

A legislative amendment to the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (the Regs) - Firearms and Weapons, became law on 15 December 2015.

A B709A or B709D is no longer a requirement for re-importation in some cases (see below). This is obviously a great outcome for sporting shooters. Please find below some information relating to these changes which has been forwarded directly from Australian Border Force.

As per DIBP Notice 2015/40 which can be found here: <http://www.border.gov.au/Customsnotic.../Documents/2015-40.pdf>, on 15 December 2015, amendments were made to the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 to reduce the requirements for residents returning to Australia with firearms and related goods used in a lawful shooting competition or hunting activity overseas.

For those travellers, import permission will not be required where the following requirements are met upon arrival in Australia:

- the goods are Category A, B or H firearms, and their parts, magazines and ammunition;
- the importer is an Australian resident;
- the importer presents to the Australian Border Force a valid firearm licence issued by the State or Territory where they reside;
- the importer presents to the Australian Border Force the export permit used to export the goods; and
- the goods have not been modified (except for repair) since the last export from Australia.

In any other case, and for any additional controlled items that are purchased or otherwise obtained while overseas, travellers must obtain written certification (B709A or B709D Forms) from the State/Territory Police Firearm Registry or written permission from the Attorney-General's Department.