

Importing certain single and repeating rifles and shotguns

The importation of single and repeating action firearms, commonly referred to as Category A and B firearms under State and Territory legislation, is restricted under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

The firearms referred to in this fact sheet are any of the following firearms unless fitted, whether by original design or by modification, with a folding or detachable stock and capable of being fired when the stock is in the folded position or removed.

- Air rifle
- Soft air rifle
- Rimfire rifle, other than a self-loading rimfire rifle
- Single shot shotgun
- Double barrel shotgun
- Single shot airgun designed exclusively to fire paintballs
- Repeating action airgun designed exclusively to fire paintballs
- Muzzle-loading firearm
- Single shot centre fire rifle
- Double barrel centre fire rifle
- Repeating action centre fire rifle
- Break-action shotgun/rifle combination
- Repeating bolt action shot gun
- Lever action shot gun

In order to import these firearms, an importer will need to obtain the written authorisation of the Police Firearms/Weapons Registry in the State or Territory where the importer resides, before the arrival of the goods in Australia. This authorisation will be in the form of a B709A.

These firearms may also be imported by seeking the written permission of the Commonwealth Attorney-General when the importation is for the following purposes - for government use (official purposes test); for use in the production of a film, for repair, for transshipment (specified purposes test); or when the importer is a professional rural pest controller (specified person

test). Before importing, importers should contact the Attorney-General's Department for further information on the requirements for importing these items.

Any ammunition imported with the firearm will need to be included on the B709A form.

Firearms are subject to safety testing unless exempted and, if manufactured after 1 January 1900, require a unique serial number. Firearms will only be released from Customs if the firearm passes safety testing and the importer produces the original police authorisation (B709A) or Attorney-General's permission.

Firearms are exempted from safety testing if:

- imported under the official or specified purposes tests
- manufactured before 1 January 1900
- designed or adapted for competition target shooting
- replicas (see separate fact sheet for further information)
- previously exported from Australia and the importer can produce a restricted goods permit or export permit issued by the Department of Defence
- imported temporarily for a lawful competition or hunting activity.

Firearms made incapable of firing, often referred to as deactivated, disabled, inert or demilitarised, are not treated as replicas but must pass the requirements as if they are operational firearms including safety testing.

Penalty: the maximum penalty for importing these goods without import approval currently is a fine not exceeding \$275,000 or imprisonment for 10 years, or both.

To **export** these firearms and ammunition from Australia, a permit must first be obtained from the Defence Trade Control and Compliance section within the Department of Defence. See "Export

controls for defence and strategic goods” fact sheet in the information for export section of the Customs website.

Information contacts

For further information see the *Firearms/weapons information contacts* fact sheet.



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