



**Australian  
BORDER FORCE**

# Australian Customs Notice No. 2021/18

## New firearm serial number requirements under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*

On 24 March 2021, Schedule 2 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment (Firearms) Regulations 2020 (the Amendment Regulations) commenced. The Amendment Regulations change the serial number requirements for firearms, frames and receivers under Schedule 6 of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations).

### The Amendments

From 24 March 2021, all imported firearms, frames and receivers must bear a unique serial number unless exempt.

For whole firearms, the serial number must be located on the frame or receiver of the firearm.

Under these changes, all frames and receivers imported must also bear a unique serial number when imported on their own.

The serial number must consist only of Arabic numerals (0-9), English letters or punctuation marks and be made up using any combination of these. It must also be legible, easily recognisable as the serial number and read without the use of a device or tool.

Firearms, frames and receivers exempt from the changes include any:

- Manufactured prior to 1 January 1900
- Not subject to the requirements of Schedule 6 of the Regulations such as:
  - Imported by Defence forces of certain countries for official exercises
  - Imported by air security officers
  - Transhipped firearms
  - Firearms returning to Australia from lawful hunting or shooting competitions.

Where goods arrive at the border that are not compliant with the regulatory requirements, the goods may be subject to seizure by the Australian Border Force as prohibited imports.

A prescribed approach to the location, format and appearance of unique serial numbers will improve the recording of data in firearms systems. This will assist police and other law enforcement agencies to manage the registration, licensing and movement of firearms, frames and receivers being imported into Australia and being moved between states and territories.

## Further information

For further information regarding these changes, please consult the legislation directly, at [www.legislation.gov.au/Series/F1996B03651](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/F1996B03651).

For more information on importing or exporting firearms, please see the Department of Home Affairs' website at <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/criminal-justice/drugs-firearms-organised-crime/firearms>.

Enquiries should be directed to the Firearms Team at [firearms.enquiries@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:firearms.enquiries@homeaffairs.gov.au).

[Signed]

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