



# SAFETY TESTS FOR IMPORTED FIREARMS

required to be tested, will not be subjected to the endurance test (Test No. 5).

6. Target rifles, target hand guns, trap guns and other special purpose firearms specified from time to time will be exempted from some or all of the safety tests at the discretion of the Department of Customs and Excise.

7. Antique firearms, as defined, will be exempted from safety testing. "Antique firearm" is defined as:—

- (a) Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap or similar type ignition system) manufactured in or before the year 1900;
- (b) Any firearm designed to use rimfire, pinfire or conventional centrefire fixed ammunition of a type not obtainable commercially;
- (c) Any non-working replica of any firearm described in (a) or (b) of this definition provided such replica cannot be converted to fire rimfire, pinfire or conventional centrefire fixed ammunition or any other type of ammunition.

## SAMPLES FOR TEST PURPOSES

8. Two per cent of the total number of each model in a shipment (with a minimum of three samples of each model) will be required to be submitted for testing. The samples will be selected at random.

9. Where a shipment of firearms is detained pending the outcome of safety testing, permission may be given, subject to the usual provisions relating to conditional removal of imports from the point of importation, for the goods to be held for safe-keeping at the importer's premises.

## Right of Appeal

10. Where an owner/importer disputes the results of the tests he may lodge a written request with the Commissioner, Commonwealth Police Force to have the shipment re-tested in Canberra. It will be the owner's/importer's responsibility to arrange for the samples to be forwarded under Customs supervision to Canberra and freight costs to and from Canberra will be borne by him.

## Modification of Failed Firearms

11. Where modification is possible, which would enable failed firearms to pass the safety tests, permission for this to be done, at the owner's/importer's expense, will be given by the Approved Authority. After modification the firearm will be required to be re-tested to verify that they conform to the safety requirements before release from Customs control will be given.

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## Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations

### Safety Tests for Imported Firearms

1. The firearm loaded with a test blank cartridge, fully cocked and with the safety catch or safety notch, if any, disengaged, shall not operate in such a way as to discharge the test blank when:

(a) it is held with the barrel vertical and dropped three times, being re-cocked after each drop, from a height of not more than 18 inches butt first onto a rubber mat one inch thick having a hardness reading of 75/85 British Standards and International Rubber Hardness and which is backed by a steel sheet;

(b) it is struck by a rubber hammer with a head weighing one pound and having a hardness reading of 75/85 British Standards and International Rubber Hardness which is held at the end of the handle with the head 12 inches above the place to be struck and allowed to fall under its own weight once at various distances along the length of the firearm with a maximum of 6 times with no pressure being exerted on the trigger and with the firearm being re-cocked after each blow;

(c) if having an exposed hammer or exposed hammers or if having a bolt action each hammer or bolt tail is struck once by a rubber hammer with a head weighing one pound and having a hardness reading of 75/85 British Standards and International Rubber Hardness which is held at the end of the handle with the head 12 inches above the place to be struck and allowed to fall under its own weight;

(d) if having an exposed hammer or cocking device or exposed hammers or cocking devices each hammer or cocking device is moved back towards the cocked position three times and immediately prior to the sear engaging the bent or hents in the fully cocked position and with no pressure being applied to the trigger the hammer or cocking device is released three times and allowed to travel forward under the pressure of the spring.

2. Unless the firearm is fitted with an adjustable trigger or triggers the trigger mechanism shall not operate when a force of 24 pounds is exerted on the central point of the trigger in the direction in which the trigger operates.

3. The firearm shall be fitted with an effective trigger guard.

4. (A) The firearm, unless it is a hammer firearm fitted with a half cock mechanism or safety bent, shall be fitted with a safety device which when engaged in the "safe" position prevents operation of the trigger mechanism and which can be disengaged only by a distinct pressure of the finger or thumb.

4. (B) The safety device shall clearly indicate that the firearm is in either a "Safe" or "Fire" condition.

5. The firearm shall satisfy the tests specified in the foregoing paragraphs after being loaded with a "dummy" round or test blank cartridge and functioned 500 times by cocking and pulling the trigger.

### Safety Tests for Imported Firearms

#### Explanatory Notes

Firearms, unless otherwise exempted, may be imported only if the Commissioner, Commonwealth Police Force, or an officer authorised by him, certifies that they satisfy the tests appropriate to the particular type of firearm being imported. Firearms which do not satisfy the tests are prohibited imports in terms of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations.

2. Imported firearms will be safety tested by testing officers appointed by the Commissioner, Commonwealth Police Force, hereinafter referred to as the Approved Authority. Testing will be carried out in the sequence listed at the port where the firearms are imported unless the Approved Authority otherwise directs.

#### Firearms Exempted from Safety Tests

3. Firearms of a specific make or model which has been tested and passed by the Approved Authority without modification will be released from Customs control without undergoing safety testing except when shipments are detained for examination under the "random check" procedures operating in respect of all imports. Firearms detained for "random check" examination will be subjected to all the tests applicable to that particular type of firearm.

4. Firearms brought to Australia as the personal effects of a tourist or temporary resident and intended to be re-exported will be released from Customs control without undergoing safety tests unless otherwise directed by the Department of Customs and Excise.

Note: A "temporary resident" is a person who intends to reside in Australia for a period not exceeding twelve months or such further time as the Department of Customs and Excise may allow. The tourist or temporary resident may be required to give an undertaking that the firearm will be exported from Australia.

5. Firearms taken from Australia as the personal effects of a passenger and brought back to Australia by that passenger will be released from Customs control without undergoing safety tests unless otherwise directed by the Department of Customs and Excise. Passengers' used firearms, if