



# Specified Purposes test

## Importing firearms and firearm-related articles

### About this test

The specified purposes test applies to a range of purposes for the importation of firearms, firearm-related articles other than imitation firearms, airsoft firearms and paintball markers.

The types of articles which can be imported under this test are extensive. The test consists of a number of different limbs, each with specific test criteria which **must** to be met.

The limbs are:

- film production
- development of mountings for a laser target designator
- ammunition imported for export
- repairs, modification or testing
- sanctioned activity (foreign military / foreign law enforcement)
- research or development of firearms technology, and
- category C or D articles for testing of ammunition.

### 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.

### 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 (when necessary) should also be in the same name.

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](#).

## 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](mailto:firearms.enquiries@ag.gov.au)

#### Enquiries about current applications:

[firearms.applications@ag.gov.au](mailto:firearms.applications@ag.gov.au)

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

# Film production

## Test criteria

### 1. Article unavailable in Australia

Articles can only be imported under this test if the article is not otherwise available in Australia.

This criterion encourages film producers to source firearms from within Australia where possible.

A statutory declaration to this effect is generally sufficient to satisfy this criterion. In the statutory declaration, you should indicate what inquiries have been made to reach this view and attach copies of advice received from potential Australian suppliers regarding the availability of the articles in Australia.

### 2. Article usage

The articles to be imported **must** be for use in connection with the production of a film in the state or territory where the importer is licensed or authorised.

Evidence may include a contract or request from a film production company for the supply of the articles. The types of articles required for the film should be specific. Material evidencing a general requirement for firearms will not be sufficient.

### 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.

### 4. Restricted usage

Articles imported under this test cannot be used for any of the following reasons:

- an advertisement
- a music video, or
- other type of film promoting music or a product.

A statutory declaration to the effect that you will not use the articles for such purposes will generally be sufficient for this criterion.

## 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:

- The article(s) are only to be used in connection with the production specified in the application.
- The article(s) must not be used in an advertisement, a music video or another type of film promoting music or a product.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s).
- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) by the date specified on the permit.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.

# Development of mountings for a laser target designator

## Test criteria

### 1. Article unavailable in Australia

Articles can only be imported under this test if the article is not otherwise available in Australia.

A statutory declaration stating this is usually sufficient to satisfy this criterion. In the statutory declaration, the applicant should indicate what inquiries have been made to reach this view and also attach copies of advice received from potential Australian suppliers regarding the availability of the articles in Australia.

### 2. Use in the Development of mountings for a laser target designator

The articles being imported **must** be for use in connection with the development of mountings for a laser target designator in the state or territory where the importer is licensed or authorised

Evidence to support this criterion could include a contract or request for the mountings, or business records showing a history of developing such mountings or other firearm-related technology.

### 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.

## 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:

- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) by the date specified on the permit.
- If the government acquires the article(s), the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Acquisition by End-User signed by the government.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s).

## Ammunition or component of ammunition

## Test criteria

### 1. Valid contract

The ammunition or component of ammunition **must** be imported as part of a contract to which a person in Australia is a party. The importation requirement might arise between the Australian party and the importer, or between the Australian party and a party in a foreign country (export country).

A copy of the contract or purchase order (or exchange of letters, emails etc. demonstrating the existence of a contract) should be provided in support of this criterion.

### 2. Intention to export

The contract referred to under criterion one for this test **must** have been made by the Australian party with the intention of exporting the ammunition (or component of ammunition). The export **must not** contravene Australia's international obligations.

To satisfy this criterion the contract should specify to where the ammunition or component of ammunition is to be supplied.

The export permission from Defence Export Controls (DEC) (see criterion 4) will generally satisfy the requirement relating to Australia's international obligations.

### 3. Contract in force

The contract referred to under criterion one for this test **must** be in force at the time the importation takes place.

### 4. Export permission

The Minister for Defence or their delegate **must** have stated in writing that a licence or permission to export the ammunition (or component of ammunition) will be granted.

[Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted to obtain the relevant statement. An importer should provide copies of any statement or permit obtained from the Defence Export Controls.

## 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:

- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) by the date specified on the permit.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s).

## Repairs, modification or testing, or for use in training, manufacture, assembly, research or development

### Test criteria

#### 1. Article usage

This test is for articles that will be imported for repairs, modification or testing, or for use in training, manufacture, assembly, research or development, in a state or territory.

This may include repairs carried out in Australia for firearms belonging to a government or for testing or modification prior to supply to a government agency.

The location of any repairs, modification or testing **must** be in an Australian state or territory.

Evidence to support this criterion could include a contract or request from the government.

#### 2. Valid contract

Articles **must** be imported under a contract with the Australian Government, an Australian state or a territory government, an overseas government or the United Nations.

The contract with the Australian or overseas government **must** be in force. A copy of the contract (or exchange of letters, emails etc. demonstrating the existence of a contract) should be provided in support of this criterion.

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.

### 3. Licenced or authorised

You **must** be licenced 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.

### 4. Export permission

The Minister for Defence or their delegate **must** have stated in writing that a licence or permission to export the ammunition (or component of ammunition) will be granted.

[Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted to obtain the relevant statement. An importer should provide copies of any statement or permit obtained from the Defence Export Controls.

## 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:

- The article(s) are to be used for repairs, modification, testing or for use in training, manufacture, assembly, research or development in a State or Territory.
- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) to a government by the date specified on the permit.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s).

# Sanctioned activity (foreign military or foreign law enforcement)

## Test criteria

### 1. Article usage

This test is only for use by a defence force or law enforcement agency of a country other than Australia.

A **defence**-sanctioned activity is one approved by:

- a Service Chief of the Australian Defence Force, or
- Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defence.

Evidence to support this criterion is a letter, or other approval, from a person in one of the above positions approving the nominated activity as defence-sanctioned.

A **law enforcement**-sanctioned activity is one approved by the:

- Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police
- Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner of the police force of a state or territory, or
- Secretary or a Deputy Secretary of the Department.

Evidence to support this criterion is a letter, or other approval, from a person in one of the above positions approving the nominated activity as law-enforcement sanctioned.

### 2. Article ownership

The owner of the article to be imported **must** be the defence force or law enforcement agency of another country (as applicable).

Evidence to support this criterion could include proof of purchase of the articles sought to be imported, or a statutory declaration, letter or email from a sufficiently senior member of the importing defence force or law enforcement agency.

### 3. Article importer

The overseas defence force or law enforcement agency or a member of that overseas defence force or law enforcement agency **must** be the importer.

Evidence to support this criterion could include a statutory declaration, letter or email from a sufficiently senior member of the overseas defence force or law enforcement agency.

### 4. Invitation to participate

The overseas **defence** force **must** have been invited to participate in the defence-sanctioned activity.

Evidence to support this criterion will generally be a written invitation to the overseas defence force from the relevant Service Chief or Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defence.

The overseas **law enforcement** agency **must** have been invited to participate in the law enforcement-sanctioned activity.

Evidence to support this criterion will generally be a written invitation to the overseas law enforcement agency by the Australian agency organising the activity.

**NOTE:** A single document from the overseas Defence Force or Law Enforcement Agency can be used to meet both criterion 2 and 3. Similarly, a single document can be used to satisfy both criterion 1 and 4.

### 5. Export permission

The Minister for Defence or their delegate **must** have stated in writing that a licence or permission to export the articles will be granted.

[Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted to obtain the relevant statement. An importer should provide copies of any statement or permit obtained from the Defence Export Controls.

## 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:

- The article(s) must be used only for the specified activity/purpose.
- The article(s) must be owned by the defence force or a law enforcement agency of a foreign country.
- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) to the government by the date specified on the permit.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s).

