COMPLIANCE GUIDE · GUN SAFES

FIREARM STORAGE REQUIREMENTS BY STATE AND TERRITORY

Gun safe and receptacle rules for licensed individuals in all eight Australian jurisdictions, as at November 2026, with recent reforms and links to the legislation.

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Every Australian state and territory sets its own firearm storage rules, built on the minimums in the National Firearms Agreement. This guide compares the requirements for licensed individuals in all eight jurisdictions as at November 2026, including recent reforms in Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales.

The national baseline. The National Firearms Agreement (updated August 2026, storage wording unchanged) requires hardwood or steel for Category A/B, a bolted steel safe for C/D/H, and ammunition locked separately. It sets no steel thickness.

Steel thickness varies widely. From 1.6 mm (Victoria, all categories) to 6 mm sides and 10 mm doors (WA Level 2). Some states set no figure at all.

The 150 kg rule is common. Most jurisdictions require A/B receptacles under 150 kg (empty) to be fixed to the building. WA uses 500 kg. C/D/H safes must generally be bolted regardless of weight.

Rules are tightening. WA rewrote its laws in 2025; Tasmania's new regulations started 19 October 2026; Queensland is phasing out timber containers; NSW now inspects storage before issuing a permit to acquire.

1. Comparison by jurisdiction

State	Law relied on	Category A/B	Category C/D/H	Fixing	Ammunition
VIC	Firearms Act 1996, s 121 and Sch 4 (version 107, 19 Aug 2026)	Purpose-built steel receptacle, at least **1.6 mm** (AS/NZS 1594), sturdy lock	Same steel standard; key carried or kept in a separate room	Bolted if under 150 kg	Locked container separate from the firearm receptacle
NSW*	Firearms Act 1996, ss 39–41, and Commissioner's Instruments of Approval (Nov 2024)	Commercially made **steel or hardwood**; 3-point locking or a padlock with body at least 40 mm	Commercially made **steel** safe; no thickness stated in police guidance	A/B: fixed if under 150 kg. C/D/H: always. At least 4 anchor points	Locked metal or purpose-made container, or integral lockable steel compartment
QLD	Weapons Act 1990, s 60; Weapons Regulation 2016, ss 94–96	Solid steel **or solid timber** (timber to end for A, B, C, E and M from 12 Mar 2027, per QPS)	D and H: solid steel. C: currently steel or timber	A/B/C: fixed if under 150 kg. D/H: always bolted	Stored separately (QPS guidance)

State	Law relied on	Category A/B	Category C/D/H	Fixing	Ammunition
WA	Firearms Act 2024, Pt 7; Firearms Regulations 2024, Pt 8 and Schs 4–6 (as at 1 Jul 2026)	Usually Level 1: body at least **3 mm**, door at least **6 mm** (or Grade V safe)	C: Level 1 plus alarm/CCTV by number and occupancy. H: Level 2 (**6 mm / 10 mm**) or 3. D: secure room or strongroom	Anchored if under **500 kg**: 4 bolts rated 100 kN, or chemical bonding	Only in a locked steel accessory compartment inside the container, or stored to the required level
SA	Firearms Regulations 2017, Sch 1 Code of Practice	Under 20 firearms: Level 1 safe (**2 mm**) under the main roof; Level 2 (**3 mm**) in an outbuilding	Under 20 firearms: Level 2 safe (**3 mm**)	Bolted with at least 2 anchor bolts if under 150 kg	Locked container or compartment, with a different key
TAS	Firearms Act 1996, Pt 5; Firearms Regulations 2026, regs 10–12 (from 19 Oct 2026)	Metal at least **2 mm**, or concrete; internal lock; protected hinges	Metal at least **3 mm**, or concrete	Fixed if under 150 kg (4 points: wall and/or floor)	Separate locked receptacle or compartment, different key
ACT	Firearms Act 1996, ss 180–182; Firearms Regulation 2008, Pt 11	Registrar-approved **hardwood or steel** receptacle, solid metal locks; remove firing mechanism if possible	Registrar-approved **steel** safe (ACT Policing applies a **3 mm** specification); Cat D also needs an intruder alarm	A/B: fixed if under 150 kg. C/D/H: always bolted	Approved locked container, separate
NT	Firearms Act 1997, s 46; Firearms Regulations 1997, regs 21–22A, Schs 2–3	Steel at least **3 mm** (2 mm if reinforced), at least 2 bolt-down points	Steel at least **6 mm** (or 3 mm sides with 6 mm door, with approval)	A/B: fixed if under 150 kg. C/D/H: always bolted	Sturdy locked container with a different lock and key (since May 2024)

