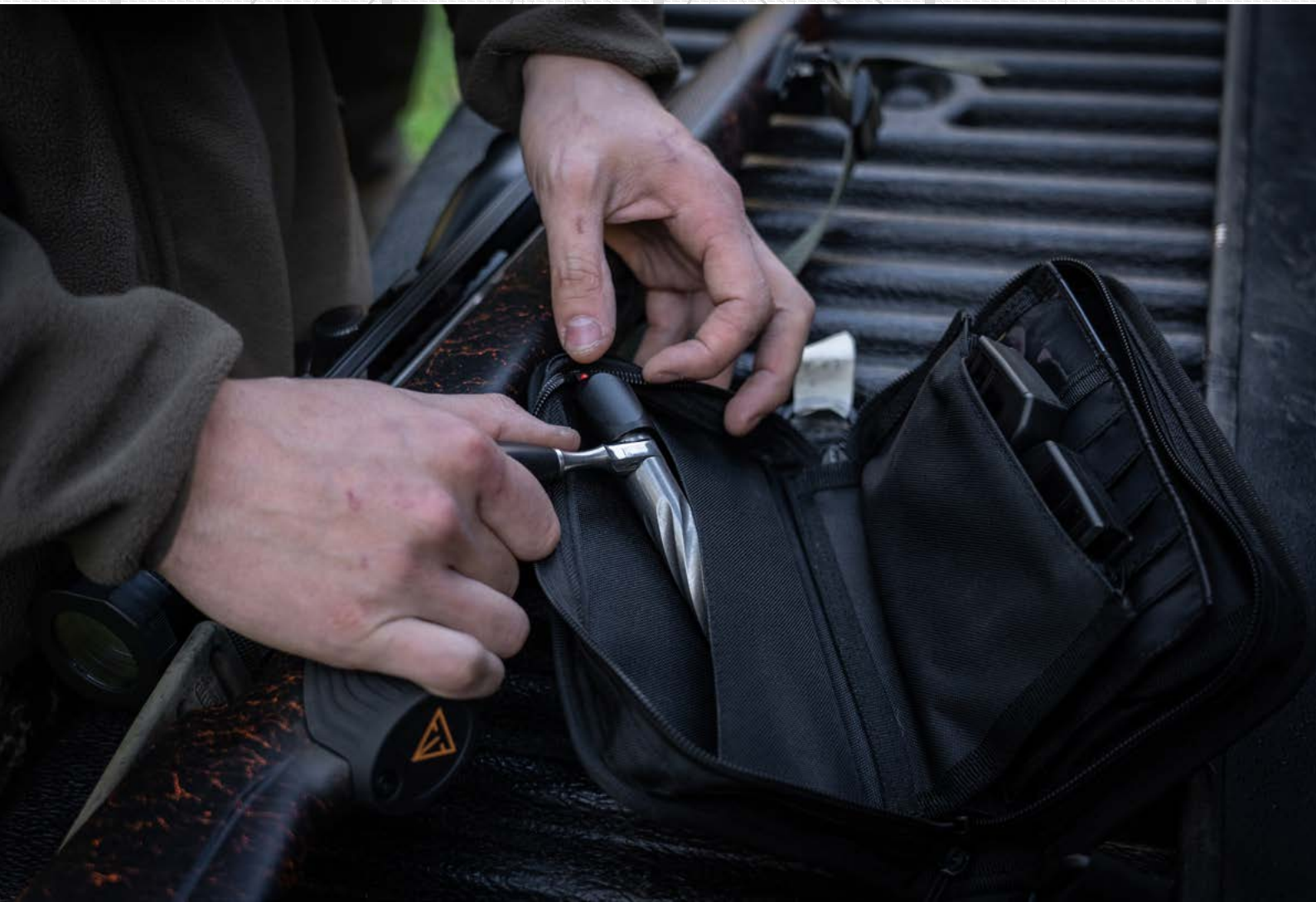


ENGLAND &
WALES **BEST
PRACTICE
GUIDES**

Firearms transport and storage.

