



# Explosives Information Bulletin 20

## Ammunition collectors

### Authority to collect ammunition

Anyone collecting ammunition must hold an authority under sections 33 or 44 of the Explosives Regulation 2003 (the Regulation).

An authority for an ammunition collector is either:

- a. a current **licence to collect ammunition**, issued under section 33 of the Regulation, **or**
- b. a **prescribed ammunition collector**—see definition below and section 44 of the Regulation.

The following definitions apply:

**collectors' ammunition** means ammunition that is not for use and includes:

- small arms ammunition except where the projectile is filled with a high explosive charge or fitted with a live fuze or
- other ammunition that does not contain explosives.

**small arms ammunition** means ammunition for a firearm as follows including primers (cap type) used for reloading the ammunition:

- a shotgun
- any firearm with a calibre of not more than 25.4mm.

An authority is not required for these items, which are not regarded as collectors' ammunition:

- any cartridge case free from explosive material
- inert components of small arms ammunition (e.g. cartridge cases or projectiles)
- any ammunition that is sectioned or otherwise has had its integrity destroyed.

### Licence to collect ammunition

An applicant for a licence to collect ammunition can choose a one year or a five year licence. The licence to collect ammunition authorises the licence holder to import, export, purchase, possess, sell, transport and store collectors' ammunition but not to use the ammunition. Application forms are available on the [Department of Natural Resources and Mines web page](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au) 'Explosives in the community' (www.dnrm.qld.gov.au).

### Security assessment requirements

An applicant for a licence to collect ammunition who does not hold a weapons licence must be security assessed and pay a fee for that assessment. A [security assessment](#) involves a national criminal history check but not a politically motivated violence check (ASIO). Refer to Explosives Information Bulletin 37 for the current fees and to the DNRM web page 'General information on licensing and permit requirements'.



## Responsibilities of licence holders

Collectors' ammunition under the category "other collectors' ammunition" must be free from explosives.

The holder of a licence to collect ammunition and a prescribed ammunition collector must, on the request of an inspector of explosives, demonstrate to the inspector's satisfaction that the collectors' ammunition, other than small arms ammunition, is free of explosive material, as verified by a certificate from a competent person (see Section 147 of the Regulation).

Authorised collectors may only sell collectors' ammunition to another authorised ammunition collector (see Sections 74(h) and 75(b)(i) of the Regulation).

You must keep a list of the items and ensure that the collectors' ammunition is inaccessible to any person who is not authorised to possess such items.

## Prescribed ammunition collector

The definition of **prescribed ammunition collector** is:

- a. a museum or
- b. a person who is a member of a collectors association approved by the Chief Inspector under Section 148 of the Regulation.

A prescribed ammunition collector is authorised to purchase, possess, sell, transport and store collectors' ammunition but is not authorised to import, export or use the ammunition.

A prescribed ammunition collector is authorised only while remaining a member of an approved collectors association.

## Becoming approved as a collectors' association

An association may apply to the Chief Inspector for approval as a collectors association.

Under Section 148 of the Regulation, for an association to be approved as a collectors association, the Chief Inspector of Explosives must be 'reasonably satisfied' that the association:

- keeps a record of the name and address of each member of the association
- sends written correspondence to all its members at least once a yearwill, with the consent of the association's members, make the names and addresses of its members available.

These collectors associations are currently approved:

- Arms Collectors' Guild of Queensland Inc.
- Historical Arms Collectors' Branch of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia
- Australian Cartridge Collectors' Association
- 11th Light Horse Caboolture Troop & Military Museum Association Inc
- RSL (Returned & Services League of Australia) Queensland Branch\*.

\* Applies to sub-branches only and not individuals who hold a current membership to the sub-branch

## Importing collectors' ammunition

Importing ammunition for collection purposes is prohibited under the Commonwealth *Customs Act 1901* unless an import permit is first obtained from the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection or the Minister's delegate.

Applications for permission to import should be made to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) on the Form B710 'Application for permission to import Schedule 3 & 13 weapons'. This form is available from any ACBPS office, or on their website at [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).

Permission to import collectors' ammunition will only be granted by ACPBS if, the importation of items of warfare satisfy a statutory test under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

Collectors' ammunition imported by private collectors need to satisfy the collectors and non-government museum test. Criterion 1 of the test is that the importer must provide a copy of a licence or authority (if required) that demonstrates they are lawfully able to possess that item in the state or territory in which the item will be used.

All imported collectors' ammunition must meet the ACBPS document *Guide on Deactivating Warfare Items* can be downloaded from the ACBPS website above or by contacting the Firearms and Weapons, Trade Policy and Implementation Branch, see contact details below.

A completed application lodged with ACBPS takes a minimum of three weeks to process. You must obtain permission before the goods arrive in Australia. The maximum penalty for importing these goods without approval is a fine not exceeding \$275,000 or imprisonment for 10 years, or both.

Contact ACBPS for advice before making a purchase: [weaponspolicy@customs.gov.au](mailto:weaponspolicy@customs.gov.au).

For information on any ACBPS matters, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).

## Other information

Ammunition of all types, including collectors' ammunition, is included in the definition of 'explosive' under the Queensland [Explosives Act 1999](#) (the Act) and is controlled by that legislation for the safety of the community.

Any small arms ammunition (SAA) that is not for display and bona-fide collection is not collectors' ammunition. Anyone who has or had a weapon which can fire the SAA and bought the SAA under a Weapons licence and in quantities which are not bona-fide collector quantities, cannot choose to call the SAA Collectors' ammunitions even if they are a prescribed ammunition collector.

All types of ammunition not covered by the *Commonwealth Explosives Act 1961* are controlled under the Act and the Regulation.

