

Recruiting for Police Range Inspectors from Within NRANZ

Ross Mason

(NRANZ Representative on the NZ Police Range Certification Engagement Group)

The new Firearms Legislation requires all ranges to be certified from July 2022. I have been involved with the RCEG group for the past eighteen months helping update the Police Range Manual and assisting Police develop the Range Inspection and Inspector regime that will be required.

All ranges in New Zealand come under this legislation and will need certification. Recertification will be every five years.

It would be most useful if NRANZ could have its own pool of Police qualified Range Inspectors (RI) otherwise NRANZ would need to organise and recruit outside Range Inspectors to do the certification. If this was achieved it will result in less cost to Clubs and NRANZ. NRANZ have around 20 ranges around the country.

Myself and John Snowden RI will be attending a Pilot Course in Taupo over 12,13,14 November. The object of the course is to try out the curriculum for the upcoming RI courses. In other words, ensuring it is fit for purpose.

NZ Police are about to launch a series of Police Range Inspection courses for the purpose of qualifying people to assist with the new Firearms Legislation and certification. These will begin December 2021 through to June 2022:

3/4/5 December	McLeans Island	21/22/23 January	Central Otago
18/19/20 February	Taranaki	18/19/20 March	Nelson
8/9/10 April	Tauranga	29/30 Apr-1 May	Dunedin
13/14/15 May	Sth Auckland	17/28/29 May	Trentham
10/11/12 June	Whangaparoa	24/25/26 June	Taupo

NZ Police are asking shooting disciplines to suggest candidates from within who might be interested in putting their names forward for consideration. Selection will be subject to NZ Police approval.

Below is the NZ Police outline of the role. For clarification, a Shooting Range Operator are those who administer the shooting range.

Please contact NRANZ if interested or Ross Mason for further information. Please include a short CV that you consider relevant to the role.

Thank you

Ross Mason

021 460 930

rossnzshooter@gmail.com

Shooting Range Inspectors (SRI)

The role

The role of the voluntary Shooting Range Inspector (SRI) is to carry out inspections of shooting ranges (ranges) at the request of Shooting Range Operators (SRO). SRIs work independently and as such are not Police employees or contractors.

SRIs work against clear operational standards to ensure that the range meets the certification requirements stated in the Arms Legislation Act 2020, Part 6 –Shooting Clubs and Ranges and is compliant with the minimum acceptable requirements detailed in the Police Shooting Range Manual. This is to ensure the range is fit for purpose and all safety protocols have been considered.

As an important step in the range certification process, the SRI must be mindful of maintaining quality, consistency, and legislative correctness in their assessments.

Why have SRIs?

Operators of shooting ranges, shooting organisations, and shooting clubs, and in some cases, individual shooting range operators, have a responsibility to ensure land that is used as a shooting range is safe for that purpose.

A shooting range must be inspected by an accredited SRI recognised by Police, prior to the SRO submitting their application to Police for Shooting Range Certification.

Background and skills of an SRI

SRIs come with a knowledge of range planning, design and construction and/or experience within the shooting environment as an avid shooter either within or outside one of the recognised shooting disciplines. SRIs may have an interest in a specific discipline although the training covers all shooting disciplines.

An SRI should be an individual who has the ability to communicate effectively, apply a consistent approach and have the ability to build a relationship with the SRO, based on mutual respect.

While working closely with SROs, the SRI must be able to maintain sufficient independence to ensure that their professional judgement and integrity (along with the integrity of the certification system) is maintained.

Publishing of accredited SRI details

Details of all SRIs accredited by Police need to be available to the community via a website. This is to enable Shooting Range Operators the opportunity to contact and negotiate their services and to help ensure that only accredited individuals are selected for this work.

Certification requirements

Police are providing 3 day Shooting Range Inspector courses across the country over the coming year, to ensure there are sufficient inspectors to meet the needs of Shooting Range Operators.

The course comprises of pre-learning, teaching and assessment modules. The formal assessment modules are conducted post course as formative and summative assessments at home locations.

Ongoing training, additional to the 3 day Shooting Range Inspector course, will be provided to maintain competency. A Recognised Prior Learning programme is available to individuals who already hold the relevant experience and skills sets.

Accreditation is for a period of 4 years.

To be selected for the SRI course, the trainee:

- **must** have a **current** Firearms Licence
- should have current or past membership of a shooting discipline, business or club or be sponsored by an existing shooting discipline (desirable)
- should have a desire and long-time commitment to provide the inspection services
- should be prepared to provide inspection services for all SROs irrespective of shooting discipline (desirable)

Other skills needed:

- previous qualification / training / experience as a SRI or range officer
- competency at basic mathematics and geometry
- competency in computer literacy (MS Word, email)
- competency in basic map reading and navigation
- preferred competency in the use of a GPS, Laser Rangefinder, Clinometer, Prismatic Compass, Protractor, knowledge of Milliradians (Military)
- competency in formal report writing of a technical nature/subject