

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association

L'Association de Tir Dominion du Canada

October 27, 2006

Introduction

Welcome to Canada and The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. This fact sheet has been compiled to provide you with information on importing your firearm and ammunition to Canada. It provides links to the concerned government departments at which the various required forms can be downloaded. The DCRA makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in this aide-memoire is up to date but individuals coming to Canada are warned to check the government web sites provided here to confirm if there have been any recent changes. If you require assistance you may contact us here at DCRA ((613) 829-8281 or office@dcra.ca)

Firearm Users Visiting Canada

The Canada Border Services Agency is responsible for controlling items brought into Canada. However, here is some basic information if you wish to bring a firearm or other item regulated by the *Firearms Act* into Canada. The *Firearms Act* is a federal law and applies all across the country. You must be at least 18 years old to bring a firearm into Canada. If you are younger than 18, you may use a firearm in certain circumstances, but an adult must remain responsible for the firearm.

If you have been convicted of anything considered a criminal offence in Canada, including driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you will need to get [approval of rehabilitation](#) or a [temporary immigration permit](#) from Canada's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration before you can enter Canada. [Contact the nearest Canadian embassy or consulate for more information.](#)

Classes of Firearms and Devices

There are three classes of firearms in Canada:

- **Non-restricted** (most common rifles and shotguns): These may generally be imported for purposes such as hunting, protection from wild animals in remote wilderness areas where firearms are allowed, or target-shooting. They may also be taken in transit through Canada by a reasonably direct route.
- **Restricted**: These are allowed for certain purposes, such as target shooting at an approved club or range, but they are not allowed for hunting or self-protection.
- **Prohibited**: You cannot bring a prohibited firearm into Canada.

Some firearms are classified as restricted or prohibited under the *Criminal Code* based on their general characteristics (e.g. barrel length or calibre); other restricted and prohibited firearms are specified by name in *Criminal Code Regulations*.

Some large-capacity magazines are prohibited even if the firearms to which the magazines are attached are allowed. As a general rule, the maximum capacity is:

- five cartridges for most magazines designed for a centre fire semi-automatic long gun; and
- ten cartridges for most handgun magazines.

There is no maximum magazine capacity for other types of long guns, including semi-automatics that discharge only rim-fire ammunition.

Replica firearms, except for replicas of antique firearms, are prohibited and cannot be brought into Canada. Replica firearms are devices that look exactly or almost exactly like a real firearm but that cannot discharge a projectile or that can only discharge harmless projectiles. As a rule, to be prohibited, a device must closely resemble an existing make and model of firearm, not just a generic firearm. Many of these devices have to be assessed case by case.

Licensing and Registration Requirements

Firearm owner and users in Canada need a valid firearms licence allowing them to possess firearms and a Canadian registration certificate for each firearm in their possession. **A licence issued under *Canada's Firearms Act* is different from a provincial hunting licence. As a non-resident, you have two options for meeting the Canadian licensing and registration requirements**

Option 1

You can declare your firearms in writing, in triplicate, using the [Non-Resident Firearm Declaration](#) (form **CAFC 909**). If you are bringing more than three firearms, attach a [Non-Resident Firearm Declaration Continuation Sheet](#) (form **CAFC 910**). Both forms are available from DCRA or by downloading from www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca

Please fill out the declaration form ahead of time to save time at the point of entry. However, wait until you arrive at the point of entry to sign the form. When you present to the form to Canadian Customs, with your firearms, you will then sign the form as a declaration as to its accuracy. There is a \$25.00 (Canadian) fee which is paid only once per year (all renewals are free thereafter in that year), and is paid to Canada Customs. The Customs officer will then assign a confirmation number to your Non-Resident Firearm Declaration form, which is then valid for 60 days as your temporary firearm licence and temporary firearm(s) registration. Customs will annotate the dates on your form. You keep one copy (do not lose it); Customs keeps one copy; and one copy goes to the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) of that province.

Once the customs officer has confirmed your declaration, it will have the same effect as a licence for you and a temporary registration certificate for all the firearms you bring to Canada. It is valid for 60 days. You can renew your declaration at no additional fee, if you renew it before it expires, by contacting the CFO of the province or territory where you are staying. To renew it, call 1 800 731-4000.

