



IMPORTING WEAPONS—SPECIFIED 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 specified purposes test. These purposes can include:

- for licensed film armourers
- for law enforcement-sanctioned activity
- for defence-sanctioned activity
- for transshipment
- for repairs, modification or testing
- for training, research or development.

WHICH GOODS DOES THE SPECIFIED PURPOSES TEST APPLY TO?

The specified 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 specified 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 use by a licensed film armourer in the production of a cinematographic film or a documentary, program or series made specifically for television:

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 statement outlining the project the goods will be used for, including the name of the project and the start and finish dates.
3. A statutory declaration stating the goods will not be used in an advertisement, a music video or other type of film promoting music or a product, and the goods are a specific type that cannot be sourced within Australia.
4. Evidence that the goods have been requested by the production company, such as a copy of a purchase order, contract or agreement, or a letter from the production company requesting supply of the goods.

(Note: in some cases additional information may be required.)

When goods are for law enforcement-sanctioned activity:

1. Documentation stating that the law enforcement-sanctioned activity has been approved by:
 - the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police; or
 - the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of the police force of a State or Territory; or
 - the Secretary or a Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.
2. A *B711 Form—Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons* completed by the relevant law enforcement agency.
3. A copy of the export permit for the goods that is issued by the Defence Export Control Office (DECO) if the goods are subject to export permit requirements.

When goods are for defence-sanctioned activity:

1. Documentation stating that the defence-sanctioned activity has been approved in the form of a copy of the approval for the activity from either a Service Chief of the Australian Defence Force or a Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defence; and
 - a letter from the Australian Defence Force outlining the activity; or
 - a copy of agreement between two defence forces; or
 - a copy of invitation issued by the Australian Defence Force.
2. A *B711 Form—Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons* completed by the relevant Defence Force.
3. A copy of the export permit for the goods that is issued by DECO, if the goods are subject to export permit requirements.

When the goods are for transshipment:

1. A copy of the relevant export permit issued by DECO.

When the goods are for repairs, modification, testing, training, research or development for a government:

1. A certified copy of a licence or authorisation, or exemption, 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 *B711 Form—Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons* completed by the government of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory or the United Nations stating the reason for import and intended use, or a copy of a contract, or letter from government, stating the purpose for which the goods are required.
3. A copy of the relevant export permit issued by DECO.

When the goods are for research and development:

1. Information about the research project or tender, including the start and finish dates for the project. Copies of any tender documents are required if the import is for a tender process or similar project.
2. Evidence that the importer has an ABN and relevant tax records to prove the importer has a history of developing technology for government.
3. Copies of past contracts, letters of engagement and/or purchase orders to prove the importer has a history in research and development.
4. A certified copy of a licence or authorisation, or exemption, 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.
5. A copy of the relevant export permit issued by DECO or a letter from DECO indicating in-principle export approval at completion of research and development.

When the goods are large calibre ammunition:

1. A *B711 Form—Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedule 3 and 13 Weapons* completed by the government of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory, or the United Nations stating the reason for import and intended use.
2. A statutory declaration stating the supply of the goods will not contravene Australia's international obligations.
3. A copy of the relevant export permit issued by DECO.

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.

Goods that are being imported for the purposes of defence and law enforcement-sanctioned activity 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.

Goods 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.

Goods that are being transhipped through Australia will remain under control of Customs and Border Protection while transshipping through the country.

Any imported weapons must be stored and appropriately secured while in Australia, in line with State and Territory requirements.

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