



Returned Goods test

Importing firearms and firearm-related articles

About this Test

The returned goods test is used when an importer returns exported firearms and firearm-related articles that were temporarily exported from Australia.

This test **does not** apply to imitation firearms or category A and B firearms (including parts associated with category A and B firearms).

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 firearm-related articles form](#).

Test criteria

The import criteria for this test will depend on whether or not the articles:

- (a) were previously exported, or
- (b) are awaiting exportation from Australia.

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.

(a) Article previously exported

If an importer wishes to bring articles back into Australia, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- the articles were previously exported in accordance with a licence or permission under regulation 13E of the [Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958],
- the last importation was a lawful importation and not subject to a condition that the articles were to be exported after import,
- the article has not been modified since export, and
- the importer is licensed or authorised in the relevant state or territory in which they live to possess the article for the importer's intended use.

1. Export permission

Both returned goods import tests (a and b) require the importer to have been granted export permission.

[Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted in relation to obtaining export permission. You should provide a copy of your export permission granted by the Defence Export Control Office.

2. Export status: Previous lawful importation, not subject to an export condition

If the articles were previously imported lawfully into Australia, then the articles may be able to be returned to Australia following export.

You should provide a copy of the relevant import permission, or a statutory declaration detailing the circumstances of importation. If the articles were sourced from within Australia by you and you do not know if the articles were imported, you should provide information about how the articles came to be in your possession.

NOTE: If the articles were previously imported lawfully but subject to a condition that the articles be exported afterwards, the articles will not be able to be re-imported under the returned goods import test.

3. No modification

The term 'modified' **does not** include repairs.

If an article is sent overseas for repair, it will not be treated as a modification.

You should provide a statutory declaration, certifying that the articles have not been modified since export (2a) or since the grant of export permission (2b).

4. Licenced 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.

(b) Article awaiting exportation

If an importer is applying in advance for permission to bring articles back into Australia, the following conditions must be met:

- a licence or permission to export the articles is in force under regulation 13E of the [Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958],
- the articles have not yet been exported,
- the articles have not been modified since the licence or permission to export was granted, and
- the importer is licensed or authorised in the relevant state or territory in which they live to possess the article for the importer's intended use.

1. Export permission

Both returned goods import tests (a and b) require the importer to have been granted export permission.

[Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted in relation to obtaining export permission. You should provide a copy of your export permission granted by the Defence Export Control Office.

2. Export status: The articles have not yet been exported

You should provide a statutory declaration certifying that the articles have not yet been exported.

3. No modification

The term 'modified' **does not** include repairs.

If an article is sent overseas for repair, it will not be treated as a modification.

You should provide a statutory declaration, certifying that the articles have not been modified since export (2a) or since the grant of export permission (2b).

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 existing applications:

firearms.applications@ag.gov.au

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