A confirmed declaration costs a flat fee of \$25, regardless of the number of firearms listed on it. It is only valid for the person who signs it and for those firearms listed on the declaration. If you come with others who will be using firearms in Canada, you will each need to meet these requirements.

Option 2

You can apply for a five-year [Possession and Acquisition Licence](#) (PAL) and [register](#) your firearms in Canada. You must wait until you get your PAL before you register your firearms.

If you apply for a PAL, you must provide evidence that you have passed the written and practical tests for the [Canadian Firearms Safety Course](#). If you wish to be licensed for restricted firearms, you must also have passed the tests for [Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course](#). A course from your own country would not meet the requirements of Canadian law. You can take the tests without taking the courses.

Contact the [Chief Firearms Officer](#) (CFO) of the province where you will most likely be using the firearm for information on any other documents you need to provide from authorities in your country to assist with the background safety check.

Once you have your PAL, you can apply to [register your firearms online](#) for free or by submitting a paper application ([CAFC 998](#)). The firearms must be [verified](#) by an approved verifier before they are registered. Call 1 800 731-4000 (Canada and the U.S.) or 1 506 624-5380 (outside Canada and the U.S.) for help to verify your firearms.

If you have a valid licence and registration certificate, you will not have to complete the Non-Resident Firearm Declaration and pay a fee. However, you will still have to make an oral declaration to the customs officer.

Please note, a confirmed Non-Resident Firearms Declaration does not permit you to borrow firearms in Canada.

A temporary borrowing licence will only allow you to borrow **non-restricted firearms**, and only for one of the following purposes:

- hunting under the supervision of an outfitter or other person authorized to organize hunting services in Canada;
- hunting with a Canadian resident who has the proper firearms licence and hunting licence;
- competing in a shooting competition;
- target shooting at an approved shooting club or range;
- taking part in an historical re-enactment or display;
- engaging in a business or scientific activity being carried on in a remote area where firearms are needed to control animal predators;
- taking part in a parade, pageant or other similar event; or
- using firearms for movie, television, video or theatrical productions or publishing activities.

Costs

A confirmed **Non-Resident Firearm Declaration** costs \$25. This fee covers all the firearms listed on the declaration. An initial **PAL** costs \$60 for non-restricted firearms only, or \$80 for any combination of restricted and non-restricted firearms. It is valid for five years. The fee to renew a PAL is waived until May 17, 2008. A **Temporary Firearms Borrowing Licence** (for Non-Residents) costs \$30. There is no fee for an ATT. There is no fee to register or transfer a firearm.

Buying or Selling a Firearm in Canada

Firearms you import temporarily, using a confirmed Non-Resident Firearm Declaration, must be taken back out of Canada. If your firearms are registered in Canada, they may be transferred (sold or given) to a properly licensed business or individual by calling 1 800 731-4000. The firearm will be registered to the new owner during the transfer process that must take place whenever a firearm changes ownership. A CFO must approve all transfers of restricted firearms.

Duties and taxes may be payable on all firearms that you sell or give to someone in Canada. For more information, please contact the Canada Border Services Agency at 1 800 461-9999 (toll free within Canada) or (204) 983-3500 **or** (506) 636-5064 (long-distance charges apply).

To be able to acquire a firearm in Canada, you need a valid PAL or FAC. The firearm will be registered to you during the transfer process.

Storage, Display and Transportation

When you bring a firearm to Canada, you must comply with the [Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms by Individuals Regulations](http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-11.6/SOR-98-209/index.html). Details can be viewed at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-11.6/SOR-98-209/index.html>

To be able to bring a restricted firearm to Canada in person, you will need to obtain an Authorization to Transport (ATT) from the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) of the province where you will be entering Canada. If you have a valid

PAL and registration certificate, you will be able to apply in advance. If you will be bringing the firearms with you and declaring them with a Non-Resident Firearm Declaration, you will need to wait until your declaration has been confirmed, before you call the CFO to request an ATT.

