



Australian Customs Notice No. 2026/26

Firearms Import Regulatory Amendments

From 13 July 2026, new requirements for firearms and related goods will apply, meaning:

- some goods will be subject to revised import tests as set out in the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (PI Regulations).
- These amendments are enacted by the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment (Sports Shooters and Other Measures) Regulations 2026*.

Summary of changes

Reform measure	Old treatment	New treatment
Assisted opening and straight pull shotguns and rimfire rifles	Item 3 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) Category C article	Item 3 of Schedule 6 (Part 2) Restricted Category C article
Antique handguns	Item 9 or 9B of Schedule 6 (Part 2)	Item 9 or 9B of Schedule 6 (Part 2) Category H article
Sporting association or body and sporting events	None	The Minister may specify by legislative instrument those which may apply to sporting shooters

Detailed information

Changes to the restricted category C article and certified sports shooter and certified international sports shooter definitions

The definition of “restricted category C article” has been amended to include assisted repeating action and straight-pull repeating action firearms, covering both shotguns with no more than 5 round capacity and rimfire rifles with no more than 10 round capacity that are classified as Schedule 6, Part 2, Item 3 firearms in the PI Regulations. The addition of rimfire rifle allows for firearms commonly used by biathletes to be included under the articles eligible for import by or sale to “certified sports shooters” and “certified international sports shooters”.

Sporting association or body and sporting events

The amendments allow the Minister to determine associations, bodies, events and other criteria for the purposes of importing “restricted category C” firearms for sports shooting events via legislative instruments. Currently one instrument is in effect which specifies Biathlon Australia and biathlon events for the purposes of the PI Regulations. Import permissions for these goods will continue to be issued via the Department, who will assess if applications are in line with the new criteria.

Category H (handgun) definition to include antique handguns

The amendments enable the importation of antique handguns and their frames or receivers (handguns manufactured prior to 1 January 1900) as category H articles. As a result, all imports of handguns, unless an exemption or exception applies, can be issued written permission from the Department, as Police are no longer authorised to issue police certification forms for handguns imported on, or after, 22 January 2026.

Transitional arrangements

Firearms and related goods impacted by these changes apply to goods arriving on, or after 13 July 2026, as well as any antique handguns remaining held by ABF that were imported on or after 22 January 2026.

Sporting shooters and international sporting shooters can present written permission from the Department issued on or after 13 July 2026 for the importation of those goods now considered restricted category C articles.

Antique handguns, or their frames and receiver or parts which were imported on or after 22 January and remain held under Customs control may be cleared with written permission from the Department issued on or after 13 July 2026.

Further information

The explanatory memorandum for the amendments is available at [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Amendment \(Sports Shooters and Other Measures\) Regulations 2026](#).

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 by the ABF under the new firearms amendments to the PI Regulations can directed to firearms.enquiries@abf.gov.au.

A/g Commander Justin Dunn
Operational Practices
Operational Capability Division
14 July 2026