

Safekeeping of firearms when being transported in vehicles

While the guidelines are aimed at minimising risk, licence holders should consider all factors that may contribute to the firearms being transported in a manner that is not secure or in a way that presents a danger.

Police will treat each individual case on its merits and there may be circumstances where the guidelines are followed but criminal charges are still warranted if the overall security of firearms is compromised due to aggravated circumstances.

For example, if a firearm is securely stored in the boot of a car but the driver of the vehicle is driving the vehicle while intoxicated or speeding they might be considered to have compromised the security of the firearm. Additionally, circumstances such as this may indicate that the firearm owner may not really understand the responsibilities required for proper firearm ownership.

In most circumstances firearms should be transported in the following manner:

- firearms should be transported in a padded cover or hard case, unloaded and preferably rendered inoperable
- while being transported, firearms and ammunition should be kept out of sight and stored in separate receptacles that are either secured to the inside of your vehicle or in a lockable component of your vehicle
- cartridge ammunition should be stored separately from firearms in a part of the vehicle not readily accessible by an unauthorised person – a lockable glove box would suffice provided the key to the glove box is kept securely by the holder of the firearm licence and cannot be accessed by persons unauthorised to possess ammunition or firearms

Licence holders should exercise a common sense approach to storage when transporting their firearms and be mindful of all of their obligations.

This advice is a guide only and does not override storage requirements imposed by other regulatory frameworks. For example, there are storage requirements imposed under the *Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012* when hunting in a deer habitat.

The Victorian Firearm Safety Foundation has further information and practical tips on its website regarding the safe and secure transportation of firearms, including by road, rail and/or air. See the [Victorian Firearm Safety Foundation](#)