



VICTORIA POLICE

FAQs

The sale of firearms and ammunition for sporting and recreational purposes will be temporarily banned in Victoria to keep the community as safe as possible throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

A restriction on licensed dealers selling firearms and ammunition for sporting and recreational purposes will be in place for the duration of the current public health emergency.

It does not apply to those with a genuine occupational need for access to firearms and ammunition, including security guards, prison guards, professional hunters and primary producers. Licence holders must have a licence endorsed with an occupational genuine need (that is, the genuine reason printed on the licence card) to have a permit to acquire application processed and honoured by a licensed firearm dealer.

This decision has been made with the overall safety of the public in mind, ensuring people are not unnecessarily storing firearms and ammunition during an extremely difficult time for many in the community, which may be compounded by family and work-related pressures.

It also limits the number of unnecessary firearms and ammunition circulating in the community which have the potential to fall into the hands of criminals.

Victoria Police will not process or approve Permits to Acquire (PTAs) received post-midnight 30 March 2020 relating to sporting and recreational purposes. PTAs received pre-midnight 30 March 2020 that relate to sporting and recreational purposes and are still yet to be approved will not be processed. These applications will not be processed, and applicants will need to reapply once the variation to licensed firearm dealer conditions have been repealed.

We understand this change has evolved suddenly, however, we would appreciate your cooperation and continued support during these uncertain times.



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For individuals

I submitted a Permit to Acquire application prior to March 30, will it still be processed?

If you currently hold a licence with an occupational genuine reason, such as Primary Producer or Professional Hunter.

If you have a licence with a recreational genuine reason such as hunting or sport or target shooting your application will not be processed. You will need to reapply when these conditions have been repealed.

Can I purchase ammunition?

If you hold a licence for an occupational purpose and the occupational genuine reason is reflected on your licence, you may purchase ammunition. The variation to dealer licence conditions announced on 30 March by Deputy Commissioner Patton means that firearm dealers are not able to sell ammunition to licence holders who hold a licence for sporting or recreational purposes.

I have a firearm licence with hunting, sport or target shooting or clay target shooting as my genuine reason, can I purchase a firearm?

There will be a suspension of all firearm transactions including the sale, hire and loan of firearms and ammunition for the reasons of Sport or Target Shooting, Clay Target Shooting and recreational hunting.

This suspension, effective as of March will remain for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency and until repealed.

I have paid for my Permit to Acquire and my firearm, can I pick it up from the licensed firearm dealer?

Licensed Firearm Dealers (LFD) may honour a Permit to Acquire (PTA) where the permit has been paid for prior to March 30 (and payment has been received by LRD). You must have also payment or deposit for the firearm prior to the commencement of the variation to firearm dealer licence conditions.

If you have not already paid for a firearm, you will not be able to purchase a firearm with your permit.



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I have a Permit to Acquire that I have received but not paid for yet, can I pay for it now and buy a firearm from a licensed firearm dealer?

Unfortunately, until the temporary suspension is lifted, the LFD cannot honour your permit. We advise that you do not pay for the Permit to Acquire (PTA) until the variation has ended. Once the variation of firearm dealer licence conditions has been repealed you will be able to reapply for a PTA.

If I am purchasing a firearm on my collectors licence, can my Permit to Acquire be honoured?

Firearms may only be acquired if they are to be acquired for occupational purposes. If you have paid for your Permit to Acquire (PTA) you may request a refund. If you have not paid for your permit your PTA will expire; once the variation of firearm dealer licence conditions has been repealed, you will be able to reapply for a PTA.

I have recently received a Permit to Acquire and won't be able to use it now, will the expiry date of that Permit to Acquire be extended?

You can return the Permit to Acquire (PTA) to the Licensing and Regulation Division and request a refund if you have already made payment. Unfortunately, the expiry date of the PTA cannot be extended.

