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firearms and weapons

Introduction

The import into Australia of firearms and certain weapons is controlled by prohibitions and restrictions for the protection of the community. Customs administers the controls for these items through the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations).

The Attorney-General's Department and the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management - Police (MCPEMP) make policy decisions regarding the type of control and the items controlled.

This page contains information on the types of firearms and weapons that are controlled on import into Australia, as well as examples of firearms and weapons that are not. A weapons list is available on this page along with relevant fact sheets and forms.

Use the quick links table below to go straight to the relevant information on this page.

Recent Changes to Weapons Import Requirements

On 13 December 2011, the Minister for Home Affairs announced that import controls on weapons would be tighter from 14 December 2011. Read his announcement [here](#).

From 14 December 2011, more stringent import controls on non-firearm weapons will be applicable – as per the Minister's election commitment.

If you are an importer of non-firearm weapons, these changes will effect you. Please read the Importing Weapons information on this page very carefully as the import permission process has changed.

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Importing Firearms

Firearms are subject to import controls as specified at Regulation 4F and Schedule 6 of the Regulations. Most firearms are controlled on import into Australia and require permission to import.

Firearms are required to comply with certain requirements and conditions on, or prior to import, into Australia and these are referred to as 'tests'.

In addition to these tests, permission to import must also be issued by the relevant permit issuing body. The permit issuing body may be the Police or the Attorney-General's Department or both.

The following fact sheets will assist in determining which authority you need to contact to obtain the relevant permission to import a firearm into Australia.

Firearms Fact sheets

Ammunition & Magazines	Category A Firearms	Category B Firearms	Category C Firearms
Imitation Firearms	Handguns	Self-loading, Pump Auction and Autos	Paintball Markers
Soft Air/BB	Parts & Accessories	Antique & Muzzle Loading	Dealers Guide

Additional information on importing firearms can be found on the [Attorney General's Website](#)

Importing Weapons

From 14 December 2011, weapons will be subject to import controls as specified at Schedule 13 of the Regulations.

Prior to 14 December 2011, weapons were subject to control under Regulation 4 and Schedule 2 of the Regulations and required Ministerial permission to import.

Weapons are now required to comply with certain requirements and conditions on, or prior to, import into Australia and these are referred to as 'tests'.

In addition to these tests, permission to import must also be issued by the relevant permit issuing body. The permit issuing body may be the Police or Customs and Border Protection.

Some weapons are subject to the Police certification test. Weapons subject to the Police certification test do not require written permission to import from Customs and Border protection, however, they do require Police approval in the form of a B709B Form - Importation of Weapons - Police Certification under the Police certification test.

The table below gives an overview of the permit issuing agency relevant to certain goods and the tests subject to those goods (note, goods are subject to one of the tests specified, not all).

Goods Type	Permit Issuing Body	Tests
Daggers Blowpipes and darts Nunchakus Crossbows and parts Slingshots and parts Star knives Throwing knives Throwing blades Throwing spikes	Police	Police Certification Test (B709B Form)
Items of warfare	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Dealer Test Returned Goods Test Collectors and Non-Government Museum Test
Hand-held shock devices and parts Hand held acoustic devices Hand-held gas and liquid devices and parts	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Dealer Test Returned Goods Test
Body armour Protective clothing (including plates and plate carriers)	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Specified Person Test Dealer Test Returned Goods Test Historical Items Test
Extendable batons and parts Laser pointers	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Specified Person Test Dealer Test Returned Goods Test
Ballistic knives and parts Automatic knives and parts Single handed opening knives and parts Concealed knives	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Dealer Test

Concealed blades Concealed spikes Sheath knives and parts Push knives Trench knives and parts Non-metallic and non-ceramic knives Butterfly knives and parts.		Returned Goods Test
Knuckledusters Gloves with protrusions Hand and foot claws Weighted gloves Dart projectors and parts	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Dealer Test Returned Goods Test
Maces Flails	Customs and Border Protection	Official Purposes Test Specified Purposes Test Dealer Test Returned Goods Test Historical Items Test
Anti-Personnel sprays, chemicals, grenades and canisters	Customs and Border Protection	N/A

Note: this is an overview only, for a full description of each weapon controlled on import, please view Schedule 13 of the Regulations. Some of these items may also be subject to the public or national interest test which is applicable in very limited circumstances.