Applies to ordinary individual licence holders, not dealers, collectors or security businesses. * NSW details are from NSW Police Firearms Registry fact sheets (Dec 2025) and Instruments of Approval, as the legislation text could not be checked directly for this edition. Every jurisdiction lets the regulator approve alternative storage of at least equal security.

2. More firearms, more security

State	Extra requirements for larger collections (ordinary licence holders)
VIC	More than 15 firearms: intruder alarm (AS 2201.1) with audible alarm and external warning light.
QLD	More than 30 Category A–D firearms (or more than 30 Category H): collector-standard storage (vault or secure storeroom).
WA	Requirements step up at 6 and at 16 firearms, and are stricter where the storage place is unoccupied: alarms, CCTV and higher container levels.
SA	20–34 firearms: CCTV or alarm. 35–49: CCTV and alarm. 50 or more (or 30+ Category H): strongroom plus CCTV and alarm.
TAS	Any Category H, or 10 or more firearms: monitored or audible alarm, or video recording.
ACT	More than 10 Category A/B firearms: metal, concrete or brick safe to the regulation's 3 mm specification.
NSW	Storage away from the principal residence needs individual trigger or barrel locks, a remotely monitored alarm on the safe and a site intruder alarm. Since 24 Dec 2025 permits to acquire are capped at 10 or 4 firearms depending on licence reason.

3. Away from home and in vehicles

- **Unloaded, out of sight, locked.** All jurisdictions require firearms to be unloaded in transit, and most require them to be hidden from view and locked in the boot or a locked container when the vehicle is unattended.
- **Ammunition separate.** Keep ammunition in a separate locked container or compartment (explicit in the VIC, NSW, WA, SA, TAS, ACT and NT rules).
- **Make it inoperable.** Several jurisdictions require or accept a trigger lock, or removing the bolt or firing mechanism, during transport (e.g. NSW for C/D/H, WA, TAS, ACT).
- **Don't leave it.** QLD prohibits leaving a weapon in an unlocked vehicle unattended; SA limits unattended time to what is reasonably necessary; NSW Police advise never leaving a firearm unattended in a vehicle unless stored to the C/D/H standard.

4. Recent and upcoming reforms

Where	Change
National	New National Firearms Agreement agreed 26 August 2026. The storage clause is unchanged from the 2017 agreement.
WA	Firearms Act 2024 and Firearms Regulations 2024 commenced 31 March 2025: storage levels, 500 kg anchoring threshold, alarm and CCTV requirements by number and occupancy. Owners of 5 or fewer A/B/C/H firearms before that date may keep compliant older storage until they acquire another firearm.
TAS	Firearms Regulations 2026 commenced 19 October 2026. It is an offence to advertise a non-compliant storage receptacle for sale.
QLD	Amendment Act No. 4 of 2026 removes "solid timber" containers; Queensland Police say steel will be required for Categories A, B, C, E and M from 12 March 2027.
NSW	Since 1 July 2026, a permit to acquire requires a passed police storage inspection at the nominated address. Further reforms are to be proclaimed.
VIC	The Firearms Amendment Act 2026 did not change storage. Steel-only storage has applied since 30 August 2022.

Buying a gun safe: what to check

Match the safe to your **highest** licence category and the **number** of firearms you store. Check the steel thickness (body and door), the lock type, and whether it has pre-drilled anchor holes for the fixing your state requires. Plan a separate locked ammunition compartment with a different key. If you live in Queensland and own a timber cabinet, plan to replace it before March 2027.

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