



# IMPORTING SOFT AIR (BB) FIREARMS

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

## IMPORTING SOFT AIR (BB) FIREARMS

To import soft air (BB) firearms into Australia, importers must first obtain written authorisation from the police firearms or registry in their State or Territory or the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

### Police Authorisation

To import soft air (BB) rifles into Australia, the authorisation will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

To import soft air (BB) handguns into Australia, the authorisation will be in the form of a *B709D Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709D Form).

### Please Note

The above information does not apply to soft air (BB) firearms with the following characteristics:

- soft air (BB) firearms 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; or
- soft air (BB) handguns that are substantially the same in appearance as a sub-machine gun, a machine pistol or have a fully automatic firing capability.

To import these types of firearms, 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 soft air 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 these firearms, such as plastic pellets, also requires a B709 Form in order to be imported. When 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 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](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)