



AIM FOR SAFETY HAND IN YOUR GUN

2020 FIREARMS AMNESTY



What is a firearms amnesty?

*"Amnesty means an **indemnity against prosecution** for the unlawful possession of a firearm or ammunition."*
Firearms Control Act (2000), Section 138.

A firearms amnesty protects a person with a gun or ammunition for which they **do not have the correct licence, permit or authorisation** from being prosecuted for being in illegal possession as long as they take one of two actions to become lawful:

- Surrender the gun or ammunition to the state for destruction, or
- Hand in the gun or ammunition to the state for safekeeping while applying for the correct licence, permit or authorisation

Why are firearm amnesties good?

Firearm amnesties are an effective way of recovering unwanted, unlawful and illegal guns. Removing guns from circulation reduces the availability of guns and this helps reduce the risk of:

- Gun-related deaths and injuries
- The gun being lost or stolen and used to kill, injure or threaten others

Over 100,000 guns and 1.8 million rounds of ammunition were recovered in South Africa's 2005 and 2010 firearms amnesties.

When is the 2020 Firearms Amnesty? 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021

Hand in your unwanted, unlawful or illegal gun for destruction

Until 31 January 2021, you can hand in your unwanted, unlawful or illegal gun or ammunition at a police station.

What is an unwanted gun

A gun that is lawfully possessed (the owner has valid documentary proof of ownership, e.g. a 'white' licence under the Firearms Control Act or 'green' ID licence under the Arms and Ammunition Act), but which is no longer wanted or needed; is unsafe to use; or in a poor condition.

What is an unlawful gun?

A gun for which there is documentary proof of ownership but which has not been legally licensed e.g. an inherited gun that has not been licensed in the heir's name; a gun for which the licence has expired or a gun left behind by the previous owner of a property and which was found on the property.

What is an illegal gun?

Any gun, or gun part(s), which is not licensed and possessed in accordance with the Firearms Control Act of 2000 (FCA). This includes a gun or gun part which is not registered to the current owner; does not have a serial number or has a defaced (removed) serial number; and is possessed by a person who does not have a licence for that gun and for which there is no documentary proof of ownership.

Procedure for handing in a gun

- Unwanted, unlawful and illegal guns, parts and ammunition can be handed in at most police stations across SA (see list of [excluded stations below](#)) between 08:00 and 17:00 every day, including weekends.
- Each police station has a Designated Amnesty Official, ask to speak to this person.
- If it is not possible to walk/drive to the police station or it is risky to do so, make arrangements with the local station commander to enable you to surrender your firearm/s.

Excluded police stations

The SAPS has identified 28 police stations that are excluded from receiving guns during the 2020 Amnesty:

EASTERN CAPE: Balfour, Kareedouw, and Middeldrift

GAUTENG: Bekkersdal, Dunnottar, Eden Park, Ekangala, and Lenasia South

KWAZULU-NATAL: Elandslaagte, Kranskop, and Lamontville

MPUMALANGA: Accornhoek, Kabokweni, Skukuza, and Verena

NORTHERN CAPE: Belmont, Heuningvlei, Kuyasa, Lime Acres, Loxton, Middelpoos, Mothibistad, Plooyburg, Van Wyksvlei, Van Zylsrus, Vosburg, Witdraai, and Winderson

What will happen to surrendered guns?

- All guns and gun parts surrendered will be IBIS tested (finger printed).
- If the gun has been handed in for destruction it will be destroyed by the state.
- If the gun has been handed in while an application for a licence, permit, or authorisation is being made, it will be returned if this is granted.

Hand in a gun for destruction

Handing in your gun for destruction is the only way to ensure it won't ever be used to kill, injure or threaten somebody.



If you have a valid licence



If you don't have a valid licence but have documentary proof the gun is yours



Documents

Take your ID and applicable documents e.g. licence, permit or authorisation with you to police station

Hand in the applicable documents e.g. letter of appointment as executor/curator; licence; permit or authorisation



Gun, gun part, ammunition

Take your ID and applicable documents e.g. death certificate, letter of appointment as executor/curator with you to police station



Forms to complete

- Complete SAPS 522(a) and (b) forms (Surrendering and Forfeiture of a firearm)
- Receive a copy of SAPS 548 (Acknowledgement of receipt)
- Keep a copy of all documents handed in and forms completed



Take Note

- Record the date and time, and the name and rank of the police member helping you
- Take note of the name, rank and contact details of the police station's Designated Amnesty Official



Compensation

No compensation will be paid to any person who surrenders a gun for destruction during the 2020 Firearms Amnesty



Updates and confirmation

Call your local Designated Amnesty Official to get an update on the status of your firearm/s or to confirm that your gun has been destroyed and official records updated

Hand in a gun while applying for licence

Section 139(4)(a) of the FCA gives a person who is in unlawful possession of a gun the chance to apply for a licence without being prosecuted.

The amnesty conditions state that the gun must be handed in to the police while the person applies for a licence; if a licence is granted, the surrendered gun will be returned.

For information from the SAPS on the 2020 national firearms amnesty see:

https://www.saps.gov.za/services/flash/main_firearms.php

Expired licence

Under the FCA, a gun licence terminates on expiry; in other words it no longer exists. If you have a gun for which the licence has expired you are in unlawful possession as you no longer have a valid licence. The 2020 Amnesty gives you indemnity from prosecution for being in unlawful possession providing you hand your gun in to the police, either for destruction or while you reapply for a new gun licence. You cannot use the amnesty to renew your licence as under the law your licence no longer exists.

Need more info?

For more information on the 2020 Firearms Amnesty:

- Contact your nearest police station
- Visit the SAPS website: https://www.saps.gov.za/services/flash/main_firearms.php
- Phone the Central Firearms Registry Enquiry Desk on 012-353-6111 (available 24-hours, including weekends)
- Contact SAPS FLASH desks - see details below
- For information from the SAPS on the 2020 national firearms amnesty see: https://www.saps.gov.za/services/flash/main_firearms.php

Where to get help

SAPS provincial Firearms, Liquor and Second-Hand Goods Services (FLASH) enquiry desks:

| Province | Email address | Telephone # | Enquiry desk commander |
|---------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | EC.Prov.Flash.Enquiry1@saps.gov.za EC.Prov.Flash.Enquiry2@saps.gov.za | 040-608-7175 | Captain Kalankomo |
| Free State | FS.Prov.Flash.Enquiry1@saps.gov.za FS.Prov.Flash.Enquiry2@saps.gov.za | 051-507-6581 | Lt Colonel Barnard |
| Gauteng | GP.Prov.Flash.Enquiry1@saps.gov.za | 011-497-7749 | Captain Singh |
| KwaZulu-Natal | KZN.Prov.Flash.Enquiry@saps.gov.za | 031-325-4880 031-325-6130 | Lt Colonel Jansen |
| Limpopo | LIM.Prov.Flash.Enquiry1@saps.gov.za | 015-290-6069 | Lt Colonel Nenzhelele |
| Mpumalanga | MP.Prov.Flash.Enquiry@saps.gov.za | 013-762-4328 | Captain Mbokane |
| Northern Cape | NC.Prov.Flash.Enquiry1@saps.gov.za | 053-836-2676 | Lt Colonel Ndzutha |
| North West | NW.Prov.Flash.Enquiry@saps.gov.za | 018-299-7179 | Captain Mangale |
| Western Cape | WC.Prov.Flash.Enquiry@saps.gov.za | 021-950-1400 | Captain Galant |

Report corruption or problems

Call Government's Anti-Corruption HOTLINE: 0800 701 701



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