



AIRSOFT RIFLE

These devices are essentially air-rifles, however they are militaristic looking, often based on well known guns such as AK47s and M16s, and are used in combat style war games. They are powered by one of the three following methods:

1. Spring powered:

These devices use energy stored in a spring to launch a pellet down the barrel. They require the spring to be cocked for each shot (either emulating a broken-barrel shotgun or pull-back bolt action rifle/pistol) and are therefore incapable of semi / automatic fire.

2. Gas powered:

These devices use pressurised gas (propane "green gas"; HFC134a refrigerant; CO2 or nitrogen) to propel the pellet, and are capable of semi and fully automatic operation. This mechanism is favoured in pistols where size constraints make electric powered mechanisms less practical. Gas is also used to incorporate a 'blow-back' feature which cycles a slide or bolt to simulate a real firearm's action. Ammunition is usually supplied by way of a magazine.

3. Electric powered:

These typically use a bank of rechargeable batteries to drive an electric motor which cycles an internal piston or spring assembly in order to launch the pellets. Semi and fully automatic operation is possible which gives these guns the popular name 'automatic electric guns' or AEGs.

These guns can achieve a muzzle velocity of 200 to 300 feet per second and fire rates of 300 to 700 rounds per minute.

Another category on its own appears to be Airsoft BB guns. These have been around for about 30 years in the US and were created for recreational applications such as military simulation games, and so it is this category which are primarily modelled on famous pistols, rifles and hand held machine guns. The plastic polymer technology available today has made possible the creation of a new generation of these devices with amazing detail, realism and durability.

Licensing & Regulation Division (LRD) will not provide permits to acquire air-soft rifles. This is on the basis that no genuine reason exists to own them, because there is no approved range in Victoria to undertake these war games. Their militaristic appearance also plays a part in their perceived undesirability.

LRD will not issue a B709A Import Permit for air-soft rifles, which is consistent with all other jurisdictions. Consequently, Australian Customs and Border Protection Services do not allow their importation at this time.

Airsoft Australia site <http://www.airsoftaustralia.com.au/what-is-airsoft.html>