



IMPORTING WEAPONS—OFFICIAL PURPOSES TEST

To import certain weapons into Australia, written permission from the Minister is required. Applications will only be considered when the weapons being imported comply with a legislated test.

One of the tests applicable to certain weapons is the official purposes test. These purposes can include:

- for supply to government under a contract in force at the time of the import
- for presentation to government to demonstrate their use
- for supply to the government to inspect, test or evaluate
- for supply to the government to use for training
- for donation to government
- for use in testing related to a contract with the government.

WHICH GOODS DOES THE OFFICIAL PURPOSES TEST APPLY TO?

The official purposes test is applicable to all weapons listed in Schedule 13 of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be made in writing using a *B710 Form—Application for Permission to import Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons*.

The B710 Form is available in the forms section of the Customs and Border Protection website at www.customs.gov.au

In addition to the B710 Form, supporting documents must be provided with an application to demonstrate that the importation complies with the official purposes test.

Applications, including supporting documents, must be sent to:

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
Firearms & Weapons Section
5 Constitution Avenue
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

When goods are for supply to government under a contract, purchase order or end user certificate:

1. A certified copy of a licence or authorisation that demonstrates the importer is authorised to possess the goods for the importer's intended use in accordance with the law of the State or Territory in which the goods are to be used.
2. Evidence that the goods are for 'government purposes' using a *B711 Form—Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons* completed by the end user, or a supporting letter from the intended user if the goods are for stock purposes. A statutory declaration stating the goods will not be on sold to unauthorised parties may also be requested.

When goods are for demonstration, inspection, testing or evaluation:

1. A certified copy of a licence or authorisation that demonstrates the importer is authorised to possess the goods for the importer's intended use in accordance with the law of the State or Territory in which the goods are to be used.
2. Evidence that the goods are for demonstration, inspection, testing or evaluation using a *B711 Form—Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons* completed by the authorised user, or a letter from the authorised user.

When the goods are being given or donated to government:

1. A certified copy of a licence or authorisation that demonstrates the importer is authorised to possess the goods for the importer's intended use in accordance with the law of the State or Territory in which the goods are to be used.
2. A letter from:
 - the donor stating they have donated goods to the government, or
 - the government stating the goods have been donated and that they will retain ownership of the goods.

IMPORT CONDITIONS

Goods that are being imported for the purposes of demonstration, inspection, testing, evaluation or use in training, must be exported within a specified time frame unless they have been destroyed or the government acquires ownership of the articles. This time frame will be specified on the import permit.

Some articles that are being imported for the purposes of testing related to a contract with the government (e.g. ammunition) must be consumed or destroyed in the course of testing.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO PROCESS MY APPLICATION?

Applications must be made prior to the importation of the goods. This process takes approximately three weeks, provided all required information is supplied initially.

If any information is missing from the application, or if additional information not specified is requested, applications may exceed the standard three-week turnaround time.

Goods should not be forwarded to Australia until permission to import is granted.

Goods that are imported without a valid permit may be subject to seizure and disposal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information about the importation of weapons is 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