

## How to buy a firearm in Canada (*last revised: 1 February 2020*)

[www.cndfirearmstraining.com](http://www.cndfirearmstraining.com) is pleased to provide this step by step summary on how to purchase a firearm in Canada, along with some tips to expedite the process.

*Note that this document is authored from the buyer's perspective only. Some aspects have been omitted for the sake of brevity, including details related to transportation. Refer to the Canadian Firearms Program website and the applicable regulations for complete information: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms>*

### Purchasing a Non-Restricted Firearm (*generally rifles and shotguns*)

1. Obtain a Possession and Acquisition License (PAL).
  - a. Complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC); or
  - b. Have completed the Manitoba Hunter Safety prior to 1994 (*only the Manitoba course completed prior to 1994 will be accepted*); and
  - c. Complete a PAL application and submit it to the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC) along with a passport style photo, proof of completion of a or b, and the license fee.
2. Purchase a firearm in store or from an individual face to face.
  - a. Buyer presents PAL to the vendor; and
  - b. Buyer takes possession of the non-restricted firearm.
3. Purchase a firearm online (business or individual)
  - a. Buyer provides PAL number to the vendor;
  - b. Vendor will ship the firearm Canada Post to the buyer's home; and
  - c. Buyer accepts delivery from Canada Post (identification and a signature required).
4. **Other things to consider**
  - a. Safe storage at home. The minimum storage requirement is to have the non-restricted firearm unloaded, affix a secure locking device to the firearm (trigger lock or cable lock) and store the ammunition separately. Consider purchasing a secure locking case, safe or vault for added safety.
  - b. If you wish to hunt in Manitoba you also need to complete the Manitoba Hunter Education course. Cndfirearmstraining offers free testing for CFSC students if they complete the online course found here: <http://mwf.mb.ca/gohunt/licensing/heonline/>

### Purchasing a Restricted Firearm (*handguns and certain long guns*)

1. Obtain a Possession and Acquisition License with restricted endorsement (RPAL).
  - a. Complete the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course. This can be done the same weekend as the CFSC (4-hour course) or taken as an upgrade at a later date (6-hour course) *note that exam challenges are no longer allowed*; and
  - b. Complete an RPAL application and submit it to the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC).
2. Purchase a restricted firearm in store or from an individual face to face.
  - a. Buyer presents RPAL to the vendor;
  - b. Vendor will call the CFC and initiate the transfer of the restricted firearm;
  - c. Buyer calls the CFC to complete the transfer of the restricted firearm; and
  - d. Once the transfer is approved, the buyer may take possession of the restricted firearm and transport it to his/her home\*.
3. Purchase a firearm online (business or individual)
  - a. Buyer provides RPAL number to the vendor;
  - b. Vendor will call the CFC and initiate the transfer of the restricted firearm;
  - c. Buyer calls the CFC to complete the transfer of the restricted firearm;

- d. Once the transfer is approved, the vendor will ship the firearm via Canada Post to the buyer's home; and
- e. Buyer accepts delivery from Canada Post (identification and a signature required).

**4. Other things to consider**

- a. \* The transport of a restricted firearm requires an Authorization to Transport (ATT). Currently, the ATT to transport a firearm from the vendor to the buyer's home is a condition of the RPAL (*no additional documentation is required*). If proposed legislative changes occur, obtaining a separate ATT document may be required.

*Note that while separate ATTs would add a level of administrative burden for the CFC, the process should not be overly onerous for the buyer. It is a commonly held belief that a "new" system will simply be the "old" system from 5 years ago, prior to streamlining of this process by making ATTs a license condition.*

- b. Transportation requirements require that a restricted firearm be unloaded, a secure locking device attached (trigger lock or cable lock) and the firearm placed in a secure opaque locking container.
- c. Safety storage at home. The minimum requirement for the storage of a restricted firearm is to have the firearm unloaded, affix a secure locking device (trigger lock or cable lock) and lock the firearm in a secure locking container. Consider purchasing a safe or vault for added safety.
- d. Before the transfer of a restricted firearm receives final approval, the buyer will need to provide the CFC with proof a shooting club membership. This may delay the transfer process. If you know you are going to be buying a restricted firearm, obtain a gun club membership and provide a copy to the CFC upon receipt. If they have this on file when a transfer is initiated, the transfer should be approved quickly. If they don't have it on file, they may notify you of this by mail which will delay the transfer process significantly.