

NRANZ Range Certification and Club Approval

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John Snowden (NRANZ Range Committee Chairman)

Introduction

All Clubs and Ranges are about to require Certification and Approval. The Arms Legislation Act 2020, which includes the Club and Range requirements, came into force on the 24 June 2012.

This note attempts to introduce Clubs and Shooting Range Operators (SRO) to the timetable and requirements to comply with the Act. At the present time the Regulations that are always attached to Legislation have not been Gazetted by Government. These are expected to be available around December this year.

Club Approval cannot be carried out at the present time because of the regulation issue. These approvals will also need to take into account those Clubs who wish to become Incorporated Societies. The reason for this is the legislation imposes the need for those clubs who purchase and provide ammunition to club members and guests to be Incorporated. A club that does not purchase or provide ammunition is not required to be Incorporated. This is addressed late in the document.

Police have been active since the Act was published and moved to ensure competent Police Range Inspectors (PRI) are available by 1 July 2022. At the moment it appears that NRANZ will have four or five PRIs available. To assist Clubs and SROs to prepare for the transition, Police have published preliminary forms to carry out range inspections and certification applications. This allows all Clubs and SROs to begin to carry out the necessary requirements to comply and to check their ranges are certifiable. That is, they conform to the requirements of the Legislation and (anticipated) Regulations.

When the Regulations are finally Gazetted, the forms already filled out can be edited to accommodate any adjustments required by the regulations and resent to Police.

All existing Clubs and Ranges can continue in operation during the process. If the application is in by 23 June 2023 Clubs and Ranges can continue to operate while certification is being considered.

Police do not want to see all ranges having the same certification date because that will cause a headache in 5 years' time. Police have indicated that they may deliberately spread the certification date to overcome the problem. SROs will be notified if this is likely to happen.

Note: Only one fee will be required until a range gets certified even though there may be rejections occurring.

Glossary

PRI Competent and trained Police Range Inspector

SRO Shooting Range Operator. Entity with overall control of management of the range.

RSO The Range Standing Orders. Similar to Range Operation Rules.

OOD Officer on Duty. Equivalent to NRANZ Range Officer who has completed the NRANZ qualification and in control of the range. Recommended for ALL NRANZ shooters.

Ranges with Multiple Users

Some ranges have more than one Club that use the same range or there may be more than one discipline using the range (Other than a NRANZ Club). In both cases only one Range Inspection needs to be carried out and only one Range Certificate will be issued. The multiple users will need to come to an agreement about the body applying for certification. The RSOs will take into account all disciplines that shoot on the range. Only one fee will be required. In other words, one Range Certification will apply to all disciplines regardless of the controlling Shooting Organisations.

NRANZ Range Committee

It is proposed NRANZ will create this committee to coordinate the range certification process within NRANZ and to be the interface with Police. The least number of links to the regulator will be most important to ensure a smooth transition. Initially, the NRANZ Range Inspectors will comprise the Range Committee. The list of the Committee will be circulated as soon as all have been confirmed.

Suggested Background Information for Clubs and SROs (See Links Page)

- Read and understand the Legislation, especially Part 6
- The information Police have on their Website under “Clubs and Ranges”
- Read the NRANZ Range Manuals. Please note, the NRANZ Manual will be undergoing improvements ASAP but the guts will remain of parts relevant to range requirements
- Read the NRANZ Shooting Rules for the necessary procedures
- Read the Range Standing Orders requirements. Police have created a list that must be included. NRANZ will provide a list of essential items to include that refer specifically to NRANZ range shooting.
- Read the Draft Police Range Manual. Please note that the NRANZ Range Manual is the correct manual to use as it is considered the prime resource and is accepted for NRANZ shooting.
- Read the Arms Code
- Read all the Police Forms. This will introduce the inspection process and will give ideas for range improvements that may be needed to conform.

The Process

- It will be up to the Shooting Range Operator to begin the application process.
- They will need to be familiar with the documentation above.
- Download the forms listed in the Links Page and begin to go through the forms with reference to your range. RSO's need to fill in all headings.
- Download the Police RSO requirements and write up a preliminary RSOs.
- Once the SRO has done this, engage with a PRI to go over the forms by phone or email. Email the forms to them so they have a copy. Any obvious issues can be addressed over the phone or by email. Once there is agreement, arrange for the PRI to visit the range.
- The Range Operators go through range inspection checklist in conjunction with NRANZ Range Manual to confirm the physical dimensions of the range such as backstop and mantlet height/slope so there is time to fix any issues before range inspection. (Bear in mind there's absolutely no point applying if a PRI won't pass a range.)
- Get Range Danger Area plotted onto a NZ Topo map and identify all landowners within the RDA. Obtain their permission (verbal is ok).

The PRI will complete the Range Inspection Form, keep a copy for their own information, and send a copy to the SRO.

It is up to the SRO to send the forms to Police. Police will check to see that the application conforms to current requirements. Police will retain the forms until the regulations come into force and they will be edited under consultation with the SRO.

Once the application conforms to the new regulations, the fee can be forwarded and the application will be completed.

Shooting Club Approval

Clubs who wish to purchase and sell or provide ammunition to members and guests will need to become Incorporated. Initial guesses at the regulations appear to suggest clubs undertaking such arrangements may have to administer where their ammunition is issued, the number of rounds, what firearm is used, the person using the ammunition and the RO. But it is likely that some other form of ammunition accounting may be adopted that is not so stringent. It is anticipated the Regulations will outline the requirements in club Constitutions to conform to Police requirements. It is likely Clubs will be required to report to Police annually. NRANZ will be providing information for Clubs to incorporate into their constitutions before the end of this year.

Any concerns?

If anyone has any concerns about the process or whether or not their Range will pass the inspection, please contact me in the first instance.

Links Page

Arms Legislation 2020

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0023/latest/LMS256577.html>

Police Clubs and Ranges Information

<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/what-do-i-need-know/new-firearms-laws-and-what-they-mean/info-clubs-ranges>

Police Forms are under "Shooting range forms and resources"

CR1: Shooting Range Application for Certification

CR2: Shooting Range Standing Orders Template

CR3: Shooting Range Inspection Report

CR4: Rifle/Pistol - Shooting Range Inspection Checklist (For Outdoor 50m)

CR5: Indoor – Shooting Range Inspection Checklist

NRANZ Range Manual (attached as separate document).