



IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROLS ON WEAPONS

The importation of certain weapons is controlled under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations). Certain weapons can only be imported if they comply with the relevant tests as specified in Schedule 13 of the Regulations.

IMPORT CRITERIA

There are strict requirements detailed in Schedule 13 of the Regulations that define the circumstances under which import permission may be authorised. These circumstances are commonly referred to as 'tests'. These tests include:

- the police certification test
- the official purposes test
- the specified purposes test
- the specified person test
- the dealer test
- the returned goods test
- the collectors and non-government museum test
- the historical items test.

All weapons are subject to one or more of these tests. The reverse side of this fact sheet includes a list of weapons and applicable tests.

HOW CAN WEAPONS BE IMPORTED?

The paperwork required varies depending on the type of weapon and the applicable tests.

For items that are subject to the police certification test, import permission can be approved by your local police weapons registry. For more information on importing goods subject to the police authorisation test, please refer to the fact sheet *Importing Weapons—Police Certification Test*.

For items subject to any other test, import permission must be approved in writing by the Minister, or an authorised person, prior to the importation of the goods. Please refer to the specific test fact sheet for details.

Applications for permission to import can be made by governments, individuals and private companies.

EXPORTING WEAPONS

Certain weapons are controlled on export out of Australia under Regulation 13E of the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* and may be subject to export permit requirements and conditions.

Export requirements apply to military goods, stun guns, body armour, anti-personnel goods and military-grade lasers.

For information on obtaining export permission, or to determine if an item requires export permission, please contact the Defence Export Control Office (DECO) on 1800 661 066 or refer to their website at www.defence.gov.au/strategy/deco/

PENALTIES

The maximum penalty for importing restricted weapons without import permission is a fine not exceeding \$275,000 or imprisonment for 10 years, or both.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Fact sheets about the import tests for weapons are available on the Customs and Border Protection website or through the Customs Information and Support Centre.

Website: www.customs.gov.au

Phone: 1300 363 263

Email: information@customs.gov.au

Goods	Applicable test
Daggers and similar devices that are sharp on both sides and concealable on a person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police certification test
Blow-guns and blow-pipes, and darts for use with these items	
Nunchakus and similar goods	
Crossbows (including parts)	
Sling shots designed to allow attachment of a brace (including parts)	
Star knives, shuriken and similar devices	
Throwing blades, knives and axes	
<p>Appliances and equipment designed or adapted for warfare or like purposes—excluding some permanently inoperable items of trench art—including, but not limited to: large calibre munitions, grenades, bombs, mines, explosives, projectiles, launchers, missiles, trip flares, vehicles, vessels and aircraft (including parts)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Dealer test • Collectors and non-government museum test • Returned goods test
Hand-held electric shock devices—excluding cattle prods—that are designed to administer an electric shock on contact (including parts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Dealer test • Returned goods test
Acoustic anti-personnel devices	
Hand-held battery operated devices designed to discharge a gas or liquid	
Ballistic knives that discharge a blade as a projectile by spring or other means (including parts)	
Automatic knives such as flick knives, switchblades, assisted opening knives and flipper knives, that have a blade folded or recessed into the handle that opens automatically (including parts)	
Single handed opening knives that have a blade recessed into the handle that can be opened with gravity, inertia or centrifugal force (including parts)	
Knuckledusters and similar devices that protect the knuckles and increase the effect of a punch or blow	
Gloves with protrusions	
Concealed knives, blades and spikes	
Sheath knives, being knives that have a sheath that withdraws into its handle by gravity, inertia or centrifugal force (including parts)	
Push knives and similar devices	
Trench knives and similar devices (including parts)	
Non-metallic and non-ceramic knives	
Hand and foot claws	
Weighted gloves constructed for use as a weapon	
Butterfly and balisong knives (including parts)	
Shark darts and similar devices that expel a gas or other harmful substance (including parts)	
Dart projectors and darchery slingers (including parts)	
Maces and similar devices consisting of a club or staff fitted with a flanged or spiked head—excluding ceremonial maces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Dealer test • Returned goods test • Historical items test
Flails and similar devices consisting of a staff or handle with a freely swinging or striking spiked or studded part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Specified person test • Dealer test • Returned goods test • Historical items test
<p>Body armour, protective jackets, vests, suits, helmets designed to be worn on the body and capable of protecting against any weapon, including a knife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Specified person test • Dealer test • Returned goods test
Extendable and telescopic batons (including parts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Specified person test • Dealer test • Returned goods test
Hand-held laser pointers with an accessible emission level greater than 1mW (milliwatt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official purposes test • Specified purposes test • Specified person test • Dealer test • Returned goods test