Firearms





Introduction

The aim of this guide is to describe how to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, access to firearms by unauthorised persons.

It is written for rifles, but its principles are applicable to all certificated firearms.

It links to other guides in the Firearms series.

Security

- The security of your firearms and ammunition is your responsibility.
- You must be in possession of a valid Firearms Certificate (FAC) which covers all firearms and ammunition in your possession.
- Ensure firearms and ammunition are stored in accordance with the conditions of your FAC. Only allow individuals authorised to possess your firearm to have access to it.
- Keep your FAC safe and ensure that you can produce it, or a copy of it, if requested by the Police, when carrying your firearms.



Methods of securing firearms in a premises

- The law does not prescribe exactly how 'firearms' (Section 1 Firearms and Section 2 Shotguns) and ammunition must be secured.
- When considering applications for firearms or shotgun certificates, the police will look at the circumstances of each case and at overall security arrangements, including the perimeter security of the premises where the firearms and ammunition are kept.
- The onus is on the certificate holder to know the law.
- For further information contact your local Police Firearms Licensing Department.
- Detailed guidance is available from the Home Office.
- Any cabinets used for storing firearms, their component parts or ammunition should conform to British standard BS 7558.
- Keep the keys in a safe location known only to the FAC holder. It is unlawful to disclose their location to a person unauthorised to possess the firearms and ammunition to which it relates.
- When in shared storage, disable individual firearms by removal and retention of the bolt and secure with a cable lock or other security device to prevent unauthorised access to your firearm by others.
- When staying in a hotel or guesthouse, firearms may be stored in a safe or in a cabinet on the premises to which only you have access. If this is not available, then use a security cable anchored to a secure point, such as a radiator pipe.
- Ensure the rifle bolt is secured separately from the firearm itself. It is a good idea to carry the bolt with you at all times as the rifle cannot function without it.



Ammunition

- Ensure that all ammunition is stored and transported securely to prevent unauthorised access.
- It should be stored separately from the firearm to prevent a thief gaining access to a functional firearm and suitable ammunition.
- In secure storage it should be either be placed within a separate secure compartment in the gun cabinet, or a separate, locked container.

Storage conditions

- Due to their unlined steel construction, gun cabinets are not the best environment for rust protection of firearms.
- To protect firearms from rust, install the cabinet in a warm area of the property and consider the use of dehumidifying products.
- Ensure that rifles are dry, clean and lightly oiled prior to being put in a cabinet (see “Maintenance guide”).
- For long-term storage of firearms, make sure that they are clean, and then oil the bores and metalwork.
- Make sure that all oil in the bore is removed prior to use, failure to do this may result in a point of impact shift when shooting.
- Sound moderators and muzzle brakes should be removed and cleaned before storage. This is to maintain condition of the moderator, prevent adhesion to the barrel threading and to prevent damage to the crown and barrel of the rifle caused by corrosive gases in the moderator. If a moderator can be readily dismantled it should be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Check stored firearms occasionally, to ensure that they are not rusting.

Transport

General

- If you suspect that the rifle may have been jolted or damaged during transport, visually check it before using and always check accuracy before shooting at a live target.
- Use robust containers that provide security and protection.
- Consider insuring your firearms against loss or damage.

Vehicle

- When your rifle and ammunition is in transit, the law requires you to take reasonable precautions for their security.
- Keep the bolt and ammunition separate from the rifle in transit.



- Good examples of firearm security in vehicles include dedicated, locking gun-drawers fitted to the vehicle or securing the firearm with a cable lock to a secure part of the vehicle such as the seat base.
- When stopping to refuel etc, make sure the vehicle is locked, firearms are secured in the vehicle out of sight, and take the bolt and FAC with you. If possible park the vehicle in a well lit space and where you can keep an eye on it.

Further Information

- Home Office Guide on Firearms Licensing Law December 2021 (see Chapter 18)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/firearms-law-guidance-to-the-police-2012/guide-on-firearms-licensing-law-accessible-version#chapter-18-security-of-firearms-and-ammunition>