



IMPORTING AMMUNITION AND FIREARM MAGAZINES

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

AMMUNITION AND COMPONENTS OF AMMUNITION

To import ammunition and components of ammunition into Australia, importers must first obtain written certification from the police firearms or weapons registry in their State or Territory, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, or the Minister for Home Affairs prior to importation.

Ammunition for use with firearms, also known as rounds, bullets, and cartridges, is controlled under the Regulations. This includes ammunition for paintball markers, soft air (BB) pellets as well as ball or shot projectiles for muzzle-loading firearms.

Components of ammunition include projectiles, cartridge casings, whether new or spent, and primers designed or adapted for use in ammunition are also controlled under the Regulations and require permission to import prior to importation.

Police Certification

To import general purpose ammunition and components into Australia, the police certification will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

When imported with a long-arm that has also been certified by the police firearms or weapons registry, the ammunition may be listed on the same B709A Form as the long-arm.

Please Note

The above information does not apply to specialised ammunition (and components) such as the following:

- tracer
- frangible
- explosive

- incendiary
- armour piercing
- penetrator
- Saboted Light Armour Piercing (SLAP)
- flechette
- handgun ammunition that is designed, advertised or capable of defeating soft body armour or opaque, glazed or bullet resistant material.

To import these types of ammunition, written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department prior to importation.

Attorney-General's Permission

To import special purpose ammunition and components into Australia, written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The importation of such articles must meet one of the following criteria:

- 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 goods returning to Australia (returned goods).

The original permission to import document must be presented to Customs and Border Protection at the time of importation.

Ministerial Permission

Ammunition greater than 0.50" calibre (or 12.7mm) for use with articles of warfare is controlled under Schedule 13 of the Regulations. To import these goods into Australia, importers must obtain written permission to import from the Minister for Home Affairs.

This does not include ammunition for shotguns or black powder.

See the *Import and Export Controls on Weapons* fact sheet for further information about these goods.

MAGAZINES

To import magazines into Australia, importers must first obtain written certification from the police firearms or weapons registry in their State or Territory, or written permission to import from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department prior to importation.

Police Certification

To import certain firearm magazines into Australia, the police certification will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

To import handgun magazines into Australia, the police certification will be in the form of a *B709D Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709D Form).

Handgun magazines imported by sports shooters are limited to a maximum capacity of 10 rounds. See the *Importing Handguns* fact sheet for further information on this restriction.

Please Note

The above information does not apply to the following magazines:

- detachable firearm magazine with a capacity of more than five (5) rounds for self-loading centre-fire rifles or self-loading or pump-action shotguns or fully automatic firearms
- detachable firearm magazine with a capacity of more than ten (10) rounds for rimfire self-loading rifles or pump-action or lever action centre-fire rifles
- detachable firearm magazine with a capacity of more than 15 rounds for repeating action centre-fire rifles.

To import these types of magazines, written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department prior to importation.

Attorney-General's Permission

To import the above listed firearms magazines into Australia, written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The importation of such articles must meet one of the following criteria:

- 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 goods returning to Australia (returned goods).

The original permission to import document must be presented to Customs and Border Protection at the time of importation.

INTERCHANGEABLE MAGAZINES

Where an imported magazine can be classified to two or more items in Part 2 of Schedule 6 to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*, the importation requirements of all relevant items must be met in respect of that magazine.

Where a magazine fits more than one category of firearm, the higher control must be satisfied. For example, a magazine for a category B firearm requires police certification and a magazine that fits a military type firearm requires permission to import from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. In such a case, the higher control must be satisfied and written permission to import from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department must be obtained prior to importation.

The original police certification or permission to import document must be presented to Customs and Border Protection at the time of importation.

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 ammunition, components of ammunition, or firearm magazines, see the fact sheet *Australian Controls for the Export of Firearms* on the Defence Export Control Office website <http://www.defence.gov.au/strategy/deco/>

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.

More information

For information on any Customs matters, 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