



IMPORTING ANTIQUE AND MUZZLE-LOADING FIREARMS

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

IMPORTING ANTIQUE FIREARMS

To import antique firearms (all firearms manufactured before 1 January 1900) into Australia, importers must first obtain the written certification of 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.

IMPORTING MUZZLE-LOADING FIREARMS

To import muzzle-loading firearms (often called black powder firearms) into Australia, importers must first obtain the written certification of 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 antiques and muzzle-loading longarms, police certification will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

To import muzzle-loading handguns and cap-and-ball percussion-fired revolvers, police certification will be in the form of a *B709D Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709D Form).

Please note

The above information does not apply to antique or muzzle-loading firearms with the following characteristics:

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

To import antique or muzzle-loading firearms 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 antique or muzzle-loading 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 antique or muzzle-loading firearms also requires 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

Firearms manufactured before 1 January 1900 do not have to undergo safety testing or have a unique serial number. For firearms manufactured after this date, such as a reproduction of an antique firearm, the firearm must undergo safety testing.

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