



# IMPORTING MILITARY-STYLE FIREARMS

The importation of firearms is controlled under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations). Importers must obtain permission to bring firearms into Australia.

## IMPORTING MILITARY AND CERTAIN OTHER FIREARMS

To import the firearms detailed in the fact sheet, importers must first obtain written permission from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Importers should contact the Attorney-General's Department for further information on the requirements for importing these goods before bringing them into Australia.

The original permission to import documents must be surrendered to Customs before the goods will be released to the importer.

### Certain self-loading and pump-action firearms

The importation of the following firearms – unless fitted, whether by original design or by modification, with a folding or detachable stock and capable of being fired when the stock is in the folded position or removed:

- self-loading centre-fire rifles
- self-loading rim-fire rifles fitted with a firearm magazine with a capacity greater than ten (10) rounds
- self-loading shotgun fitted with a firearm magazine with a capacity greater than five (5) rounds
- pump-action repeating shotgun fitted with a firearm magazine with a capacity greater than five (5) rounds.

Is restricted to the following purposes:

- official purposes
- specified purposes
- previously exported goods returning to Australia (returned goods)
- professional rural pest controllers (specified persons).

### Fully automatic and certain other firearms

The importation of the following types of firearms:

- all fully-automatic firearms (such as machine pistols, machine guns, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and including fully automatic paintball markers). Note: See below for firearms with a calibre greater than 0.50" calibre

- all firearms which are substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm.

Is restricted to the following purposes:

- official purposes
- specified purposes
- previously exported goods returning to Australia (returned goods).

Ammunition imported with the above firearms should be included on the Attorney-General's Department's permission to import document.

Each of these purposes is detailed below.

### Large calibre armaments

Firearms with a calibre greater than 0.50" calibre (or 12.7mm) are treated as large calibre armaments. These items are controlled under Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Importers must obtain written authorisation to import from the Minister of Home Affairs to bring these goods into Australia.

Please see the fact sheet *Importing Exporting Warfare Items* for further information on how to apply for permission to import these goods.

## OFFICIAL PURPOSES

The Attorney-General's Department issues permission to import goods under the official purposes test. To satisfy this test, the goods must be for the government of the Commonwealth, state or territory.

## SPECIFIED PURPOSES

The Attorney-General's Department issues permission to import for firearms that are being brought into Australia for the following specified purposes:

- the article is for use in connection with the production of a film
- the article is required for repair, modification, testing, training, research or development under a contract with the Commonwealth, a state or territory government, the government of another country or the United Nations
- the article is owned by the defence force of another country, is being imported for the purpose of participating in a defence-sanctioned activity and will be exported after this activity
- the article is being transhipped to another country

- the importer is a proven researcher or developer of firearms or related defence and law-enforcement products and the article is being imported for the completion of a project or tender.

Certain restrictions apply to the importation of firearms for these purposes. Contact the Attorney-General's Department for further information.

## RETURNED GOODS

The Attorney-General's Department issues permission to import firearms that were previously exported and will be now returning to Australia. To obtain permission to import on this basis, importers must show, among other things, that the firearm was lawfully exported and has not undergone any modification when overseas.

## SPECIFIED PERSONS (PEST CONTROLLERS)

The Attorney-General's Department can issue permission to import certain self-loading rifles and pump-action repeating shotguns fitted with a firearm magazine with a capacity greater than five (5) rounds to people whose principle or only occupation is controlling vertebrate pest animals on rural land.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Safety testing

Unless exempt, all firearms entering Australia must undergo safety testing conducted by Customs. A firearm is exempt from safety testing where:

- it was manufactured before 1 January 1900
- it was designed or adapted for competition target shooting
- it was previously exported from Australia and the importer can produce the export permit
- it is being imported temporarily for a lawful competition or hunting activity
- it is being imported for official or specified purposes (detailed above)
- it has been deactivated.

### Unique Serial Number

All firearms being imported into Australia must have a unique serial number unless they were manufactured before 1 January 1900.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Penalty:** the maximum penalty for importing these goods without import approval is a penalty not exceeding \$275,000, imprisonment for 10 years, or both.

To **export** firearms see the *Exporting Firearms and Related Goods* fact sheet.

## CONTACTS

Contact details of the Police firearms and weapon registries and the Attorney-General's Department can be found on the *Firearms and Weapons Information Contacts* fact sheet.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on any Customs matter, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)