



## Australian Customs Notice No. 2026/02

### Firearms and Weapons Regulatory Amendments

From 22 January 2026, new requirements for firearms and related goods will apply, meaning:

- new goods will be subject to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (PI Regulations); and
- some goods will be subject to new or revised import tests as set out in the PI Regulations; and
- some goods will be restricted by a different section of Part 2 of Schedule 6 of the PI Regulations; and
- ongoing police certification forms will no longer be authorised, rendering existing certifications invalid.

These amendments are enacted by the *Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Bill 2026*.

#### Summary of changes

Reform measure	Old treatment	New treatment
<b>Assisted opening and straight pull firearms</b>	Item 1 or 2 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) Police certification test applied	Item 3 or Item 6 of Schedule 6 Department of Home Affairs import permit only
<b>Handguns</b>	Police certification test applied	Department of Home Affairs import permit only
<b>Belt fed firearms and more than 30 round magazines</b>	Various items of Schedule 6 (Part 2)	Item 12 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) and Item 16B for magazines
<b>Firearm frames/receivers</b>	Included with firearms parts in Schedule 6 (Part 2)	New item numbers and require inspection of serial number
<b>Soft Air Firearms and Gel Ball Blasters</b>	Item 1, 1A or Item 9 of Schedule 6 (Part 2)	Item 14B of Schedule 6 (Part 2)
<b>Ongoing Police Certification</b>	B709DA (firearms) or B709X (weapons)	B709A (firearms) or B709B (weapons) Individual import permissions only
<b>Public Safety test</b>	None	Ability to refuse import permission
<b>Silencers and sound suppressors</b>	Item 11 or Item 14 of Schedule 6 (Part 2)	Item 13A of Schedule 6 (Part 2) and require inspection of serial number
<b>Speed Loaders</b>	None	Item 13B of Schedule 6 Department of Home Affairs import permit only

## Detailed information

### Revised import requirements for assisted opening and straight pull firearms

New definitions have been added to the PI Regulations for assisted repeating action and straight pull repeating action firearms.

- A firearm is an assisted repeating action firearm if it operates with a self-opening repeating action, or a self-closing repeating action, and the cycle of operation of the firearm is partly automated.
- A firearm is a straight pull repeating action firearm if the firearm is operated by movement of a bolt or handle along a single linear axis (that is, without rotation).

The purpose of this amendment is to expressly require the importation of an assisted repeating action or a straight pull repeating action firearm to satisfy the same tests applicable to the importation of a semi-automatic firearm that fires the same type of ammunition.

Assisted repeating action rimfire rifles and straight pull repeating action rimfire rifles are now captured at Item 3 and Item 6 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations, depending on their magazine capacity (those with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds will fall to Item 3, while those with a capacity greater than 10 rounds will fall to Item 6).

Assisted repeating action shotguns and straight pull repeating action shotguns now fall to Item 3 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations, where they have a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds. If these shotguns have a magazine capacity over 5 rounds, they now fall to Item 6 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations, unless they are lever action shotguns.

Assisted repeating action centrefire rifles and straight pull repeating action centrefire rifles now fall to Item 6 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations, regardless of their magazine capacity.

### Revised import permit requirements for handguns

This amendment removes the police certification test and substitutes it with the sports shooter test, international sports shooter test, dealer test and a newly created handgun test to require all imports of handguns to obtain written permission to import from the Department of Home Affairs. The amendments recognise that handguns are commonly used in sports shooting competitions, and relevant tests support import into Australia. This item also supports other amendments made to insert the new handgun test and apply the dealer test to Home Affairs Department import permission for handguns.

### Revised import restrictions for belt fed firearms

Belt fed firearms are now specifically captured at Item 12 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations to ensure belt-fed firearms are restricted in the same way as fully automatic firearms. Written permission to import from the Department of Home Affairs for official, specified purposes or returned goods test is required to import these goods.

### Revised import restrictions for 30 round magazines

The purpose of this change is to align the controls on magazines with more than 30 rounds with the agreed treatment provided for by the National Firearms Agreement. Magazines with more than 30 rounds capacity were not specifically captured in the PI Regulations. This amendment ensures that these goods are subject to higher controls than magazines with a lower capacity and limits their import for official or specified purposes at Item 16B of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations.

### Clarification of the import requirements for frames and receivers

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that firearms frames and receivers are subject to serial number marking and physical inspection on importation, alongside complete firearms. Enhancing the identification requirements for frames and receivers on importation will enable accurate tracking of these items.

Within Schedule 6, Part 2 of the PI Regulations:

- frames or receivers for Item 1 or Item 2 firearms are now Item 2A
- frames or receivers for Item 3 firearms are now Item 3A

- frames or receivers for Item 6 firearms are now Item 6A
- frames or receivers for Item 9 firearms remain as Item 9B
- frames or receivers for Item 12 firearms are new Item 12A.

