



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Australian Customs Notice No. 2021/47

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

From 15 December 2021, the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment (Firearms and Weapons) Regulations 2021* amended the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations) for the lawful importation of firearms and weapons.

The amendments ensure that the community remains protected from new and emerging firearms and weapons technologies, reduces red tape and regulatory burden for legitimate importers, and improves the administrative efficiency of the Regulations.

Strict procedures remain in place to ensure that only those with a lawful need to import firearms and weapons into Australia are able to do so provided they meet certain conditions and requirements. The penalties for importing prohibited firearms and weapons without a permit can include a fine of up to 2,500 penalty units (currently \$555,000), imprisonment for up to 10 years, or both.

The Amendments

- Expand the circumstances in which firearms and weapons can be imported under the official purposes test, to allow the importation of such goods by persons who are subcontractors to primary government contractors or tenderers.
- Remove the requirement that importers need to have a proven history of developing or producing defence or law enforcement related products before being granted an import permit for firearms and weapons under the specified purposes test.
- Introduce a new import prohibition on barrel extensions, to be defined as a firearm part.
- Streamline the tests that apply in relation to the importation of certain firearms and their parts and magazines.
- Add self-opening repeating action shotguns to Schedule 6 to ensure their importation would be appropriately classified and controlled.
- Consolidate the importation test that applies for paintball markers and related articles into a single table item in the Regulations.
- Clearly distinguish the electro-shock cartridges that can be imported as ammunition for a firearm from those that could be imported as a part for a hand held electric shock device.

For further information regarding these changes, please consult the legislation directly, including the explanatory statement (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L01761>).

For more information on importing firearms and weapons to Australia, please see: <https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-goods/list-of-items>

[Signed]

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