Once the variation of firearm dealer licence conditions has been repealed you will be able to reapply for a PTA.

I have received a Permit to Acquire in order to transfer ownership for a firearm from a family member to myself. Can a dealer finalise this transaction?

A Licensed Firearm Dealer (LFD) can facilitate the transfer of ownership from one licence holder to another licence holder. All parties will need to be present to finalise the transfer and a valid Permit to Acquire (PTA) presented to the LFD.

Can I put a firearm on layby now and finalise my purchase with a valid Permit to Acquire once the variation to Licensed Firearm Dealer licence conditions has been repealed?

If a Licensed Firearm Dealer (LFD) is willing to facilitate a layby arrangement with you, yes. You will not be able to collect that firearm as a purchase until the variation has been repealed. You will not be able to hire or loan a firearm from the LFD.

If I have submitted a Permit to Acquire application recently, and I hold my licence for an occupational reason will the Licensing and Regulation Division process my application?

Yes, the Licensing and Regulation Division will continue to be process and issue permits to acquire for licence holders with an occupational genuine reason on their current licence.

I am a primary producer who recently applied for a Permit to Acquire, will it be processed?



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Yes, Permit to Acquire applications for licence holders with primary producer as a genuine reason will be processed.



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For Licensed Firearm Dealers

Can dealers continue to acquire firearms?

Yes, Licensed Firearm Dealers (LFD) may acquire firearms as per the conditions of their licence. You will not be able to transfer these firearms to licence holders for recreational or sporting purposes by Permit to Acquire, hire or loan.

Am I able to transfer a firearm or firearm order to another licensed firearm dealer in Victoria or another state?

Yes – dealer to dealer transfers may continue. You will not be able to transfer these firearms to licence holders for recreational or sporting purposes by Permit to Acquire (PTA), hire or loan.

Can a Licensed Firearm Dealer continue to purchase firearms from licence holders?

Yes. If a licence holder wishes to sell or dispose of a firearm to a Licensed Firearm Dealer (LFD) they may do so. You will not be able to transfer these firearms to licence holders for recreational or sporting purposes by Permit to Acquire (PTA), hire or loan.

Can firearms from a deceased estate still be acquired by a Licensed Firearm Dealer?

Yes. If a deceased estate wishes to sell or dispose of a firearm to a Licensed Firearm Dealer (LFD) they may do so. You will not be able to transfer these firearms to licence holders for recreational or sporting purposes via a Permit to Acquire (PTA) or hire or loan.

I am a Licensed Firearm Dealer, can I continue to trade my other stock, such as firearm accessories?

If you are able to continue to trade as a retailer in accordance with current government health recommendations and restrictions, then you can continue to trade. This variation of licence conditions to Licensed Firearm Dealer (LFD) only applies to the sale of firearms and ammunition.

How will I know if my customer is allowed to purchase ammunition or use a Permit to Acquire?

You will need to check the genuine reason that is printed on their licence. Licence holders with a genuine reason such as Primary Producer or Professional Hunter may continue to purchase ammunition or use a Permit to Acquire (PTA).

If the customer holds their licence for the genuine reason of hunting, sport/target shooting, target shooting or clay target shooting, or they are a collector they may not use a PTA or purchase ammunition.



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Can employees of Primary Producers who hold a firearms licence purchase ammunition?

You will need to check the genuine reason that is printed on their licence. Licence holders with a genuine reason of Primary Producer may continue to purchase ammunition.

Can a Licensed Firearm Dealer continue to facilitate the layby of firearms?

Yes. They will not be able to collect their firearm until they are able to produce a valid Permit to Acquire and the varied licence conditions for Licensed Firearm Dealers have been repealed.

Do I have to continue to report my transactions to Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) during this temporary change to the Licensed Firearm Dealer's condition?

All Licensed Firearms Dealers still have a legislative to provide LRD with a report of their transactions. Please refer to the Licensed Firearms Dealer Reference Guide.