



# IMPORT CONTROLS ON LASER POINTERS

The importation of certain laser pointers is controlled on importation into Australia. The control was introduced on 1 July 2008.

## WHAT TYPES OF LASER POINTERS ARE CONTROLLED?

The *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* prohibit the importation of hand-held articles, commonly known as laser pointers, designed or adapted to emit a laser beam with an accessible emission level of greater than 1 milliwatt (1mW) without written permission to import.

## HOW DO I OBTAIN PERMISSION TO IMPORT

You can import these goods if you have written permission to from the Minister for Home Affairs, or an authorised person, prior to the arrival of goods in Australia.

### Medical Lasers

Lasers intended for medical purposes, regardless of their acceptable emission level, may be required to comply with requirements determined by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in addition to import requirements.

Prior to considering the importation of a laser for medical purposes, please contact TGA on 1800 141 144.

### Official Use

If you are importing goods for use by the Commonwealth, state or territory government or a government of another country you must provide a *B711 Form – End/Owner Assurance for the Purposes of Schedules 2 and 3 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1965* signed by the end user. This form must be lodged with a *B710 Form – Application for Permission to Import Schedule 2 and 3 weapons* as detailed below.

The B711 Form is used to verify that the goods are being imported for the official end user purposes. If a B711 Form cannot be provided, or the goods are for private use, a B709B Form is required as detailed below.

### Private Use

To import laser pointers for private use, you will need to contact the police firearms and weapons registry in the relevant State or Territory to obtain a *B709B Form – Importation of Weapons – Police Confirmation*. This form provides written confirmation that you may possess the goods within the relevant State or Territory.

### B710 Form

Once you have obtained a B709B Form or have evidence of end use, you then need to complete a *B710 Form – Application for Permission to Import Schedule 2 & 3 Weapons*. This form is available from any Customs and Border Protection office or the Customs and Border Protection website, [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO IMPORT?

*B710 Forms – Applications for permission to import Schedule 2 & 3 weapons* take up to three (3) weeks for processing from the date they are received by Customs and Border Protection in Canberra. Permission to import must be obtained prior to the arrival of the goods in Australia.

## HOW LONG IS PERMISSION VALID FOR?

Permission to import documents apply to one importation only. They are usually valid up to the expiration date on the B709B Form supplied with the application or for six months from the date of signature if end user evidence is supplied instead.

## EXPORT CONTROLS

### **Export restrictions on military and law enforcement grade lasers**

Certain military or law enforcement grade lasers and laser products may require export permission from the Department of Defence, regardless of whether or not they are controlled on import. Goods controlled at export are listed in the Defence and Strategic Goods List (DSGL) which is available on line at <http://www.defence.gov.au/strategy/deco/dsgl.htm>

Please also refer to the *Export controls for defence and strategic goods* fact sheet.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Penalty:** the maximum penalty for importing these goods without import approval is \$110,000 or 3 times the value of the goods, whichever is the greater.

### **Contacts**

Contact details of the police firearms and weapons registries can be found on the *Firearms and weapons information contacts* fact sheet.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on any other Customs and Border Protection matter, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)