

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

WEAPONS ACT 1991

STORAGE GUIDELINES

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Determination no. 158 of 1992

OBJECTIVES

The object of this Determination of Guidelines is to outline the requirements for safe storage of weapons pursuant to section 13. (1) of the Weapons Act 1991 which states:

"The Registrar of Weapons shall -

(b) by notice in the Gazette, determine guidelines for the security of premises in or on which dangerous or restricted weapons are kept and for the safe custody of those weapons."

These Guidelines shall commence upon Gazettal, and shall also be published in the Canberra Times as soon as possible.

The Guidelines provide for such conditions as to prevent unauthorised persons from having access to any weapon without the specific consent of the owner.

PROVISIONS

Guideline 1 outlines the minimum requirements for the safe storage of the following weapons:

- i) Longarms (Rifles & Shotguns) - less than 10;
- ii) all restricted weapons.

A police study has revealed that, on average, each licensed person possesses 2-7 dangerous weapons and that a majority of licence holders store weapons:

- (a) in a wardrobe/cupboard
- (b) on top of same
- (c) under a bed
- (d) in a container in a garage.

As a result, unauthorised access to these weapons has been afforded to juveniles and burglars.

It is considered that the determination of this guideline, which will entail minimal cost to licence holders, will reduce the likelihood of such unauthorised access.

Guideline 2 outlines the minimum requirement for the safe storage of:

Longarms (10 or more)

It is considered that owners of larger numbers of weapons, such as competition shooters, have a greater responsibility for the security of those weapons and are consequently required to store them more securely.

Guideline 3 outlines the minimum requirement for the safe storage of:

Pistols (less than 10) and tranquilliser pistols.

This guideline, which takes in the minimum security container for Longarms (more than 10) above, is designed to ensure that concealable weapons such as pistols are stored in a more secure container than that applying to (less than 10) rifles and shotguns.

Guideline 4 outlines the minimum requirements for the safe storage of:

- (i) Pistols (more than 10);
- (ii) Pistols held by licensed dealers;
- (iii) Pistols held by pistol club armourers

Other than categories (ii) and (iii), it is anticipated that the main holders of more than 10 pistols would be security and other organisations. Having regard to the quantity of weapons, therefore, further emphasis has been placed on the security of same.

Guideline 5 outlines the minimum requirements for the safe storage of display weapons.

Guideline 6 determines all security requirements for the premises of:

- (i) Dangerous or Restricted Weapons Dealers;
- (ii) Armourers - pistol club
- (iii) Armourers - Firearms range
- (iv) Corporate Dangerous Weapons Licensee