



# Canada's Proposed Firearms Regulations

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Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

Canada 



## What are the regulations?

Canada's new *Firearms Act* received Royal Assent in December 1995. The proposed regulations will provide an administrative framework that will complement the Act. They address issues such as the licensing of firearms owners, registration of firearms, fees, storage, transport and transfer of firearms.

The proposed regulations will be referred to the committees of the House of Commons and the Senate for review within 30 sitting days. They will be pre-published in full in the *Canada Gazette*. The regulations will be brought into effect at the same time as the related provisions of the *Firearms Act*.

## How will the regulations affect me?

**If you are a firearms owner**, the regulations will inform you about the following:

- how to obtain a licence
- how to register your firearms
- how to display, store and transport your firearms for maximum safety
- what you must do if you give or sell a firearm to another person
- the fees you will have to pay

**If your business involves firearms** in any way, the regulations will establish, for example, the procedures for obtaining a licence, registering firearms, importing, exporting or transporting firearms, and keeping records.

**If you are a visitor to Canada**, the regulations will outline the purposes for which you may bring a firearm into the country or borrow a firearm while you are here. They will also establish the procedures for obtaining a temporary licence and registration certificate.





## Licensing Fees

<u>TYPE OF LICENCE</u>	<u>FEE</u>
<b>POSSESSION-ONLY LICENCE</b> (currently-owned firearms)	\$10 for 5 years, if applied for in 1998 *
<b>POSSESSION AND ACQUISITION LICENCE</b> (non-restricted firearms, i.e. rifles and shotguns)	\$60 for 5 years
<b>POSSESSION AND ACQUISITION LICENCE</b> (restricted or prohibited firearms)	\$80 for 5 years
<b>POSSESSION FOR MINORS LICENCE</b>	\$10 for up to 1 year \$20 for 1 to 2 years \$30 for 2 to 3 years
<b>ACQUISITION LICENCE FOR A CROSSBOW</b> Firearm Acquisition Licences and valid FACs can also be used to acquire crossbows.	\$60 for 5 years
<b>TEMPORARY BORROWING LICENCE FOR NON-RESIDENTS</b> Adult visitors to Canada can obtain 60-day temporary licences to borrow a firearm, e.g. to hunt with an outfitter or for other legitimate reasons.	\$30 for 60 days
<b>VISITORS WITH FIREARMS</b> Visitors who bring their own firearms into the country must obtain a declaration from customs. Frequent visitors may wish to apply for a Canadian firearms licence.	\$50 for 60 days

\* Increases to \$45 for 5 years in 1999 and \$60 for 5 years in 2000.

**Licence fees for businesses.** The fees for business licences will depend largely on the nature of the business. Businesses that sell restricted or prohibited firearms will pay more than those that deal only with non-restricted firearms.



# Licensing requirements

Under the *Firearms Act*, every business and individual must obtain a licence to possess or acquire a firearm. ***Licensing and registration for firearms owners will begin together early in 1998.*** This cost-effective approach will result in a ***simpler process for firearms owners.*** Individuals will have until January 1, 2001 to obtain a firearms licence and until January 1, 2003 to register all their firearms.

## Licences for individuals

### TYPE OF LICENCE

### REQUIREMENTS

#### **1. POSSESSION-ONLY LICENCE**

- allows you to keep your existing firearm
- for adults (18 or older)
- must apply before January 1, 2001

- A photograph — the applicant and one other person must sign a statement confirming that the photograph accurately identifies the applicant.
- The other person must sign a statement confirming that they have known the applicant for at least three years.

#### **2. POSSESSION AND ACQUISITION LICENCE**

- allows you to purchase another firearm
- for adults (18 or older)

- A photograph — the applicant and one other person must sign a statement confirming that the photograph accurately identifies the applicant.
- Two people (other than a spouse) must sign a statement confirming that, to the best of their knowledge, the information in the application is true and there are no safety concerns.
- These persons must sign a statement confirming that they have known the applicant for at least three years.
- The applicant must provide the name, current address and telephone number of every spouse or common-law partner with whom he or she has lived within the past two years. (If the applicant does not know the current address or phone number, he or she must make a written statement to that effect.)

