



NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Laser Pointers

P 638

It is an offence in NSW to possess any laser pointer in public without a reasonable excuse. The maximum penalty for possession of any kind of laser pointer in a public place without reasonable excuse is 2 years imprisonment or a \$5500 fine, or both.

What is the definition of a laser pointer?

A laser pointer means a hand-held battery-operated device, designed or adapted to emit a laser beam, that may be used for the purposes of aiming, targeting or pointing.

Am I allowed to own a laser pointer?

You may own a laser pointer of less than 1 milliwatt, but you must not carry or use the laser pointer in a public place without a reasonable excuse.

How do I tell if the laser pointer is over 1 milliwatt?

The mW should be incised on the pointer or on the packaging in which it came. However, if in doubt check with the manufacturer.

What is reasonable excuse?

A reasonable excuse would be an amateur astronomer, teacher, lecturer or builder who has the laser pointer in their possession at a time and place related to that purpose (ie lawful pursuit of that occupation).

What about a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt?

If you wish to possess and use a laser pointer over one milliwatt, you must obtain a prohibited weapon permit from the NSW Firearms Registry, unless you are exempt.

Who is exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit?

A member of an astronomical organisation approved by the Commissioner of Police for use of a laser pointer for activities associated with astronomy, or membership of the astronomical organisation. A member means a person who is, or has been within an approved period, a member. The approved period is 3 months.

What astronomical organisations are approved by the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of this exemption?

The following astronomical societies, clubs or associations are approved by the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of an exemption to obtain a permit:

- * All clubs, societies and associations listed with the Astronomical Society of Australia;
- * The Astronomical Society of NSW;

- * Any astronomical club, society or association linked to a recognised Observatory such as the Sydney Observatory or Parkes Observatory;
- * University astronomical clubs and lecturers associated with those clubs;
- * Any other astronomical club, society or association approved by the Commissioner of Police.

What if I am currently in possession of a laser pointer over 1 milliwatt?

If you currently own a laser pointer and obtained it before 18 July you have until 1 December 2008 to either obtain a permit for the lawful possession and use of the laser pointer or you may dispose of your laser pointer.

Who should apply for this permit?

Any person who wishes to possess and use a laser pointer of over 1 milliwatt and is not exempt as a member of an approved astronomical organisation.

What is the term of the permit?

The permit will be issued for a maximum term of 5 years.

How much will the Laser Pointer Permit cost?

The prescribed fee for this permit is \$127. Payment must accompany your application.

How do I apply for a permit for a laser pointer?

Contact the NSW Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562 to request a P638 'Application for a Prohibited Weapon Permit' form.

What do I need to send with the application?

- * If you do not hold a current firearms licence or permit, you must provide proof of identity totalling 100 points. (See *FACT Sheet '100 Point Identification'*), and
- * Provide evidence of your genuine reason to obtain a laser pointer permit eg business or employment, and
- * Describe the activities for which you require to use the laser pointer, and
- * Specify safe keeping location and the storage facilities for the laser pointer.

Any person in possession of a laser pointer must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that it is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

How do I complete the application form?

Section A - Personal and Contact Details

The 'Last Name' & 'Given names' box should show your full legal name. This should be the name on your birth certificate, marriage certificate, change of name certificate or passport. Complete your DOB, drivers licence, contact details including mobile phone number and email address.

List any other names by which you have been known and supply details.

Section B - Residential Address

Insert your full residential address here.

Section C - Postal Address

If your postal address is the same as your residential address mark the box with an 'X', otherwise, insert your postal address here.

Section D - Business, Club, Government Agency Details

Complete Business, Club or Government Agency name, trading name, business address, phone numbers and postal address.

Section E - Permit Type

Place an 'X' in the box Other.

Section F - Safekeeping Address of Weapons

This section should be completed providing the address at which the prohibited weapons will be stored and details of the arrangements for the safekeeping and storage. (attach a separate sheet if there is insufficient space).

Section G - Personal History

Please answer all questions by marking the appropriate 'Yes' or 'No' box. If you responded 'Yes' to any of the questions, please provide an attachment with details.

Section H - Declaration

The application form must be signed and dated by the applicant in the presence of a witness. The witness must be 18 years of age or over.

By signing the declaration you are confirming that:

- * You understand and can comply with the requirements of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 and associated Regulation, and
- * That you understand that it is a serious offence to supply information that is false or misleading, and
- * All the information provided on the application is true and correct, and
- * You agree to the NSW Police Force making enquiries to establish that the information you have supplied in relation to the application is true and correct.

Section I - Credit Card Authority

If you wish to pay by credit card, indicate whether Mastercard or Visa, fill out cardholder details in full, sign and date. Otherwise include a cheque or money order for \$127.00 with your application.

DO NOT SEND CASH

Checklist

- Completed P638 form
- Proof of ID (if applicable)
- Storage facilities & location
- Reasons for obtaining the permit. Employment, occupation, activities etc
- Send payment with the application

Firearms Registry

Address

Locked Bag 1
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Telephone

1300362562

Interstate

02 66708590

Fax

02 66708558

Email

permits@police.nsw.gov.au
OR
firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au

Website

www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 1996* and the *Firearms Regulation 2006*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.



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