



VICTORIA POLICE

## LICENSING & REGULATION DIVISION QUICK GUIDE



### IMPORTING & EXPORTING: firearms, parts, ammunition and components

The importation of firearms, firearm parts, accessories, ammunition and components into Australia is regulated by the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

This guide aims to provide information relating to the requirements and processes involved in importing and exporting new or currently owned firearms, firearm parts, ammunition and components by Victorians.

## IMPORTING

Prior to the release of any firearm, firearm part, ammunition or component of ammunition destined for possession or use in Victoria by a Victorian resident, the Australian Border Force requires Victoria Police to certify that the importer holds the appropriate license to receive the article or that the article does not require a license to be held.

This certification is referred to as an Importation of Firearms – Police Confirmation and Certification and is issued as a hard copy import permit by Victoria Police on behalf of Australian Border Force.

Importation of firearm accessories (i.e. silencers, devices used to convert firearms to burst, folding, detachable and adjustable stocks etc.) requires permission from the Commonwealth Attorney-General which cannot be issued by Victoria Police.

There are no fees involved in obtaining a Confirmation and Certification (B709) from Victoria Police; however, applying for a permit to acquire a new firearm does attract an administrative fee.

Australian residents who are returning to Australia with firearms or related goods already registered to them in an Australia do not need to obtain an import permit for those items.

### Obtaining a Confirmation and Certification (B709) permit

To obtain a Confirmation and Certification (B709) permit from Victoria Police to bring firearms, firearm parts, ammunition or components of ammunition into Australia you must:

- Submit a completed Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Firearms and Parts (Form B709A) and/or a completed A Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Handguns and Parts (Form B709D) at least 28 days prior to requiring the certification;
- Provide Victoria Police with the full details of each firearm, firearm part, ammunition and component of ammunition that will be imported into Australia; and
- Submit a completed Victoria Police Permit to Acquire application for the importation of new firearms.



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International visitors importing firearms for shooting events must also apply for an International Visitor's Firearm Permit.

To avoid processing delays you should provide the following information when submitting a B709 form.

- ◆ **Firearm** - the type, action, calibre and serial number
- ◆ **Ammunition** - the number of rounds, type (e.g. centrefire, rimfire, air, shotgun or paintball) and calibre (e.g. 38 Super, 9mm Luger)
- ◆ **Components** - precise details of the components that are controlled
- ◆ **Magazines** - calibre and capacity
- ◆ **Handgun barrel** - calibre and length in millimetres

### Returning to Australia with your registered firearms and related goods

Australian residents who travel overseas with their firearms and related firearm goods to use in lawful shooting activities (e.g. hunting or competition event) do not need to obtain a B709A or B709D certification to re-enter the country with the same items provided the following conditions are met:

- the goods are Category A, B, H & PB firearms, and their parts, magazines and ammunition;
- the importer is an Australian resident;
- the importer presents to the Australian Border Force a valid firearm licence issued by the State or Territory in which they reside;
- the importer presents to the Australian Border Force the export permit used to export the goods; and
- the goods have not been modified (except for repair) since the last export from Australia.

If the above conditions are not met, or, you are returning with additional controlled items obtained while overseas you will be required to apply for a certification for those items. You will still need to be issued with the relevant export permit by Australian Border Force to leave the country with your firearms.

### Importing Category C shotguns

In addition to submitting a completed Victoria Police *Permit to Acquire* application, the importation of Category C shotguns for the purpose of clay target shooting also requires written permission from the Commonwealth Attorney-General. Any parts or accessories imported for the same purpose must also be approved in writing by the Commonwealth Attorney-General.

Category C firearms and parts imported for primary production purposes do not require authorisation from the Commonwealth Attorney-General, however, a completed *Application for Police Confirmation for the Importation of Longarms and Parts* (B709A) must be submitted to Victoria Police.



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### Dealers

Licensed firearms dealers are eligible to apply for an ongoing Confirmation and Certification permit (B709DA) to enable importation of articles subject to the police certification test. Acquiring an ongoing Confirmation and Certification permit negates the need to apply for B709A or B709D certification for every individual importation.

Individual B709A and B709D confirmation and certifications will still be available to licensed firearms dealers who do not have ongoing permits.

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Permission to export firearms, ammunition, firearm parts or accessories is obtained from the Defence Export Control Office or Australian Border Force.

Exporting up to four accompanied firearms (categories A, B, H or paintball markers), firearm parts, ammunition or accessories requires a *Restricted Goods Permit* to be issued by Australian Border Force.

Exporting unaccompanied firearms of any category, firearm parts, accessories and ammunition requires a *Defence Export Permit* to be issued by the Defence Export Controls Office.

