

Firearms Licensing – FAQs on Firearm Certificate Applications

Q. I wish to apply for a Firearm Certificate to shoot on lands attached to my family home which is different to my current residence. What is the correct office to apply to?

A. An applicant for a firearm certificate is required to submit their application to the issuing Superintendent of the area in which they normally reside.

Q. My current firearm certificate is due to expire and I have not received my Firearm Renewal Certificate. What should I do?

A. Each current holder of a firearm certificate (with the exception of a Firearm Training Certificate) should receive a PRE-POPULATED version of the **Firearms Renewal Form (FCR)** in the post approximately three months prior to the expiry of their current certificate. If a situation arises where a firearm certificate holder does not receive a pre-populated Firearms Renewal Form (FCR) prior to the expiry of their current certificate, please immediately contact your local Garda Station.

Q. My Firearm Training Certificate has expired. How do I renew this training certificate?

A. Where an individual's Firearm Training Certificate has expired, an applicant should re-apply on Form FCA1 to renew this training certificate provided the specified holder's firearm certificate has been firstly renewed.

Q. I have submitted my Firearm Certificate Application and I have not heard anything. Who do I contact?

A. At the time of application each applicant should obtain the name of the Garda they submit their application to. Should there be any further queries in respect of your application, please contact this Garda member or the relevant superintendent's office (chief superintendent's office in respect of restricted firearm certificate applications) for your area of residence. Written notification shall be forwarded to the applicant by the relevant district/community engagement area office within 10 days of receipt of a valid application.

Q. Section 2.4 of FCA1 refers to details of an applicant being found guilty of, or having charges pending for any offence in Ireland or abroad. Must I disclose details of any offence pending or conviction?

A. Yes, all offences pending or convictions must be disclosed. An issuing superintendent or chief superintendent of An Garda Síochána shall not grant a firearm certificate to a person unless satisfied that person can be permitted to possess, use and carry a firearm without danger to public safety, security or the peace. Each application is considered on its own individual merits and a conviction in either Ireland or abroad will not automatically disqualify an applicant, other

Firearms Licensing – FAQs on Firearm Certificate Applications

than a conviction that disentitles a person from holding a firearm certificate under S.8 of the 1925 Firearms Act, as amended. Each applicant shall supply in writing any information that a chief superintendent or superintendent requires in carrying out his/her functions under the Act including providing details of all foreign or domestic convictions or offences pending, if requested to do so. An issuing chief superintendent or superintendent may make further enquiries as required to inform their decision on an application.

Q. If I am a member of a Gun Club e.g. Game Club, Clay Pigeon Club etc., as distinct from a Rifle or Pistol Club should I detail this information on Form FCA1?

A. Yes, Section 4.2 now has the facility for an applicant to record the details of their gun club membership. This will enable An Garda Síochána to extend their knowledge of gun clubs operating in any given Garda District/Community Engagement Area so as to enhance relationships with the shooting community.

Q. What licence do I require to hunt deer?

A. Where your application relates to deer hunting, an applicant is required to have a deer hunting licence (DHL) as issued from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. An individual may apply for this licence through the National Parks & Wildlife website (www.npws.ie). A DHL must accompany your application to An Garda Síochána should deer hunting be your 'good reason'. **Of importance to note is that the applicant is responsible for renewing this DHL every 12 months. Where deer hunting no longer forms part of your 'good reason' for requiring a firearm certificate, you should immediately inform An Garda Síochána.**

Q. What are the current Secure Storage Requirements?

A. Statutory Instrument 307/2009 details the required minimum standards of secure storage for firearms by a private individual;

- (1) **One non-restricted shotgun.** The shotgun shall be **disassembled** and each part shall be stored securely and separately when not in use. The trigger housing shall be secured against use with an appropriate **trigger lock**.
- (2) **One restricted firearm, or three or fewer non-restricted firearms.** Each firearm shall be stored securely in a gun safe which meets standard BS 7558 and which shall be securely fixed to a solid structure.
- (3) **Two restricted firearms, or, more than three non-restricted firearms.** Each firearm shall be stored in a gun safe which meets standard BS 7558 and which shall be securely fixed to a solid structure. The place in which the firearms are stored shall have an alarm fitted and the external doors to the place shall be fitted with locks which comply with BS 3621.

Firearms Licensing – FAQs on Firearm Certificate Applications

- (4) **Three or more restricted firearms or six or more firearms, of any type, kept in the same place.** In addition to the standards specified at reference number 3, the place in which the firearms are stored shall have an intruder alarm system, installed and maintained by installers licensed by the Private Security Authority which complies with I.S. EN 50131.

The alarm shall be connected to a monitoring service, operated by a person licensed by the Private Security Authority and supported with GSM mobile telephone service back up signalling facilities.

Q. Where can I get more information in relation to Firearm Licensing?

A. The Garda Commissioner has issued Guidelines as to the practical application and operation on the Firearms Acts 1925, as amended. These Guidelines should be read as an aid to firearms legislation. The guidelines are available on www.garda.ie.