

# Firearm security advice



Guidance on keeping your firearms,  
shotguns and ammunition secure



**As a certificate holder, the security of firearms, shotguns and ammunition is your responsibility.**

Under the Firearms Rules 1998, a prescribed safekeeping condition is attached to all firearm and shotgun certificates. It is an offence not to comply with these conditions – and you could face up to six months in prison, or a fine, or both.

The safekeeping condition attached to firearms or shotgun certificates requires that the guns and section 1 ammunition must be stored securely to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, unauthorised people taking or using them.

Any other person who does not hold a firearm or shotgun certificate is included in the term 'unauthorised'. When a gun or section 1 ammunition is being used or the holder has the gun with them for some purpose connected with its use, transfer or sale, reasonable precautions must be taken for the safe custody of the guns and section 1 ammunition.



Our Firearms and Explosive Licensing Department can give you advice on security arrangements – visit

**[www.northyorkshire.police.uk/firearmslicensing](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/firearmslicensing).**

The team are available for telephone enquiries, Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm, by dialling 01609 643589. **In an emergency, dial 999.**

## General security

Where numerous guns are kept, serious consideration should be given to installation of an intruder alarm system conforming to BS4737. All external doors to the premises should be secured with five lever mortice locks. Accessible, opening windows should be fitted with window locks. Alternatively if the premises in which the firearms are to be stored are especially vulnerable (e.g. flats, houses converted to apartments or dwellings in high risk areas), weapons should be stored at an armoury or with a Registered Firearms Dealer. In case of collectors, guns should not be openly displayed.



## Secure storage

When considering whether storage arrangements are secure enough, we will look at the circumstances of each case and at the overall security arrangements, including the security of the premises where the firearms and ammunition are kept.

This doesn't solely apply to criminal entry, but occurs where persons other than the certificate holder have access to the security or the keys. Individual circumstances and overall security arrangements are to be taken into consideration. The level of security should be proportionate to the risk and each case will be judged on its merits.

## Gun cabinets

Commercially manufactured firearm cabinets are widely available, this will probably be the preferred method of security for most people and Licensing Departments. It is recommended that the cabinet conforms to current British Standards as per Home Office Guidance.

Other forms of security maybe suitable dependent on your circumstances and quantity of guns held. Firearms Licensing Department would be happy to provide advice and a Firearms Enquiry Officer may attend your home address to discuss further.



## Rifles and Shotguns

Rifles and shotguns should be secured as per guidance. Bolts and magazines should be stored separately - either in a separate part of the main cabinet or a further suitable lockable container/cabinet.



## Ammunition

Ammunition for your rifle should also be kept separate to your guns and in a secure, lockable container/cabinet. It may form part of the main cabinet provided it is separately locked. Ammunition boxes should be ventilated.

## Transporting Firearms

When firearms are being transported, the certificate holder must take reasonable precautions to make sure that the firearm, ammunition or shotgun is kept safe.

Where practicable, firearms and ammunition should be placed where they cannot be seen, e.g. inside the load carrying area of a locked vehicle.

If you frequently transport firearms by car you will need a higher level of security. Contact the Firearms and Explosive Licensing Department for advice.

If the vehicle is to be left unattended it will normally be sufficient to remove the bolt, trigger and/or fore end of the gun and for the remainder of the gun and ammunition to be concealed from view. Guns and ammunition should not be left in a vehicle for prolonged periods of time.

If firearms are transported on public transport they should be covered in a suitable slip/case and remain with the holder at all times.

