



IMPORTING SELF-LOADING, PUMP-ACTION AND AUTOMATIC 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 SELF-LOADING AND PUMP-ACTION FIREARMS

To import certain self-loading and pump-action firearms into Australia, importers must first obtain the written permission of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

These firearms include (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.

IMPORTING FULLY AUTOMATIC AND CERTAIN OTHER FIREARMS

To import the following types of firearms into Australia, importers must first obtain the written permission of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department:

- all fully-automatic firearms (such as machine pistols, machine guns, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and including fully automatic paintball markers).
- all firearms of any kind that have been fitted, whether by original design or modification, with a detachable, folding, telescopic or collapsible stock.
- all firearms which are substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm.

Attorney-General's Permission

Written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department where the importation of all firearms covered in this fact sheet 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).

AMMUNITION

Ammunition for use with the firearms listed above also requires authorisation to be imported. When being imported with any of the firearms listed above, this can be listed on the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department'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 Commonwealth 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