



Gun Free Zones and Firearm Free Zones: What's the Difference?

	Gun Free Zone (GFZ)	Firearm Free Zone (FFZ)
What is it?	<p>A GFZ is voluntarily declared and refers to a space where firearms are not allowed or are not welcome.</p> <p>There are different types of GFZs depending on how they are implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforced gun free zones: Where a person entering a GFZ is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked to declare his firearm. • Searched. • Required to store his firearm in a safe. • Not allowed to enter with a firearm, though no storage facilities are provided. • Gun Free Zones by trust: Where people aren't searched or stopped from entering with a firearm, but they are made aware that guns are not welcome. 	<p>Section 140 of the Firearms Control Act (FCA) states that after the Minister of Police has declared any premises or category of premises an FFZ, no person may allow, carry or store any firearm or ammunition into such premises. Firearm and ammunition are defined in the FCA.</p>
Role of the Minister of Police	<p>The Minister is not involved.</p>	<p>If it is in the public interest, the Minister has the power to declare FFZs by notice in the Government Gazette.</p>
Role of the owners/ managers of premises	<p>People regularly make use of their right to restrict those entering a space they own or manage; they do it with smoking, liquor and food. The same can be done with guns.</p> <p>When declaring a GFZ, the owners/ managers of this space need to develop and implement a GFZ policy. This will state how the GFZ status of the space will be implemented by specifying what the conditions of entry are, e.g. if the policy applies to everyone or if particular categories of people will be excluded (e.g. staff members dealing with cash or police officers).</p> <p>Once a space has been declared a GFZ, the owners/ managers must inform people of this, e.g. by putting up signs and including this information in all</p>	<p>The Regulations relating to Section 140 of the Firearms Control Act (2000) require that the owners/ managers must apply to the Minister of Police to declare a FFZ. This application must specify the terms of the declaration (e.g. that certain categories of people, such as police officers, are exempt). Further, the application must include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reason why the premises or category of premises must be declared a FFZ. b. Capacity to maintain the premises as a FFZ. c. Medium of communication to inform the public. <p>The Regulations also require that the owners/ managers of a FFZ comply with the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The premises declared a FFZ must be



	<p>correspondence.</p> <p>If anyone with a gun wants to enter a GFZ, the owners/ managers can choose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safes in which a gun owner can store his gun, as long as nobody else can access it. • Tell a gun owner that he can only enter the premises if he does not have his firearm with him. • Allow a gun owner into the GFZ on the understanding that his gun makes other people feel uncomfortable (some churches do this). <p>The law of right of admission allows you to exclude anyone carrying a gun into a GFZ that you own or manage.</p>	<p>clearly identified and demarcated.</p> <p>b. Notices must be posted at all the main entrances or at strategic places on the premises in at least English and where applicable in the predominant local language promoting the premises as a FFZ.</p> <p>c. The notices and signs must be clearly visible and unobscured at all times.</p> <p>d. The institution where premises are declared as a FFZ must endeavour to mark all correspondence accordingly.</p>
<p>Role of the users of premises</p>	<p>Participate in the process of declaring a space a GFZ - putting signs up does not make a space a GFZ - the successful implementation of a GFZ rests on participation from all role players, who 'buy into' the idea and who take responsibility for keeping GFZs gun free.</p>	<p>Having been informed that a building is an FFZ, it is a criminal offence to not comply; users must not allow, store or carry any firearm or ammunition into an FFZ unless exempted from doing so.</p>
<p>Role of the Police</p>	<p>The police do not have any duties or additional search and seizure powers.</p>	<p>The police are not given any duty to search and seize, they "may" without warrant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search any building or premises in an FFZ if there's reasonable suspicion that a firearm or ammunition may be present. • Search any person in an FFZ. • Seize any firearm or ammunition present in an FFZ.
<p>Penalties</p>	<p>It is a civil offence to contravene the GFZ status of a premise – anybody found contravening a GFZ can be prosecuted under laws that prohibit trespassing.</p>	<p>It is a criminal offence to contravene the FFZ status of a premise – anybody found contravening an FFZ will go to court. Schedule 4 – Penalties of the FCA - lists the maximum period of imprisonment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For allowing a firearm or ammunition into an FFZ: Five years. • For carrying a firearm or ammunition in an FFZ: Ten years. • For storing a firearm or ammunition in an FFZ: Twenty-five years.