

What's New with Imports?

What is a B709?

The importation to Australia of firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, firearm magazines, accessories for firearms and weapons is restricted and controlled by the Customs and Border Protection Service.

To import any of these items into NSW, the person importing must first obtain approval from either the Commonwealth Attorney General or the NSW Police Firearms Registry.

Schedule 6 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulation 1956 specifies the type of approval required and specifies the tests required to be met for importation of the article. Where Schedule 6 indicates that a police certification is required, application for police confirmation and certification is made to the NSW Firearms Registry.

The police confirmation and certification confirms that the article being imported can be lawfully possessed in NSW by the person importing, and is presented to Customs for release of the article.

The police confirmation and certification is not a permit to import. It is simply notification to Customs that the person can lawfully possess the article in NSW. Customs may have other criteria on which to assess the article.

An example of this form is shown below.

The image shows a sample of the B709A form, titled 'IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS - POLICE CONFIRMATION AND CERTIFICATION'. The form is divided into several sections: 'CUSTOMER DETAILS', 'FIREARM DETAILS', 'CUSTOMER OFFICIAL USE', and 'NOTES'. The 'CUSTOMER DETAILS' section includes fields for the importer's name, address, and contact information. The 'FIREARM DETAILS' section includes fields for the firearm's make, model, caliber, and quantity. The 'CUSTOMER OFFICIAL USE' section includes fields for the importer's name, address, and contact information. The 'NOTES' section contains a list of items to be imported, with columns for 'Description', 'Quantity', 'Make', 'Model', 'Caliber', 'Magazine Capacity', 'Serial No.', 'Firearm No.', 'Country of Origin', and 'Date of Entry'. The form also includes a 'CUSTOMER OFFICIAL USE' section with fields for 'Name', 'Address', 'City', 'State', and 'Postcode'. The form is a standard document used for the importation of firearms into Australia.

What does the Police Confirmation and Certification contain?

The Police Confirmation and Certification confirms to Customs that the person importing:

- 1. Is authorised to possess the article in NSW (holds a licence or permit), or*
- 2. Does not need any authorisation to possess the article in NSW (no licence or permit required for possession in NSW).*

What if the person making application is not authorised to possess the article in NSW?

Where a person making application does not hold a licence or permit in NSW authorising possession of the article, and the article requires such a licence or permit for lawful possession in NSW, the application is simply refused and the person importing is told they are not authorised to possess the article in NSW.