



IMPORTING HANDGUNS

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

The information in this fact sheet is intended for private importers. Firearm dealers should refer to the fact sheet *Firearms Dealers Guide for Category H Articles*.

IMPORTING HANDGUNS

To import handguns (including complete, but disassembled or unassembled handguns) into Australia, importers must first obtain 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

The police certification will be in the form of a *B709D Category H – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709D Form).

Category H firearms include single shot handguns, semi-automatic handguns, black powder handguns, air handguns and revolvers.

Special restrictions apply to sports shooters importing handguns on a B709D Form. See the section on sports shooters for detailed information.

Please note

The above information does not apply to handguns with the following characteristics:

- handguns with a fully automatic firing capability; or
- handguns which are substantially the same in appearance as a sub-machine gun, a machine pistol or a handgun that has a fully automatic firing capability.

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

Attorney-General's Permission

Written permission to import must be obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department where the importation of category H 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 to import document must be presented to Customs and Border Protection at the time of importation.

AMMUNITION

Ammunition for use with category H firearms also require police certification or Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department permission to be imported. When being imported with these firearms, the ammunition can be listed on the same B709 Form or Commonwealth Attorney-General's permission to import document as the firearms.

See the fact sheet *Importing Ammunition and Firearm Magazines* for further information.

SPORTS SHOOTERS

Additional restrictions apply to handguns imported by sports shooters, including visiting international sports shooters. Handguns imported by sports shooters must comply with all the following characteristics:

- a calibre no greater than .38" calibre, however handguns of up to .45" calibre may be authorised provided they are being imported for use in specially accredited sporting events
- a shot capacity of not more than ten rounds for handguns fitted with a magazine or cylinder
- a barrel length no less than 120mm for semi-automatic handguns and 100mm for revolvers and single-shot handguns.

These restrictions do not apply to handguns that are designed or adapted for competition target shooting. These typically have features such as specially calibrated trigger mechanisms, custom or ergonomically designed handgrips, special optical sights and mounts as well as compensators or weighted barrels.

These restrictions do not apply to black powder and muzzle-loading pistols and cap-and-ball percussion-fired revolvers.

Please note that these restrictions do apply to handgun parts such as barrels and magazines. See the fact sheet *Importing Firearm Parts and Accessories* for further information.

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 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 Commonwealth 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