You can reach any of the CFOs Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time, by calling 1 800 731-4000. Keep these hours of operation in mind when making your travel arrangements. If you are unable to arrange your arrival time to coincide with the CFO office hours of operation, you may wish to call the [CFO](#) in advance to see if you can make other arrangements to obtain an ATT.

Buying or Importing Ammunition

A valid PAL, a confirmed Non-Resident Firearm Declaration or a Temporary Borrowing Licence (for Non-Residents) will allow you to buy ammunition in Canada. As well, you may bring limited amounts into Canada with you.

Both Canadians and non-residents may import sporting and competitive ammunition for their personal use. Special written authorization from Natural Resources Canada is required to import hollow-point ammunition labeled for use in handguns.

Non- Canadian residents need a permit from Natural Resources Canada to import:

- small arms sporting ammunition up to a maximum of 5,000 rounds;
- percussion primers, up to a quantity of 5,000;
- empty primed cartridge cases, up to a quantity of 5,000; and
- propellants (smokeless and black powder), up to a maximum of 8 kilograms, (17.66 pounds).
- hand loaded ammunition

Competitors need to obtain and complete Form 13 (Revised Dec 2003) from Natural Resources Canada. This form may be obtained from NRCAN at their web site: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/explosif> or from DCRA. The DCRA office, can if provided with all the required information, make submission for a team shipment. Application costs Canadian \$30.00, payable to the Receiver General for Canada.

Within these limits, non-residents can import, or up to 1,500 rounds duty free for use at a recognized competition or 200 rounds duty free for hunting purposes. The ammunition must be imported as accompanied baggage and the customs exemption does not apply if it is shipped ahead of the competitor. Duties and taxes are payable on bulk shipments and amounts brought in without prior approval over the exemption limit.

Contacts

Canadian Firearm Centre

telephone: 1 800 731-4000 (Toll Free) **web site:** www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca **e-mail:** cfc-cafc@cfc-cafc.gc.ca

Application forms for non-resident firearms declarations and temporary borrowing licences may also be obtained from Canadian tourist offices, customs offices, gun clubs and outfitters.

Canada Border Services Agency:

Outside Canada : 1 204 983-3500 or 1 506 636-5064

Natural Resources Canada

telephone: (613) 995-8415 **fax:** (613) 995-0480 **e-mail:** canmet-erd@nrcan.gc.ca

web site: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/explosif/index.htm>

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association

Telephone 1-(613) 829 8281 **email** office @dcra .ca **web site** www.dcra.ca

This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the [Firearms Act](#) and its [regulations](#).

Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Laws, Regulations and Policies May Also Apply.

Travel To or Through the United States of America

If your travel plans include a trip to the USA or transit through the USA, please visit the following web site for information on import of firearms: <http://www.atf.treas.gov/firearms/index.htm>. More information can be viewed at: <http://www.atf.treas.gov/firearms/form6updatesfaqs.htm>

The following selection of FAQ is provided from the above website for your information on obtaining and completing a Form 6 for temporary import. The website should be viewed periodically to ensure up to date information is obtained.

All non-immigrant aliens (with a few exceptions which are listed below) must obtain an import permit from ATF to temporarily import firearms and ammunition for hunting or other lawful sporting purposes. Please note this requirement applies to all non-immigrant aliens, not all non-residents (e.g., it does not apply to U.S. citizens residing abroad). The exceptions to this permit requirement are for certain foreign military personnel, official representatives of foreign governments, distinguished foreign visitors, and foreign law enforcement officers of friendly foreign governments entering the U.S. on official law enforcement business.

Q. What type of form do I, as a non-immigrant alien, need to file with ATF to temporarily import a firearm or ammunition for hunting or other lawful sporting purposes? A. You need to file ATF Form 6 NIA (Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War by Non-immigrant Aliens). The Form is both the application and, once approved, the permit you present to the U.S. Customs Service when you enter the United States. The Form 6 can be obtained by calling ATF's Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch at 202-927-8320 or ATF's Distribution Center at 703-455-7801. It also can be downloaded from ATF's Web site (www.atf.treas.gov).

