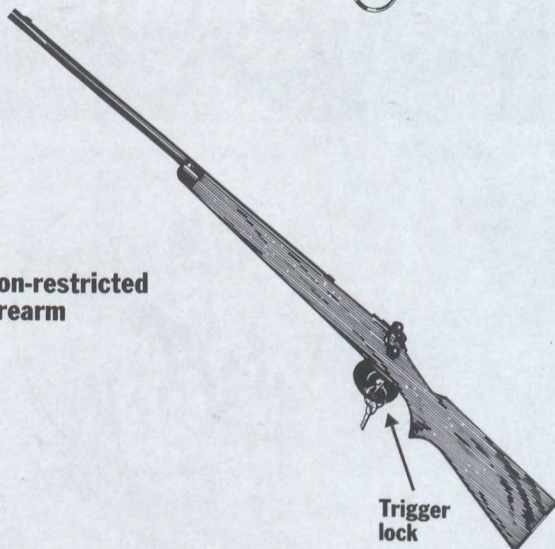
Revised January 1995



**Restricted  
firearm**



**Non-restricted  
firearm**



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# **Safe Storage, Display, Handling and Transportation. Important new rules to promote greater public safety, effective January 1, 1993.**

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In terms of public safety, this is one of the cornerstones of Canada's new firearms control law. In addition to reducing the number of accidental deaths and injuries caused by improperly stored firearms, storing firearms securely will help prevent crimes committed using stolen weapons and help curb the incidence of violent situations occurring in homes.

These rules cover both non-restricted and restricted firearms. Non-restricted firearms include common hunting rifles and shotguns. Restricted weapons include handguns, firearms that are declared restricted by order-in-council, registered converted and fully automatic firearms, and semi-automatic centrefire rifles or shotguns if equipped with a barrel shorter than 470mm (18.5 in.).

## **Who must comply with these regulations**

The regulations apply to everyone who has a firearm, except:

- those who hold firearms business permits or operate museums, and their employees, during the operation of their business or museum;
- police officers and federal or provincial public employees who require firearms in the course of their employment. Police are required to follow the storage and handling regulations at home unless they have written instructions from their supervisor to do otherwise;
- members of the Canadian Forces or the military forces of another country (serving in Canada) who require firearms in the course of their duties;



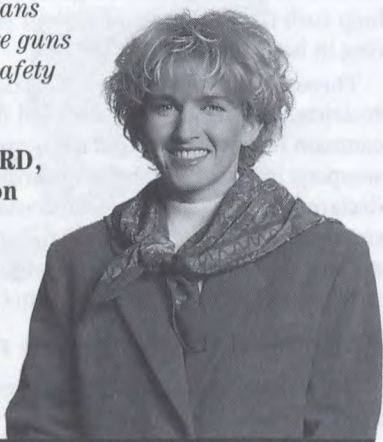
- companies who import, manufacture, repair or sell restricted and non-restricted firearms for police agencies or the Canadian Forces; and
- a person who has been issued a permit to carry a restricted weapon to protect life in accordance with the law

These persons and businesses are exempted because they are subject to other regulations (e.g. the RCMP Act, provincial police acts, Restricted Weapons and Firearms Control Regulation, military regulations).

Also, the regulations do not apply when a firearm is **in use**. This could be during hunting or sporting activities, when performing professional or occupational duties, when controlling predators or other animals or when taking courses in the safe handling and use of firearms.

*“I think Canadians agree that, where guns are concerned, safety comes first.”*

**MYRIAM BÉDARD,**  
Olympic biathlon  
medalist



## **Safe Storage**

### **Non-Restricted Firearms**

Non-restricted firearms must be unloaded – there should be no live ammunition in the firearm or in any attached or inserted cartridge magazine. They must also be made inoperable by removing the bolt or bolt carrier or by using a secure locking device that prevents the gun from being fired (as illustrated at the beginning of this brochure). Alternatively, they may be stored in a locked secure container, gun cabinet or room.

Ammunition may be stored with your firearm if you are storing the gun in a securely locked container or cabinet. Otherwise, it must be kept separate from the firearm.

You may store an unloaded, non-restricted firearm temporarily without a locking device if you require it to control predators or other animals. However, this is allowed only in a place where it is legal to fire the gun.

## **Safe Storage**

### **Restricted Firearms**

Restricted firearms must be stored unloaded and locked using a secure locking device **and** in a locked, secure container (as illustrated at the beginning of this brochure) or room.

A locking device is not required if the firearm is stored in a vault or safe or a room that has been specifically constructed or modified for the safe storage of restricted firearms.

Ammunition may be stored with your firearm if you are storing the gun in one of the types of containers described above. Otherwise, it must be kept separate from your firearm.

## **Display**

If you wish to display a non-restricted firearm, you must make sure that it is unloaded and either locked with a locking device or in a properly locked container, gun cabinet or room. You must also make sure that no live ammunition is readily accessible.

You may display a restricted firearm in your home only if the firearm is unloaded and locked using a secure locking device. As well, it must be securely attached to a non-portable structure so that it cannot be readily removed. You must make sure that no live ammunition is displayed with the firearm or readily accessible.

A restricted firearm may be displayed outside your home (e.g. at a gun show) only if it is unloaded and securely attached to the structure on which it is displayed by a device such as a chain or cable. You may unlock the firearm to allow a member of the public to handle it provided this is done under your direct supervision. No live ammunition may be displayed with the firearm unless the ammunition is in a securely locked case or container.



## Handling

All firearms must be unloaded and separate from ammunition except when actually in use or when stored under the conditions listed above for restricted firearms. In other words, you may have a loaded firearm only in a place where it is lawful to discharge it.

## Transportation

Non-restricted firearms must always be transported unloaded. If they are left in an unattended vehicle, they must be locked in the trunk, if there is one, or kept out of sight in the locked vehicle. If the vehicle cannot be locked (e.g. snowmobiles, ATVs), someone must be with the firearm.

Restricted firearms must be unloaded, individually locked and put in a locked case when being transported. If they are left in an unattended vehicle, the case must be locked in the trunk, if there is one, or stored out of sight in the locked vehicle.

Anyone who stores, displays, handles or transports a firearm in a manner contrary to these regulations is liable to imprisonment for up to two years.

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*For further information or to obtain additional copies of this brochure, contact your local firearms officer or police services or the Office of the Chief Provincial or Territorial Firearms Officer.*

Published by authority of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada by the Communications and Consultation Branch, Department of Justice Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8.

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Printed in Canada

Cat. No. J2-112/5-1992  
ISBN 0-662-59141-0  
JUS-P-627





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