



THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREARMS COLLECTORS LICENCES IN VICTORIA

FIREARMS COLLECTORS LICENCES

Firearms collectors licences are divided into 3 different categories based on the manufacturing date and type of the firearm. They are issued by Licensing & Registration Division of Victoria Police (L&RD) and the following is a brief guide.

ANTIQUE HANDGUN COLLECTORS LICENCE (AHCL)

This licence is intended for people who only want to collect antique pistols manufactured before 1900. Examples of these are multi-barrelled percussion pistols, percussion pepperboxes and percussion revolvers. Or put simply it covers all multi-shot antique percussion pistols.

But pre 1900 manufactured percussion longarms and single-shot percussion pistols are exempt from licensing and registration as are all pre-percussion firearms such as flintlocks etc.. And please note that all longarms using obsolete cartridges are also exempt from registration and licensing regardless of manufacturing date.

Once the person is accepted as a member, they can apply immediately for the AHCL

CATEGORY 1 COLLECTORS LICENCE

This licence is intended for people who want to collect cartridge pistols (including semi-automatic) manufactured after 1900 and prior to 1947.

It also allows the licence holder to collect all registerable longarms (longarms are considered registerable if they take currently available ammunition) regardless of the manufacturing date.

Note that it includes permanently deactivated automatic and semi-automatic longarms (collectors are not allowed to possess working examples of these).

Also it is worth noting that if a collector wants to assemble a broader collection of certain types of firearms (e.g. evolution of military pistols) they can possess pre-1900 pistols of the type that require the AHCL on a Category 1 Licence thus avoiding multiple licenses.

An applicant for a Category 1 Collectors Licence must be a member of an approved club for 6 months before they can apply for it.

CATEGORY 2 COLLECTORS LICENCE

If you wish to collect handguns made after 31 December 1946 a Category 2 Collectors licence is required. Be aware that this is regardless of the actual design date. Many popular handgun types fall into this confusing classification by date of manufacture (e.g. Colt Model 1911A1 and many standard types of revolvers etc.). However, if the pistol's serial number indicates that it was made before that date it is covered by the Category 1 licence and if made after then a Category 2 Licence is required.

An applicant for a Category 2 Collectors Licence must be a member of an approved club for 2 years and possess 10 or more registerable pistols that are registered to either an AHCL or Category 1 licence. Be aware that exempt pistols (e.g. pre-1900 antiques) are not counted, nor are longarms.



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FIREARM STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Please note that the current requirements for approved storage of firearms are detailed in the Guild Form E which is one of the forms that a Guild membership applicant is required to complete as directed.

Make yourself aware of the conditions, and also Sections 21 to 30 in the Victorian Firearms Act that apply to collectors. The Firearms Act may be accessed by typing Victorian Firearms Act into your preferred search engine and is available as a PDF.