Victoria Police is only involved in the export process if the exported articles will not be returning to Australia. In these cases written notification together with a copy of the relevant export documentation must be provided to Victoria Police within seven days of the article leaving Australia.

## DEFINITIONS OF FIREARM PARTS, ACCESSORIES AND AMMUNITION COMPONENTS

The *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* provides the definition of firearm parts, accessories and ammunition components. Under the Regulations, the following items whether they are complete, incomplete, unfinished, damaged, temporarily or permanently inoperable are considered **firearm parts**:

- a gas piston, friction assembly, action bar (including handgun slides), breech bolt or breech block;
  - a firearm barrel;
  - a trigger mechanism;
  - a frame or receiver;
  - a slide;
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- an upper receiver or a lower receiver;
- a bolt carrier; or
- something other than a complete firearm that includes one or more of the above items.

The importation of any of these parts will require a Confirmation and Certification (B709) to be issued by Victoria Police. Items that do not fit the above definition of a firearm part will not require a permit.

Under the Regulations the following devices whether they are complete, incomplete, unfinished, damaged, temporarily or permanently inoperable are considered **firearm accessories**:

- a silencer, sound moderator, sound suppressor or any other device designed to, or capable of, reducing the noise of discharge of the firearm;
- a device designed to modify, or capable of converting, a firearm to give it burst fire capabilities, semi-automatic operation or fully-automatic operation;
- a folding stock; a detachable stock; an adjustable stock; or
- a firearm part to which a firearm accessory is attached or is integral.

The Regulations defines a **component of ammunition** as a projectile, cartridge casing or primer designed or adapted for use in ammunition and the importation of these articles will require the issuing of a Confirmation and Certification (B709) permit by Victoria Police.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will Australian Border Force release an unregistered firearm to a licence holder who is not a licensed firearm dealer?**

No. Unregistered firearms will only be release to a licensed firearms dealer. If your firearm is unregistered, you will need to nominate a Victorian licensed firearms dealer to act as your agent and collect your item from Australia Border. In these cases, Victoria Police can forward the import permit to the licensed firearms dealer and the approved *Permit to Acquire* to the individual licence holder. You can nominate the dealer acting as your agent on your *Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Firearms and Parts* (**Form B709**).

### **Can I borrow the firearm of a friend or relative to compete in an overseas competition?**

Yes. In addition to a completed *Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Firearms and Parts* (**Form B709**) you must provide Victoria Police with written authorisation from the registered owner to do so.



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### Can I import firearms, ammunition, parts or accessories for a friend or family member?

No. Australian Border Force will not release imported articles in situations where the name on the import permit does not match the name of the importer.

### Are there any limitations on what firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, ammunition components or accessories I can import?

Yes. Licence holders will only be permitted to import firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, ammunition components or accessories that are compatible with the firearm types that your licence authorises you to possess, carry or use.

Without prior permission from the Commonwealth Attorney-General specialised items may be seized by Australian Border Force. Items may include specialised ammunition and components as well as any item that meets the definition of an accessory under the Customs Regulations.

Fixed, one-piece stocks may be imported without an *Importation of Firearms - Police Confirmation and Certification*. For a full list of parts that require certification, refer to the section in this document on Parts & Accessories.

### I am importing from overseas and have been asked to provide an original copy of my confirmation and certification (B709) permit to show that the articles will be lawfully received in Australia on arrival. Will Victoria Police be able to provide me with another original copy for this purpose?

No. The Defence Export Controls Office (DECO) may supply supporting documents, including an **International Import Certificate** to provide this verification. More information relating to these certificates can be found on the DECO [website](#).

For further information on importing firearms, refer to the Australian Border Force [website](#).

## APPLICATION FORMS

All firearm applications forms are available on the Victoria Police [website](#):

### Forms for longarms and compatible parts, ammunition and components:

- *Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Firearms and Parts (Form B709)*
- *Application for Permit to Acquire a Longarm (Form 337A)*

### Forms for handguns and compatible parts, ammunition and components:

- *Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Firearms and Parts (Form B709)*
- *Application for Permit to Acquire a Handgun (Form 337B)*



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### CONTACT

Completed *Application for Police Confirmation and Certification of Firearms and Parts (Form B709)* should be forwarded to Victoria Police via post, fax or e-mail to:

#### **Victoria Police**

##### **Licensing & Regulation Division**

GPO Box 2807  
Melbourne Vic 3001  
Facsimile: +61 9247 6485  
Email: [licensingregulation@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:licensingregulation@police.vic.gov.au)

Advice or lodgement of documents relating to exportation should be directed to the Australian Border Force in person or via post:

#### **Australian Border Force**

Customs House  
Corner of Centre and Grants Roads  
Melbourne Airport Vic 3045  
Telephone: +61 3 9339 1250  
GPO Box 2809  
Melbourne VIC 3001

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