Weapons Fact Sheets



[Import & Export Controls on Weapons](#)

Test Fact Sheets 

Police Certification Test	Official Purposes Test	Specified Purposes Test
Specified Person Test	Dealer Test	Returned Goods Test
Collectors & Non-Government Museum Test	Deactivation Guide for Warfare Goods	Historical Items Test (Coming Soon)

Forms



[Form B710 Application for Permission to Import Schedule 3 and 13 weapons](#)



[Form B711 Evidence of End Use/Purposes for Import of Schedules 3 and 13 Weapons](#)

[Defence Export Control Office - Download Defence Export Permit Application and Restricted Goods Permit \(RGP\) Application](#)

[Form B709C - Dealer's Declaration \(Category C and D Firearms\)](#)

[Form B1249 - Acknowledgement of Acquisition by End User - Weapons](#)

Contact Information

Contact details of the police firearms and weapons registries and the Attorney-General's Department can be found on the following fact sheet.



[Firearms and weapons information contacts](#)

Futher information can be obtained from the Customs Information and Support Centre via email at

information@customs.gov.au or by calling 1300 363 263.

Common Weapons List

The table below gives examples of items that may and may not be captured under the Regulations by weapons category. Please note this is an example list of weapons only, not a comprehensive guide. To enquire further, you should contact the [Customs Information and Support Centre](#).

If you wish to import a weapons not subject to import controls, you should contact the Firearms/Weapons Registry of your State/Territory Police Service to determine any requirements they might have on the possession of an item.

Please Note: Some firearms and weapons articles are restricted or prohibited for carriage through the international mail system. For further details please see the [Australia Post website](#).

Most firearms are controlled on import into Australia and require permission to import.

Category	Items that ARE or MAY BE subject to control	Items that are NOT subject to control
Firearms & Related Goods	paintball guns; bb guns; soft air firearms; rifles; handguns; shotguns; muzzle loading firearms; replicas; imitation firearms; toy firearms; pistols; ammunition; parts; accessories; components;	nailing and stapling guns; explosive-powered fixing tools; flare guns, or other signaling devices, designed for emergency or life-saving purposes; line-throwers; hand-operated devices that use blank cartridges to propel objects for retrieval in connection with the training of dogs; tranquilliser guns; guns that operate a captive bolt for the slaughter of animals; devices for the casting of weighted nets; sidewall core guns designed for geological purposes, mining purposes, or both and expandable casing perforation guns designed for geological purposes, mining purposes, or both.
Bladed Weapons	tomahawks; throwing axes; throwing blades; throwing knives; spikes; kirpan; sword sticks; sword canes; daggers; double edged knives; bagh nakh; balisong; billao; belawa; cinquedeas; corvo; dirk; fairbairn-sykes knife; jambiya; kalis; katara; khanjar; khanjali; kris; pata; punyal; rondel dagger; sgian dubh; sica; ballistic knives; knives that discharge a projectile; flick knives; stiletto knives; assisted opening knives, one hand opening knives; umbrella swords; star knives; shuriken; sheath knives; push knives; push dagger; fist knife; t-handle knife; katara or suwaiya; battle axes; trench knife; karambit; kerambit; butterfly swords; push spikes;	standard kitchen knives; single edge swords; traditional samurai and katana swords; bayonets designed to be fitted to a firearm; two handed opening knives; rubber training knives; multi tools; stanly knives; khukri; kukri; bowie knives; machete; spears; spear heads; bolo; dao; iaito; jian; kopis;
Martial Arts	star knives; shuriken; spiked kubotan; kusari fundo; ninja stars; chinese stars; nunchaku; three-sectional staff; triple staff; three-art staff; sansetsukon; sanjiegun; chain whip; knuckleduster; knuckleduster purse; knuckleduster handbag; knuckleduster bag; knuckleduster clutch; knuckleduster phone case;	sai; jitte; single edge swords; traditional samurai and katana swords; eskrima; arnis; kali; hanbo; jo; shillelagh; tambo; tonfa; yari; bo; bokken; kama; bokken; sjambok; iaito;

Sporting Weapons	crossbows; pistol crossbows; blowpipes; blowguns; blow darts; darts; shark darts;	spears; spearheads; compound bows and general archery equipment such as bows and arrows (crossbows are controlled);
Law Enforcement & Military	tanks; military vehicles; body armour; protective armour; protective vests; tactical vests; training armour; ballistic helmets; protective helmets; large calibre munitions; launchers; grenades; taser; tazar; shock torches; inert grenades; ammunition; trench art; shell casings;	motorcycle helmets; bike or bicycle helmets; replica grenades; non military armoured vehicles; plastic grandes;
Anti-Personnel Weapons	pepper spray; mace; capsaicin; defender spray; riot control items;	stink bombs;
Laser Pointers	laser pointers; laser pens; laser sights for firearms or other weapons;	laser modules; laser diodes; laser lighting;