#### **3. POSSESSION LICENCE FOR MINORS**

- for those under 18
- for non-restricted firearms only

- A parent or guardian must give consent
- A photograph — the applicant and a parent or guardian must verify a statement confirming that the photograph accurately identifies the applicant.

#### **4. LICENCE TO ACQUIRE A CROSSBOW**

- A photograph — the applicant and one other person must sign a statement confirming that the photograph accurately identifies the applicant.
- Two people (other than a spouse) must sign a statement confirming that, to the best of their knowledge, the information in the application is true and there are no safety concerns.
- These persons must sign a statement confirming that they have known the applicant for at least three years.





## Transferring firearms

The proposed regulations specify certain conditions that individuals and businesses must meet when they sell, barter or give a firearm, or when they seek to acquire a firearm from a business or individual.

The system for obtaining approvals for retail sales will use modern automated technology. It will be similar to obtaining approvals for credit card purchases. Forms will be made available to individuals who wish to transfer a firearm to another person. These forms will set out the information that needs to be provided and the steps that must be taken.

After the transfer of a firearm has taken place, a registration certificate for that firearm will be issued to the new owner.

## Buying ammunition

On January 1, 2001, ***every individual who wishes to buy ammunition will be required to have a licence to possess a firearm.*** Until that date, the proposed regulations will allow individuals who do not have a firearms licence to use another approved form of identification.

## Firearms records

The proposed regulations set out the responsibilities of the Canadian Firearms Registry and the Chief Firearms Officers with respect to maintaining, amending and destroying records. Information will be protected under the provincial and federal privacy legislation. Individuals will be able to apply in writing for access to their own personal records. The registration system will use advanced technology to protect data bases against tampering or unauthorized entry.



For more information, or a guide  
to the proposed regulations, call:

**1-800-731-4000**

Or visit our Internet site:  
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca>

This is not a legal text.  
For detailed information, please see  
the Firearms Act and the regulations.



**Canadian  
Firearms  
Centre**

**Centre  
canadien des  
armes à feu**

*Ce dépliant est aussi disponible en français.*





## Spousal notification

When someone applies for an acquisition licence, the Chief Firearms Officer must notify each spouse or common-law partner with whom the applicant has lived within the last two years. This will enable these individuals to raise concerns about their safety or about the safety of others.

## Registering firearms

The *Firearms Act* now requires businesses and individuals to register all their firearms by January 1, 2003. In 1998, individuals will pay a flat fee of \$10 to register all the non-restricted firearms they own, providing they register them all at the same time. This fee will rise to a **maximum of \$18** by January 1, 2001, for all non-restricted firearms that an individual registers at the same time. There are no registration fees for restricted firearms currently registered. Registration is once and for life. The owner pays no further fee, unless he or she acquires another firearm.

## Storing, displaying, transporting and handling firearms

The proposed regulations do not change the current requirements under the legislation known as Bill C-17.

## Restricted firearms

The proposed regulations establish the circumstances in which an individual can obtain authorization to carry a restricted firearm or a prohibited handgun. Eligible individuals will include people who need firearms for their work — for example, armoured truck personnel, licensed or authorized trappers, and people who work in the remote wilderness. In very rare situations, individuals may be authorized to carry these types of firearms, if their life or the life of someone in their care is in imminent danger.



## **Aboriginal communities**

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*The firearms regulations, including licensing and registration, will apply to everyone.* In Aboriginal communities, these regulations will be implemented in a way that is sensitive to the Aboriginal way of life. For example, there will be provisions that recognize communal ownership of firearms, and storage requirements will differ in remote wilderness areas (such as out-post camps). Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal sustenance hunters and trappers will be exempt from licensing and registration fees.

The *Firearms Act* reflects the government's commitment to respect existing Aboriginal and treaty rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

## **Transporting restricted and prohibited firearms**

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Authorizations to transport restricted firearms will replace the old system of "permits to carry". The system will be computerized, making it easier for firearms owners to obtain the authorization to transport firearms. *There will not be a fee for this authorization.*

## **Exporting or importing firearms**

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The proposed regulations set out the procedures that businesses, including museums, must follow to acquire authorization to export or import firearms, parts or components of fully automatic firearms, prohibited ammunition or other prohibited items.