



Official Purposes test

Importing firearms and firearm-related articles

About this Test

The official purposes import test is for the importation of firearms or firearm-related articles for the Government of the Commonwealth, a state or territory.

Articles other than imitation firearms and paintball markers may be imported under this test if they are for the purposes of Australian, state or territory governments.

Before you apply

Before you submit an application, you should contact your state or territory firearms registry to discuss local requirements and to ensure you are licensed or authorised to possess the article for your intended use.

You should also contact the [Australian Border Force](#) about its requirements.

How to apply

There is no fee for making an application to the Attorney-General's Department for import permission or certification. Your application to import should be made in the same name that appears on the firearms licence (or exemption / authorisation) relevant to the articles sought to be imported.

All export documents (where necessary) should also be in the same name. Your application should include copies of documents addressing each of the numbered criteria in this fact sheet.

The example documents listed in this fact sheet are indicative only, and in some cases other documents or evidence may be accepted to satisfy the criteria. Applications for import permission and certification must be made online using the [Application to import firearms or firearms-related articles form](#).

Important

You **must** receive import permission from the Attorney-General's Department prior to importing articles subject to this test.

If these articles arrive in Australia without import permission from the Attorney-General's Department, they may be subject to **seizure** and **destruction**. If you are issued with a Detention Notice by the Australia Border Force, you **must** apply for import permission immediately as strict time limits apply.

Please be aware that the possession of a firearms licence **does not** guarantee that import permission will be granted.

Test criteria

1. Official purposes

The articles must be imported for the purposes of the government of the Commonwealth, a state or a territory.

The Regulations do not define or limit what government purposes are. Some examples include articles that are:

- demonstrated to government
- inspected (or tested and evaluated) by government

- used by government for training
- given or donated to government
- consumed or destroyed in the course of testing related to a contract with government, or
- exhibited by government at a museum.

Supporting material in relation to this criterion may include a copy of a government contract, purchase order, or, where appropriate, letters and emails with government agencies.

2. Ownership arrangements

Articles imported under this test are subject to specific ownership arrangements depending on their purpose.

Option 2a, 2b, 2c or 2d **must** be satisfied.

a) Supply under primary contract, subcontract or tender

Option one:

- An article may be imported for the purpose of supplying the article to another person to enable that person to supply the article under a government contract.
- The article may be owned by any person.

Option two:

- An article may be imported for the purpose of supplying an article to another person to enable that person to show or demonstrate the article to government under a contract or as part of a tender process.
- The article may be owned by any person.

b) Demonstration, inspection, training, testing or museum exhibition

The article may be owned by any person.

c) Donation

- The article must have been given or donated to government before importation.
- The government must own the article at the time of importation.
- The government must intend to retain ownership.

d) Any other article

- The government must own the article at the time of importation.
- The government must intend to retain ownership.

Supporting material in relation to this criterion may include a copy of a government contract, purchase order, or, where appropriate, letters and emails with government agencies.

3. Licensed or authorised

You **must** be licensed or authorised in the relevant state or territory in order to possess the imported articles for your intended use.

In some states and territories you may also be required to hold other licences or authorisations, such as a dealer's licence, armourer's licence, Commissioner's permit or a licence to import and store explosives (ammunition). Your application should contain details of all relevant licences and authorities.

The Attorney-General's Department conducts its own checks to verify government intended use of the articles imported under this test.

Post import requirements

Your import permit will set out requirements relating to the use of the articles. These must be complied with. Failure to comply with any of the permit conditions is an offence under the Customs Act 1901 and may result in prosecution and future applications for import permission being denied. Generally, these conditions are:

a) Acquisition

- An Acknowledgement of Acquisition by End-User form must be completed and returned to the Attorney-General's Department.
- For articles that will be supplied to government under a contract, this is generally within eight weeks from the date of import.

b) Destruction or Export

- Unless the articles are acquired by government within the time specified on the permit, they must be destroyed or exported.
- If the importer chooses to destroy the articles, the importer should return a completed Acknowledgement of Destruction form to the Attorney-General's Department prior to the date conditioned on their import permit.
- If the importer chooses to export the articles, Defence Export Controls (DEC) must be contacted to obtain the relevant statement. An importer should provide copies of any statement or permit obtained from DEC. The importer should return a completed Acknowledgement of Exportation form to the Attorney-General's Department prior to the date conditioned on their import permit, accompanied by a copy of the DEC Permit.

c) State and territory requirements

You **must**, at all times, be aware of, and comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s).

Further Information

For further information, please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions on the [Firearms page](#) of the Attorney-General's Department website.

Contact us

General enquiries:

firearms.enquiries@ag.gov.au

Enquiries about current applications:

firearms.applications@ag.gov.au

(Please reference your application number in the 'subject' field)