Q. Do I need to attach any particular documentation to the Form 6 application I submit to ATF? A. Yes. When you file your Form 6 application, you must provide ATF with appropriate documentation demonstrating you fall within an exception to the non immigrant alien prohibition. Appropriate documentation includes a valid hunting license/permit from a State of the United States. In order to be valid, the license cannot have expired at the time of submission. An application for a hunting license/permit does not qualify for the exception. A Canadian hunting license/permit also does not qualify. Appropriate documentation also includes an invitation/registration to attend a target shooting competition or sports or hunting trade show sponsored by a national, State, or local firearms trade organization devoted to the collection, competitive use, or other sporting use of firearms. Invitations/registrations only will qualify for the exception if they are addressed to/filled out by the Form 6 applicant. If a hunting license/permit or an invitation/registration is faxed to ATF, all information must be legible on the faxed copy.

Q. Do I need to show anything other than the approved Form 6 permit to U.S. Customs when I enter the United States? A. When you enter the United States, you must show Customs both your approved Form 6 permit and appropriate documentation demonstrating you fall within an exception to the non immigrant alien prohibition. See FAQ 18 for a discussion on appropriate documentation.

Q. I'm a non-immigrant alien. I provided ATF with a copy of a hunting license when I filed my Form 6 import application. Can I provide Customs with a copy of the same hunting license when I enter the United States?

A. It depends. If the hunting license is still valid (meaning it has not expired) at the time you enter the United States, you may present Customs with a copy of the same license. However, if the hunting license has expired, you must get a new hunting license to present to Customs, or Customs will not allow you to import the firearm or ammunition. Please note, you must have a valid hunting license the entire time you possess firearms or ammunition in the United States or your possession will be illegal. Similarly, if you provided ATF with a copy of an invitation/registration to attend a target shooting competition or sports or hunting trade show, you may present Customs with a copy of the same invitation/registration, as long as it is for a future event.

Q. How long does it usually take for ATF to approve a Form 6 permit application? **A.** 6 to 8 weeks. Please note- this time frame begins to run once ATF receives a correctly completed application. The time frame is the same whether the application is submitted to ATF by U.S. mail, FedEx, fax, or hand delivery.

Q. Can I list more than one firearm on a Form 6 application? Can I also list ammunition on the same form? **A.** You may list more than one firearm on a Form 6 application and may include ammunition on the same form.

Q. I am a non-immigrant alien and come to the United States for multiple competitive target shooting events each year. Do I need to file a new Form 6 application for each event? **A.** No. When you apply for your import permit, you should attach your invitations/registrations to all the events you will be attending during the next 12 months. These will be attached to your approved permit. The import permit you receive will authorize you to bring in the firearms and ammunition listed on the permit repeatedly for 12 months after the date the permit is approved, as long as the invitations/registrations attached to the permit are for future events. If you do not expect to have invitations/registrations for future competitions until shortly before the competitions, you may want to rely on the hunting license exception to the non-immigrant alien prohibition. If you attach a hunting license to your application, you will be able to bring in the firearms and ammunition listed on the permit repeatedly for 12 months after the date the permit is approved, as long as you have a valid State hunting license to present to the Customs Inspector at the time of entry. You may rely on this exception even though you are *coming to the United States for competitive shooting events, and not to hunt.*

Q. (This Question deals with transit through the USA) I have to fly through a USA airport enroute to Canada. Do I need to obtain a Form 6 import permit from ATF for this trip if I am traveling with a gun? Does it make any difference if I stay in the airport the entire time I'm there or if I spend the night in the area of the US airport before continuing on to Canada? **A.** The same answer applies whether you stay in the airport or leave the airport and spend the night in the USA. You do not need to obtain a Form 6 import permit from ATF because you are **not entering the United States for legitimate hunting or lawful sporting purposes. However, you may need to obtain a temporary import license (DSP-61)** from the U.S. State Department, Office of Defense Trade Controls (ODTC) (202-663-2714). You should contact the ODTC for details. Whether or not you need a DSP-61, you should obtain a hunting license (if you do not fall within any other exception), if you will be taking possession of the firearm or ammunition in the United States. Otherwise your possession will be illegal. Moreover, you must ensure your possession does not violate State or local law. We suggest you contact State and local law enforcement authorities to inquire about any prohibitions.