Frames and receivers remain subject to the same import permit requirements dependant on the requirements for the firearm they are designed for use with.

#### Revised import restrictions for soft air firearms and gel ball blasters

Soft air firearms have been separated from conventional firearms and included in a new definition that captures both soft air firearms and gel ball blasters, being:

*“skirmish marker means a firearm that is designed to fire plastic, polymer or hydrated superabsorbent polymer balls, darts, discs or similar projectiles of any material; and includes goods commonly known as airsoft handguns, airsoft rifles, airsoft shotguns, blasters, gel blasters or gel ball blasters”*

Skirmish markers are now captured at Item 14B of Schedule 6 (Part 2) or the PI Regulations, along with their parts, magazines and ammunition. Those that are substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm; or to which a firearm accessory is attached or is integral, fall to a higher control at Item 12 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) or the PI Regulations.

This amendment ensures gel ball blasters, soft air firearms, and similar markers are regulated consistently at the border, noting they are constructed using similar parts and fire similar types of ammunition. Gel ball blasters were previously only restricted at the border where they resembled a conventional firearm, which was inconsistent with domestic controls on these items.

Skirmish markers may be imported under the police certification test and are subject to the same serial number and safety requirements as other conventional firearms.

Note, Regulation 4F of the PI Regulations now also excludes low power devices that comply with the Consumer Goods (Projectile Toys) Safety Standard 2020 from the definition of a firearm, those that have the appearance of a firearm can still be considered imitation firearms under the PI Regulations.

#### Removal of ongoing police certification forms

The *Importation of Firearms – Police Certification – B709DA Form* (B709DA) was frequently used by firearms dealers for the importation of large quantities of firearms and related goods, serving as an open-ended ongoing import approval. To support domestic quantity limitations and increase visibility of intended import volumes, the B709DA is now invalid and unable to be used for any future imports.

Similarly, the *Importation of Weapons – Police Certification – B709X Form* (B709X) operated similar to the B709DA and allows imports of low-risk weapons to be imported by residents of a state or territory where the B709X was in place. These are now also invalid and unable to be used for future imports, noting there were no B709X in force at the time of the amendments.

Only single use police certification forms are able to be used for the importation of firearms and weapons, where authorised by Schedule 6 or Schedule 13 of the PI Regulations.

#### Introduction of a public safety test

This change introduces an ability for the Minister to refuse an import permission in the interest of public safety. This provides the Minister with the authority to further consider whether an importation poses a significant risk to the community, recognising that while certain firearms or weapons may pass other import tests, they may not be suitable for their intended use described within the importation application, within the community.

#### Silencers and sound suppressors

Silencers and sound suppressors are now regulated on import – at Item 13A of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations as a firearm accessory. Silencers and sound suppressors require written permission to import from the Department of Home Affairs.

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that firearm silencers and sound suppressors are subject to serial number marking and physical inspection on importation, alongside complete firearms and frames or receivers. Enhancing the identification requirements for firearms silencers and sound suppressors on importation will enable accurate tracking of these items.

#### New import restrictions for speed loaders

Speed loaders are now regulated on import at Item 13B of Schedule 6 (Part 2) of the PI Regulations as a firearm accessory. Speed loaders require written permission to import from the Department of Home Affairs and may be applied for under a number of tests, including for sports shooters when for use with a handgun. Speed loaders are goods designed to automate the loading of multiple rounds of ammunition at once (but do not include those for use with paintball or skirmish markers).

#### **Transitional arrangements**

Goods that arrived in Australia with valid import permits in place prior to 22 January 2026 may be cleared based on the previous requirements. For example, imports of firearms that arrived prior to 22 January 2026 that are pending ABF clearance may be cleared with a valid B709D or B709DA provided the requirements for import based on the PI Regulations applicable on that day have been met. All other imports must comply with the new requirements, including those that arrived prior to 22 January 2026 without a valid import permit.

The ABF will work with importers to provide an opportunity to comply with the new permit requirements for goods that were in transit prior to the Bill being passed by parliament, including facilitating requests for re-export where necessary.

#### **Further information**

The explanatory memorandum and the Bill is available at [Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism \(Firearms and Customs Laws\) Bill 2026 – Parliament of Australia](#). The PI Regulations as a compilation will be available at the legislation will be available via [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956 - Federal Register of Legislation](#).

Questions around how firearms will be treated the ABF under the new firearms amendments to the PI Regulations can directed to [firearms.enquiries@abf.gov.au](mailto:firearms.enquiries@abf.gov.au)

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