



IMPORTING CATEGORY A AND B 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.

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To import a firearm listed below (commonly referred to as category A and B firearms under State and Territory legislation) into Australia, importers must first obtain the written authorisation of the police firearms or weapons registry in their State or Territory or the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Police Authorisation

This authorisation will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

Category A and B firearms include:

- air rifle or soft air rifle
- rimfire rifle (other than a self-loading rimfire rifle)
- single-shot or double-barrel shotgun
- muzzle-loading firearm
- single-shot or double-barrel centre fire rifle
- repeating action centre fire rifle
- break-action shotgun/rifle combination
- lever action or repeating bolt action shotgun.

Please note

The above information does not apply to category A and B firearms with the following characteristics:

- is substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm
- is 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.

To import category A and B firearms with these characteristics, written permission must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Attorney-General's Permission

Written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department where the importation of category A and B firearms is for one of the following purposes:

- government use (official purposes)
- for repair, modification, testing, training, government contract or certain other project or tender, or for use in the production of a film, for transshipment or for use by a foreign defence force in a defence-sanctioned activity (specified purposes)
- for use by professional rural pest controllers (specified person)
- 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
- previously exported firearms returning to Australia (returned goods).

The original permission must be presented to Customs and Border Protection at or before importation.

AMMUNITION

Ammunition for use with category A and B firearms also requires an authorisation to be imported. When being imported with these firearms, this ammunition can be listed on the same B709 Form or Commonwealth Attorney-General's permission as the firearms.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Safety testing

All firearms entering Australia must undergo safety testing conducted by Customs and Border Protection. Safety testing requirements do not apply to a firearm that:

- was manufactured before 1 January 1900
- is designed or adapted for competition target shooting
- was previously exported from Australia and the importer can produce the export permit
- is being imported temporarily for a lawful competition or hunting activity
- is being imported for official or specified purposes (as detailed)
- 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 and Border Protection matter, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email information@customs.gov.au or browse the website www.customs.gov.au.