



DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS NOTICE

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Revised treatment of gel ball blasters and similar low powered devices

Regulation 4F of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (the Regulations) prohibits the importation of firearms into Australia, unless the importer has been granted the appropriate permission.

A recent review of Regulation 4F means that devices that discharge soft and non-dangerous items such as soft darts and hydrolysed super-absorbent polymers (gel balls) are no longer classified as firearms under the Regulations.

Where these devices resemble a real firearm, they will be classified as an imitation of a firearm under the Regulations. Police Certification issued by state and territory police firearm registries is required to import an imitation of a firearm.

Gel balls (hydrated and non-hydrated) are not considered ammunition under the Regulations and are not controlled on import into Australia.

Plastic 6mm and 8mm BBs for 'Airsoft' firearms are considered projectiles, and 'Airsoft' firearms are still controlled as firearms under the Regulations.

More information about the importation of these goods is available on the Department's website at www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

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