



IMPORTING PAINTBALL MARKERS

The importation of paintball firearms (also known as paintball markers and skirmish paint guns) is controlled under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations). Importers must first obtain permission to bring these goods into Australia.

IMPORTING PAINTBALL MARKERS

To import paintball markers (designed exclusively to fire paintballs) 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 single-shot, repeating-action and semi-automatic paintball markers, the police certification will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

To import paintball handguns, the police certification will be in the form of a *B709D Category H – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709D Form).

Please note

The above information does not apply to a paintball marker with the following characteristics:

- has a fully automatic firing capability
- is substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm.

To import paintball markers with these characteristics, 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 paintball markers 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

Paintball ammunition (known as paintballs) for use with paintball markers 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.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Safety Testing

All firearms entering Australia must undergo safety testing conducted by Customs. 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 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