

THE FACTS ABOUT HUNTING WITH FIREARMS IN ALBERTA

The Federal “Firearms Act” differentiates between owners of firearms and their actual firearms.

- A Firearms License enables people to own firearms and ammunition.
- A Firearms Registration Certificate relates directly to the firearm itself and a specific individual.

1. DEFINITIONS:

A FIREARM: Any device or contrivance capable of forcing a projectile at a speed greater than 500 feet per second.

There is a difference between restricted and non-restricted firearms. Information about classes of firearms is available by visiting the Canadian Firearms Centre web-site.

POL (Possession Only License): This license authorizes the continued possession of firearms already owned. This license was made available as of January 1, 2001.

You may not use this license to purchase a firearm, but it can be used when borrowing a licensed firearm or purchasing ammunition.

This license is no longer available, but can be renewed.

PAL (Possession Acquisition License): This license is required for all who wish to acquire firearms for the first time, or in addition to any firearms already owned.

You may also use this license to purchase ammunition for your firearm.

Minors License: Anyone aged 12-17 may possess a minors license. You must be eighteen (18) years of age to obtain a PAL license.

- 2.** To use a firearm to hunt in Alberta, it must be a non-restricted firearm.
- 3.** For the purpose of hunting in Alberta, a non-restricted firearm is for hunting or sporting purposes (such as target shooting). Examples of non-restricted firearms include shotguns and rifles.

4. FIREARMS LICENSES: If you own a firearm or wish to purchase ammunition, you must carry a valid firearms license (POL/PAL). In addition to federal and provincial legislation, you may need to inquire about other restrictions at your local municipal office.

5. In order to acquire a PAL, you must

complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course, which provides the certifications necessary to apply for a PAL.

Individuals 18 years and older, have the option to challenge the CFSC exam.

In Alberta, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors’ Association (A.H.E.I.A.) coordinates the DELIVERY of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

6. REGISTRATION: The RCMP and Canadian Firearms Centre coordinate verification, registration and licensing in Canada.

In Alberta, the Chief Firearms Officer (located in Edmonton) coordinates the registration of firearms.

If you own or use any firearm without the appropriate license after January 1, 2003, you are guilty of a criminal offense. For more information, contact the Chief Firearms Officer of Alberta.

7. FIREARMS USE: You must carry a valid Firearms License (PAL/POL).

Can I hunt without a valid firearms license?

Yes, youth and adults can hunt without a valid firearms license as long as they are under the immediate and direct supervision of the individual legally entitled to possess and use

that firearm.

Immediate and direct is defined by the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC) as within arms length.

8. TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE:

Both restricted and non-restricted firearms must be transported unloaded.

However, muzzle-loading firearms may be transported loaded between hunting sites, as long as the firing cap, primer, or flint is removed.

You may leave a non-restricted firearm in an unattended vehicle if it is unloaded and placed in a locked trunk or similar compartment of the vehicle.

If the unattended vehicle does not have a trunk or similar compartment, lock the vehicle or the part of the vehicle that contains the non-restricted firearm, and leave the non-restricted firearm inside, unloaded, and out of sight.

In a remote area where hunting might reasonably occur, you may leave a non-restricted firearm in an unattended vehicle with no trunk or locking compartment (such as a canoe, or snowmobile).

However, the non-restricted firearm must be out of sight, and rendered inoperable via a secure locking device – unless you require it for predator control.

If you live in a rural area, and need reasonable access to your firearm for animal control purposes, you may be exempted from some of the storage and transportation requirements.

Check with the Chief Firearms Officer to confirm that provincial and municipal laws allow storage on a temporary basis.

As a firearms owner and user, you are responsible to ensure that you fall within the legal requirements.

In order to ensure that you comply with federal, provincial and municipal legislation, please consult the appropriate authorities.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Fish and Wildlife Division
Dial 310-0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office.
Web site: www.mywildalberta.com

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.)
Edmonton Phone: 780.466.6682 or 1.866.282.4342
Web site: www.aheia.com
Canadian Firearms Centre
Federal Firearms Legislation
Phone: 1.800.731.4000
Web site: www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca

Chief Firearms Officer
Edmonton
Phone: 780.495.7779
1-800-731-4000

The information contained in this document is for general information purposes only.

You must seek appropriate, qualified professional advice before acting or omitting to act based upon any information in this document and contact the appropriate legal authority to obtain the information on hunting and firearm regulations.