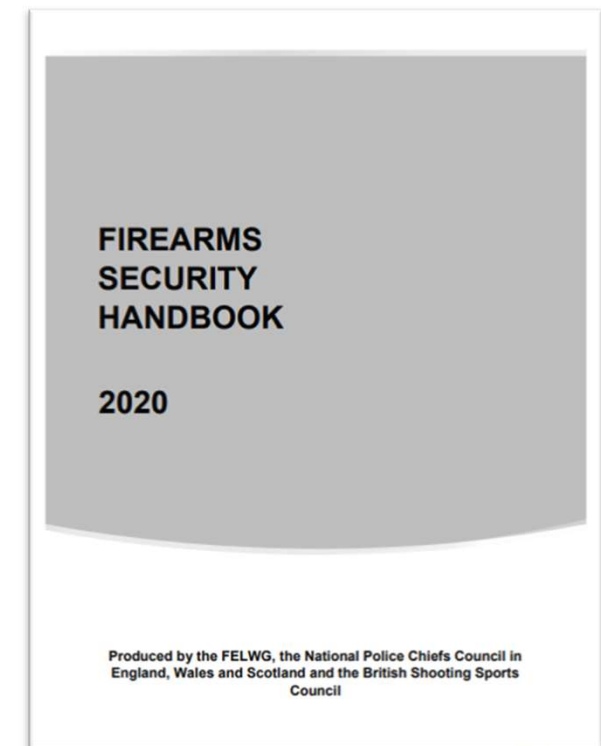


Firearms in Transit – Packaging Guidelines

RFDs are required to package all firearms and related products securely and professionally, in line with the Firearms Act 1968 and associated Home Office guidance. Under the Firearms Act 1968, it is an offence to possess or transfer firearms without lawful authority, and this implicitly requires that firearms are handled, transported, and transferred in a safe and secure manner.

The **Home Office Firearms Security Handbook** further establishes that firearms must be kept secure at all times, so far as is reasonably practicable, to prevent access by unauthorised persons, and this duty extends to dealers, carriers, and anyone in possession during storage or transportation. In addition, carrier's conditions and postal regulations require that any permitted firearms or related items are unloaded, appropriately contained, and securely packaged, with specific handling and labelling requirements depending on the service used.

Failure to meet these standards can result in compromised security, damage, loss, insurance claims, additional costs, customer dissatisfaction, and potential criminal or regulatory consequences, including enforcement action or licence review.



Firearms in Transit – by courier

- If not personally transferred, section 1 firearms and ammunition and section 2 firearms should be consigned for carriage with a reputable carrier.
- Where operations require re-direction between depots, especially when different vehicles are used, the carrier should operate a system that provides a method of tracking items in transit.
- The consignor should have a proof of despatch from the carrier and proof of final delivery.
- Consignment/delivery confirmation should be by signature.
- Firearms must not be delivered to or left with any third party who is not authorised to be in possession of firearms.
- The items should be detailed on the consignment note, which should travel with the consignment.
- The packaging should not readily identify the contents, unless required HSE regulations.
- Any parcel lost in transit must be reported to the police as soon as the discovery is made.
- Any carrier who as a general part of his business, takes on transportation of firearms should ensure, so far as is possible that the vehicle(s) is of a type offering secure stowage.
- Carriers which have depots where firearms are kept between different stages of their journey should have secure facilities and avoid weekend storage.



Firearms in Transit – Packaging Guidelines

Labelling

- Thermally printed labels are preferred; however, as thermal printers can be expensive, labels may also be printed using an inkjet or laser printer and inserted into an adhesive 6" x 4" label wallet.
- To prevent mis-delivery, ensure any old labels are completely removed or fully covered before dispatch.
- Do not use brown tape to cover old labels, as sensitive scanning equipment may still detect the barcode beneath.
- Never attach A4 or A5 labels directly to packages using Sellotape or other adhesives.
- Ensure all addresses and barcodes are clearly legible and can be reliably scanned.
- Always include a letter, shipping note, or sales invoice inside the package. This ensures a return-to-sender address is available if the external label becomes damaged.
- When using polymer or aluminium gun cases, do not apply labels directly to these surfaces, as adhesion is often poor.



Firearms in Transit – Packaging Guidelines

Packaging

- Polymer or aluminium gun boxes must be fully enclosed within a suitable outer cardboard carton. Features such as carrying handles and locking mechanisms can catch in conveyor systems, potentially causing damage to the firearm, the packaging, or resulting in loss of the item.
- Do not use banding on polymer and aluminium gun boxes, as it can also become caught in conveyor systems.
- Do not strap multiple packages together. Each package must be shipped individually. Ensure each box is packaged as shown in the reference image and clearly labelled with its unique tracking number, delivery address, and all required shipment details.
- Additionally, the firearm must be securely immobilised within the packaging to prevent movement during transit. Failure to do so may result in damage to the firearm or it breaking free from the packaging, potentially leading to the firearms loss.
- The packaging should not readily identify the contents, i.e. no pictures of guns or typical firearms related brand names, such as Ruger, Browning etc.

