



Sporting Shooters Pistol Club (Vic)

www.sspc.org.au
info@sspc.org.au

714-716 Princes Hwy
Springvale, VIC 3171

ABN: 57 692 843 442



Info Sheet # 102

Purchasing your first Handgun

There are a number of rules and requirements around purchasing a handgun. Like all police paperwork, the club committee is required to sign off your application before it can be lodged with the police. This info sheet discusses the permit process.

You can apply to purchase your first handgun once your full Cat-H licence has been issued. During the first 6 months of your full licence your handgun ownership is limited to:

- a) One Class 2 handgun (rimfire) OR one Class 3 handgun (centerfire), and
- b) One Class 1 handgun (airpistol)

You will need to prove your competence and safety to the committee before making an application for your first handgun. You will need to demonstrate a sound understanding of handgun safety and range rules during your shoots and competitions as monitored by the RO on duty. Once you feel competent you will need to demonstrate competence with the handgun. This can be done in one of two ways, either by shooting an ISSF test target or meeting the IPSC proficiency requirements:

Competency test 1: ISSF Test target

You can choose to shoot an ISSF test target: This test requires you to shoot 10 rounds into a standard ISSF precision target at 25 metres using one or two hands. All 10 shots must score in order to pass. It does not matter if you get all 10 shots in the 1 ring or in the 10 ring, but all must score. If you fail the test target then you can try again after 1 week. You can choose to shoot a test target while on your provisional licence, you don't need to wait until you have your full licence. A test target shoot can usually be conducted after the normal ISSF competition is concluded. If you wish to shoot a test target then ask the RO at the start of the event and they will let you know if there is time or suggest an alternative time.

NOTE: When you shoot an ISSF test target, you are deemed competent with a handgun of the calibre used or lower. So if you shoot a test target with a 9mm then you are deemed competent with a 9mm and also a .22, however if you shoot the test target with a .22 and you later want to purchase a 9mm or .38 then you will need to shoot another test target with the higher calibre.

Competency test 2: IPSC Competency

An alternative to the ISSF test target is the IPSC competency test. This is designed specifically for IPSC style shooters who do not usually practice or train shooting one handed ISSF targets. The IPSC proficiency test requires that you:

- a) have passed a holster qualification, and
- b) participated in an IPSC grading match, and
- c) participated in at least one Level 2 IPSC match without disqualification

Either one of these competency tests must be passed before you can submit your first PTA.

Storage requirements

Victorian law requires that all handguns be stored as per The Firearms Act 1996 (Schedule 4):

Handguns must be stored:

- In a steel safe - not easy to penetrate
- If the safe weighs less than 150kg when empty, it must be bolted to the structure of the premises.
- When the firearm is in the safe, the safe MUST be locked.
- The key to the safe must be carried by the licence holder or kept securely in a separate room from the safe.
- The premises must have an 'intruder alarm system' if more than 15 firearms are stored on the premises.
'Intruder alarm system' means an alarm system which is installed, maintained and operated in accordance with Australian Standard 2201.1:2007 (as amended from time to time) and which, in the event of an intrusion, activates an audible alarm warning device and an external visible alarm warning light.
- Ammunition must be stored in a separate locked container (not with the firearm) unless the receptacle is purpose built to store ammunition separately from the firearms.

The club **STRONGLY** recommends that any safe for storing handguns be a purpose built handgun safe with a minimum wall/door thickness of at least 5mm. (ie NOT a generic hardware store wall safe)

Completing the Paperwork

There are two forms which need to be completed and submitted for handgun purchase request. They are:

- a) The Police PTA (Permit To Acquire) form available from the police website
- b) The SSPC "Form 3", available from the SSPC website
- c) The SSPC Competency Test form is available from the SSPC website

PTA (Permit To Acquire)

On the PTA form you MUST correctly complete the Genuine Reason section! At the bottom of this section it asks you to "Provide details of the events you wish to utilise this handgun in". You MUST complete this section with a valid competition name!

Putting "Target Shooting" or "Approved Handgun competition" or similar will cause your PTA to be rejected and returned to you, which may add weeks of unnecessary delays to your application.

A full list of approved handgun competitions can be found at the Victoria Police website at:

http://www.police.vic.gov.au/retrievemedia.asp?media_id=29775

Below is an excerpt of the more common comps which we shoot at SSPC:

Calibre	Event	Competition Name
.38 inch or less	1	Air Pistol ISSF
.38 inch or less	3	Centrefire Pistol ISSF
.38 inch or less	6	25 Metre Pistol ISSF (Sport Pistol)
.38 inch or less	7	Open Division IPSC
.38 inch or less	8	Standard Division IPSC
.38 inch or less	9	Classic Division IPSC
.38 inch or less	10	Production Division IPSC
.38 inch or less	11	Revolver Division IPSC

Calibre	Event	Competition Name
.38 inch or less	19	Big Bore Metallic Silhouette
.38 inch or less	20	Small Bore Metallic Silhouette
.38 inch or less	27	Police and Service Pistol
.38 to .45 inch	50	Big Bore Metallic Silhouette
.38 to .45 inch	51	Field Pistol Metallic Silhouette
.38 to .45 inch	56	Classic Pistol 25 Metre
.38 to .45 inch	61	Police and Service Pistol
.38 to .45 inch	62	Classic Division IPSC

Sample Entry

The following is a sample entry for the details of events section for a 9mm Centrefire pistol.

Confirm all details from the approved list before making incorrect entries as this will see your PTA returned.

Part 6 - Genuine Reason
The *Firearms Act 1996* requires that you demonstrate that you have a genuine reason for acquiring the handgun(s).

Section A - Handgun Target Shooting:	Handgun Target Shooting ONLY	
If you require the General Category Handgun for target shooting, you must provide your membership details below and have this permit application endorsed by the nominated officer of your Approved Handgun Target Shooting Club.	I, _____, nominated officer of the applicant's Approved Handgun Target Shooting Club, on behalf of the club, endorse this application to acquire a handgun, being satisfied that the applicant: has completed a handgun safety course; has a sound knowledge of firearms and related laws; requires this/these handgun(s) to enable them to compete in a particular class of approved match conducted by the club or another approved handgun target shooting club; and can comply with storage requirements.	
	Signature: _____	Date: _____
Sporting Shooters Pistol Club - SSPC (Name of Handgun Target Shooting Club)	123456 (Membership Number of Applicant)	31 Apr 2017 (Expiry Date)
Provide details of the event/s you wish to utilise this/these handguns in		
3. ISSF - Centrefire Pistol & 10. IPSC Production Division		

SSPC Form 3

The Form 3 is required with each PTA and is your declaration to us that the handgun will be stored in accordance with the requirements. A Form 3 must be included with each PTA submission!

SSPC Competency Test

You will need to complete the SSPC Competency test form with the assistance of a Range Officer. If you are shooting a test target then you will need to bring a copy of this form and have the RO complete the declaration section of the form for you after you successfully complete the test target.

If you are going to do the IPSC proficiency requirement, you will need to get a IPSC NROA certified Range Officer to complete the declaration section of the form for you.

Submitting your documents

Place the completed documents into the green letter box in front of Range 1 at Springvale or scan (at 150DPI color PDF) and email them to info@sspc.org.au (Please Note: documents scanned at a low resolution or not in PDF format will not be accepted).

We generally collect and process all documentation from the letter box at least once per week. Your form will be collected, endorsed and processed directly with LRD. We don't return the forms to you.

If you have any questions please email: info@sspc.org.au