



From SCI's Hunter Information Service



Taking a Firearm to Canada

In Canada, you need a permit whether you are importing your own hunting firearm(s) or borrowing a firearm from your hunting outfitter or friend. The following information is provided by the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#).

Limits:

- You may import up to seven (7) firearms into Canada. The [Firearm Declaration form \(RCMP 5589\)](#) allows you to list three (3) firearms. To import more, you must list them on a [Firearm Declaration Continuation Sheet \(RCMP 5590\)](#), which allows you to list four (4) additional guns.
- Maximum 5,000 rounds of ammunition allowed for personal use, but only 200 rounds are duty free upon import. Your firearm import permit allows you to purchase ammunition in Canada.
- Restricted firearms requiring special permitting include: handguns that are not listed as prohibited below; semi-automatic, center-fire rifles or shotguns with barrel lengths less than 18.5 inches (470 mm).
- Prohibited firearms include, but are not limited to: automatic firearms, handguns with barrels of 4.25 inches (105 mm) or less or able to shoot .25 or .32 caliber rounds; rifles or shotguns less than 26 inches (660 mm) in overall length or with barrels less than 18 inches (457 mm). Prohibited firearms may be seized and forfeited upon entry to Canada. They will not be returned to you, and you could face legal charges.

New Firearm Restrictions:

On May 1, 2020, the government of Canada announced the *Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted* to amend the Regulations that classify firearms (Classification Regulations) to prescribe certain firearms as prohibited firearms and certain devices as prohibited. Following the announcement, many firearms that were once classified as non-restricted or restricted are now re-classified as prohibited firearms.

The regulations prescribe the following firearms and their variants as "prohibited firearms":

- M16, M4, AR-10, AR-15 rifles

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- Ruger Mini-14 rifle
- Vz58 rifle
- M14 rifle
- Beretta CX4 Storm carbine
- Robinson Armament XCR rifle
- CZ Scorpion EVO 3 carbine and pistol
- SIG Sauer SIG MCX and SIG Sauer SIG MPX carbine and pistol
- Swiss Arms Classic Green and Four Seasons series

In addition, firearms with one or more of the following physical characteristics are re-classified as prohibited:

- firearms with a bore 20mm or greater (e.g. grenade launchers)
- firearms capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy greater than 10,000 Joules (e.g. .50 BMG caliber firearms)

Note: In accordance with guidance provided by the RCMP's Canadian Firearms Program, the nominal (i.e. standard) bore diameter measurements for 10 gauge and 12 gauge shotguns are below the 20mm threshold (19.69mm for 10ga, 18.42mm for 12ga) and, therefore, are not subject to the Government of Canada's new restrictions on firearms. Please be advised that some shotguns that are found to be a variant of the prohibited firearms may themselves be considered prohibited firearms.

The Regulations also prescribe the upper receivers of M16, AR-10, AR-15 and M4 pattern firearms to be prohibited devices.

Ensure Your Sport Firearm is not on Canada's Banned Firearms List

The list of firearms that have been banned in Canada is exceedingly long and includes some commonly used hunting firearms. You can check the [Armalytics](#) website to verify that the hunting gun you are taking to Canada is not prohibited.

Just select the right information in the filters on the left-hand column of the page. The center column lists all of the firearms meeting your filter selections and shows if they are restricted or prohibited.

Fees:

- An import permit costs \$25 CN payable by cash, credit card, debit card, traveler's checks or personal checks drawn on a Canadian bank.
- A permit to borrow a firearm costs \$30 CN. Payment by check or money order must be submitted in advance with the application. Checks must be drawn from a Canadian bank.
- For a five-year Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) the cost is \$190 CN but may change annually. Payment by check or money order must be submitted in advance with the application. Checks must be drawn from a Canadian bank.

Time Frame:

- Temporary import permits are issued upon arrival in Canada. You must present your completed [Non-Resident Firearm Declaration form \(RCMP 5589\)](#) to a Canadian Customs officer, who must

witness your signature. The officer will confirm your declaration, which will serve as your firearms license while hunting in Canada.

- For a five-year Possession and Acquisition License, there is a minimum 28-day waiting period. The PAL is a good option for hunters who travel to Canada every year or multiple times a year.
- Permits to borrow a firearm should be submitted as far in advance of your trip as possible. Applications are submitted to the [Chief Firearms Officer](#) of the province you are visiting and vary in required lead time.

Requirements for Import Permits:

- A completed [Non-Resident Firearm Declaration form \(RCMP 5589\)](#)
- Personal information: Complete name, date of birth
- Address of residence outside Canada (for visit of 60 days or less)
- Address where you are staying in Canada (for visits more than 60 days)
- One government-issued photo identification (must be numbered, such as a passport number or driver's license number)
- Details of each firearm: make, type, caliber/gauge, serial number
- Where your firearms will be located in Canada
- Do not sign your declaration form until you are before a Canadian Customs officer who must witness your signature.

Requirements for Borrowing Permits:

- Complete the [Application for a Temporary Borrowing License \(form RCMP 5513\)](#)
- A sponsor, either an outfitter or a Canadian resident licensed to possess a firearm and to hunt
- Either you or your sponsor may apply for your borrowing permit. But your sponsor is required to sign the declaration form in Section F - Sponsor Declaration.
- Name of the outfitter with whom you will be hunting. The outfitter must be authorized under the laws of a province or territory to provide services involving organized hunting in Canada.
- If a Canadian resident is your sponsor, he/she must have a valid firearms license and a valid hunting license.
- Your sponsor's hunting license number, firearms license number, and mailing address
- Your personal information
- Two forms of official identification
- Address and phone number where you will be staying and where you will be using the firearm

Requirements for a PAL

- You must pass the [Canadian Firearms Safety Course \(CFSC\)](#)
- For a PAL for restricted firearms, you must pass the CFSC and the [Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course](#)
- Undergo several background checks and in-depth investigations by Canadian authorities.
- A completed application for a [Possession and Acquisition License under the Firearms Act \(RCMP 5592\)](#)
- A letter of good conduct from your local or state police on official department letterhead

- One passport quality photograph, and a guarantor confirming the photo accurately identifies you

Special Permits for Restricted Firearms

To enter Canada with a “restricted firearm” you must have an Authorization to Transport (ATT). To apply for an ATT, call the Canadian Firearms Program at 800-731-4000 in Canada or the US; elsewhere, call 506-624-6626.

Clearing Your Firearms:

Upon arriving in Canada, present your firearm and declaration form to Customs and sign it in front of the agent. The agent will confirm your declaration, which becomes your temporary firearm license for up to sixty (60) days.

If you have a Possession and Acquisition License (PAL), you only need to make an oral declaration to a customs officer and show your PAL.

Note: Canadian Customs will also conduct a brief background check using Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database from the United States to search for records of felony or misdemeanor charges and convictions. Travelers with any such records will be denied entry into Canada. This includes charges for driving under the influence and domestic disturbance incidents no matter how long ago they occurred.

Firearm Storage, Display and Transportation Regulations

Firearms in Canada must be stored and transported as follows:

- A secure locking device, such as a trigger lock or cable lock, should be attached, so the firearms cannot be fired; or firearms should be locked in a cabinet, container or room that is difficult to break into.
- Ammunition should be stored separately or locked up. It can be stored in the same locked container as the firearms.
- If left in an unattended vehicle, firearms should be kept in the trunk, or out of sight. The vehicle should be locked.