



Business Purposes for Guides at Lodges

Two aspects are covered here, firstly using rifles that are privately owned and used during their duties at the Lodge and secondly using rifles that are licensed in the name of the Lodge and issued to Guides to perform their duties.

In both the above cases, the basic requirements are that the person who has the rifle, either issued to them by the Lodge or their own private rifle, must be in possession of the Unit Standard 123519 *Handle and Use a Manually operated Rifle for Business purposes*. That Unit Standard requires that the pre-requisite Unit Standards, namely 117705 *Knowledge of the Firearms Control Act* and 119651 *Handle and Use a Manually operated Rifle*, are in place too.

There are so many conflicting reports around this subject that Lodges are very easily dissuaded from allowing Guides to use personal rifles in their duties.

The Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000, provides for this, and we also believe that Lodges should encourage this practice.

The Act states the following under each section in Chapter 6 relating to firearm licensing

“A firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued in terms of this section may be used where it is safe to use the firearm and for a lawful purpose. “

This paragraph appears under each of the licensing sections, namely

- Licence to possess firearm for self-defence
- Licence to possess restricted firearm for self-defence
- Licence to possess firearm for occasional hunting and sports-shooting
- Licence to possess firearm for dedicated hunting and dedicated sports-shooting
- Licence to possess firearm in private collection

We interpret this to entitle a person who has a firearm licensed for example, “occasional hunting”, to use that same firearm for Guiding.

The only restrictions that apply would be:

1. The licensed owner of the firearm must always carry their license with them.
2. The licensed owner may not allow any other person access to their firearm without them being present.
3. The firearm must be stored in a safe when not under the direct control of the licensed person and no-one else shall have access to that safe.

The only possible restriction that the Lodge may impose could be a directive that only commercial ammunition is used in that private firearm. This would only apply if the guide reloaded their own ammunition, and the Lodge may require this restriction for insurance reasons.

We see that this practice should be encouraged as private firearms will certainly be maintained and cared for far more thoroughly than business firearms.

The second portion of this entails firearms that are licensed in the name of the Lodge to be issued to Guides so they can perform their duties.

Once again, the requirements are that the Guide must simply be in possession of the relevant Unit Standards as mentioned above.

It must be clearly noted, and the relevant authorities must be made aware of the fact, that no firearm license is issued for “Business Purposes”. The only time that Business Purposes is mentioned is in the Unit Standards which are issued by Accredited Training Providers who are registered with the Professional Firearms Training Council (PFTC).