## Research or development of firearms technology

### Test criteria

#### 1. Principal or sole occupation

The importer's principal or sole occupation must be the business of researching or developing firearms technology. Principal or sole means most or all of the importer's business. The research or development **must** be in relation to firearms technology. Research or development may also relate to defence and law enforcement related articles.

Evidence to support this criterion would include business or other records that give information about the relevant business activities undertaken by the importer.

#### 2. 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.

#### 3. Specific project or tender

The importation of the article **must** be in relation to a specific project or tender. The project or tender **must** involve a government of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory. The project or tender **must** be clear on the research or development activities required and how the articles relate to those activities. Evidence to support this criterion would include copies of relevant tender documents or copies of project documents.

#### 4. Time allowed in Australia

This test only allows articles to remain in Australia for a specified period which is commensurate with the project or tender.

The evidence mentioned in criterion 4 should, therefore, provide evidence that the articles are required for the time requested and may also support this criterion. Other documents may provide information about the length of time the articles are required to be in Australia.

#### 5. Export or destruction

At the end of the period of time referred to in criterion 5, the articles **must** be exported or destroyed.

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, The 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.

#### 7. Export permission will be granted

The Minister for Defence or their delegate must have stated in writing that a licence or permission to export the ammunition (or component of ammunition) will be granted.

[Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted to obtain the relevant statement. An importer should provide copies of any statement or permit obtained from the Defence Export Controls.

#### 8. Secure storage

The articles imported **must** remain in the importer's possession at all times prior to sale. The articles **must** be securely stored by the importer. The Minister **must** be satisfied with the storage arrangements, which should be in accordance with the relevant Australian state or territory legislation.

The importer may be asked to provide evidence of approval of its safe storage facility from the relevant government body or authority.

## 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:

- The article(s) are only to be used for the completion of a specific project or tender (name the specific project or tender).
- The article(s) must be secured appropriately in Australia.
- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) by the date specified on the permit.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's Department an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s), including safe storage.

## Category C or D articles for testing of ammunition

### Test criteria

#### 1. Article usage

The articles are to be used for the purposes of testing ammunition that is manufactured in a state or territory.

Evidence to support this criterion would be information about how the articles would be used in the testing of ammunition and where the ammunition is manufactured.

#### 2. 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.

### 3. Article importer

You **must** be a manufacturer of either small arms or ammunition, and will need to provide evidence about these activities. Examples may include copies of contracts, tax records or other business records.

### 4. Specific project or tender

The importation of the article **must** be in relation to a specific project or tender. The project or tender **must** be clear on the ammunition testing activities required and how the articles relate to that testing.

Evidence to support this criterion would include copies of relevant tender documents or copies of project documents.

### 5. Secure storage

The articles imported **must** remain in the importer's possession at all times prior to sale. The articles **must** be securely stored by the importer. The Attorney-General's Department **must** be satisfied with the storage arrangements, which should be in accordance with the relevant Australian state or territory legislation.

The importer may be asked to provide evidence of approval of its safe storage facility from the relevant government body or authority.

### 6. Export or destruction

The articles **must** be exported or destroyed if no longer serviceable or if they are no longer needed.

A statutory Declaration about the intended export or destruction will be required to meet this criterion.

If export is planned, [Defence Export Controls](#) **must** be contacted in relation to obtaining the relevant permission. The importer is then required to notify the Attorney-General's Department once the articles have been exported.

If the articles are destroyed, the importer will be required to complete a statutory declaration to this effect and submit it to the Attorney-General's Department.

## 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:

- The article(s) are to be used only for the testing of ammunition manufactured in a State or Territory.
- The article(s) must be secured appropriately in Australia.
- The importer must either export or destroy the article(s) once it is no longer serviceable or required by the importer.
- If the article(s) are exported or destroyed, the importer must send the Attorney-General's an Acknowledgement of Destruction or Acknowledgement of Exportation. Any further importation will require a new permit.
- The importer must comply with all State and Territory requirements relating to the article(s) including safe storage.