

### Background

Federation University's [Security Procedure](#) addresses the issue of weapons among other topics. This Guideline aims to provide complementary information to enable all staff and students to better understand the requirements of the Procedure. The Guideline does not apply to on-duty law enforcement officers from governmental agencies (e.g. Police) and on-duty armed security officers.

As the range of situations potentially involving weapons is very broad (from safe/legitimate situations to dangerous/illegitimate ones) and the relevant laws are complex, Security Supervisors have been granted sole discretion to authorise or prohibit any activity involving weapons at the university.

The primary purpose of the [Security Procedure](#) and this Guideline is to ensure legitimate activities involving weapons can safely proceed. Where Security Supervisors have authorised such an activity, mandatory conditions would normally apply. Any breach of those mandatory conditions will immediately invalidate the approval.

There may be some situations where Security Supervisors deem the risks to be unacceptable and prohibit the activity.

### Activities involving weapons

#### Dangerous tools and implements

Victorian weapons legislation classifies some tools and implements commonly used in parts of the university either as "Dangerous Articles" (e.g. wood chisels, hammers or screwdrivers) or "Controlled Weapons" (e.g. kitchen knives or pocket knives).

***The lawful use of dangerous tools and implements is entirely dependent on context.***

In legitimate contexts such as trade activities, cooking classes, sporting activities or outdoor excursions, Security Supervisors authorise participants by means of this Guideline to carry and use dangerous tools and implements, subject to the usual requirement for adequate training, instruction and supervision. This authorisation only covers **University activities** where the use of the tool or implement is deemed **appropriate** by the staff member in charge.

***Self-defence is NOT an appropriate reason for carrying a dangerous tool or implement.***

In all other circumstances, dangerous tools and implements will be treated in accordance with the following section "Firearms and Prohibited Weapons".

#### Firearms and Prohibited Weapons

The term "Prohibited Weapon" covers many items obviously designed to cause harm or inflict pain. Examples include swords, crossbows, flick knives, tasers, capsicum spray, knuckle dusters, many martial arts weapons, etc. Imitation firearms, as may be used in theatrical performances, are also defined as "Prohibited Weapons". The university also places under the same category any portable item able to fire, propel or eject any projectile at potentially harmful speeds/distances. Such items include but are not limited to Airsoft rifles, 3D-printed guns, slingshots, automatic electric guns (AEGs), bows and arrows, BB guns, paintball guns, rockets, mortars, etc.

***Firearms or prohibited weapons can only be brought onto University premises or into University activities with prior written approval from the Security Supervisor.***

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This requirement applies even if the person bringing the item on campus is licensed, approved, authorised, etc. under other legislation, regulation or procedure (with the exceptions for on-duty Officers noted above).

The university is aware of exemptions applicable to Sikh people under weapons legislation. The university respects these exemptions, but it requires any person intending to bring a weapon on university premises or in university activities under these conditions to contact the Security Supervisor at their campus.

### Incidents involving a suspected weapon

If any staff member or student suspects that a person has inappropriately brought a weapon to Federation University (or plans to do so), he/she should immediately report the matter to the local Manager/Supervisor. The Manager/Supervisor will immediately address the situation and notify Campus [Security](#).

If safe to do so, the first priority in non-emergency situations is to isolate the person concerned and interview him/her to determine relevant circumstances (i.e. existence or not of a weapon, intent, context, etc.). A range of possible actions may result, which will be determined in consultation between local management and Security Personnel. Police may be called.

If it is not safe to follow the instructions above, refer to “Emergencies” below.

### Emergencies

**Assess** the situation for immediate dangers to yourself and others, and take appropriate action

**Alert** others about the dangers:

- On University premises, contact the [Emergency Phone Number](#) for your campus
- During off-campus University activities, contact 000

**Assist** any person in danger if safe to do so

### Queries

Contact [Security](#) on your campus if you have any question regarding weapons at Federation University.