



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Australian Customs Notice No. 2019/31

Weapons – Amendments to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*

From 10 August 2019 the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment (Weapons) Regulations 2019* amended the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations) for the lawful importation of weapons (non-firearms).

The amendments ensure that the community remains protected from new and emerging weapons technologies, and improves the administrative efficiency of the Regulations.

Strict procedures remain in place to ensure that only those with a lawful need to import weapons and associated parts into Australia are able to do so provided they meet certain conditions and requirements. The penalties for importing prohibited weapons without a permit can include a fine of up to 2,500 penalty units (currently \$525,000), imprisonment for up to 10 years, or both.

Weapons are prohibited on entry to Australia unless permission has been granted in accordance with the requirements in Schedule 13 of the Regulations. Part 2 of Schedule 13 of the Regulations list prohibited weapons.

Changes to weapons import requirements are:

Police certification (B709B form) is now an accepted import test for maces, flails, body armour, extendable batons and their parts, and laser pointers.

Flamethrowers and similar flame projector devices not specifically 'designed or adapted for warfare or like purposes' are now expressly prohibited under new Items 46 and 47. Permission is required from the Australian Border Force in order to import these goods to Australia. Military and warfare type flamethrowers are still controlled under Item 1.

Karambits, handheld curved knives that resemble a claw, are now expressly prohibited under new Item 28A. Permission to import is required from the Australian Border Force to import karambits and similar devices into Australia.

Powders, gels and other substances designed to incapacitate or kill are now prohibited import under Item 1 in the same way as gases and liquids.

Sling shots with a tensioning, locking or triggering device are now prohibited under Item 21. Previously only hunting slings, catapults or sling shots with an arm brace were prohibited imports.

An update has occurred to some definitions of weapons in Schedule 13 to include 'or similar devices' to weapons specified in Schedule 13.

Obsolete Provisions – removal of references to import permit exemptions for firearms and weapons transported through Australia to East Timor as the purpose of the exemptions has expired.

For further information regarding these changes, please consult the legislation directly, including the explanatory statement (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/F1996B03651>).

For more information on importing weapons to Australia, please see: <https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-goods/categories/weapons#content-index-0>.

[Signed]

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Customs and Border Revenue Branch

8 August 2019