

Reference: IR-01-22-10523

13 May 2022

██████████
Email: ██████████

Tēnā koe ██████████

Request for information

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 12 April 2022. Your questions are listed below, followed by an answer for each.

The police website states immigration is not a valid reason to obtain a visitor firearms license. How is a new migrate able to travel to New Zealand with Firearm's and legally possess them whilst their application for a full license is processed?

An unlicensed person is not able to import firearms into New Zealand. Someone migrating to New Zealand could have them imported by a firearms or dealer's licence holder in New Zealand for holding until the application for a firearms licence has been completed.

Anyone in New Zealand without a firearms licence can use a firearm under the immediate supervision of a firearms licence holder. Any applicant for a firearms licence must be able to demonstrate their fit and proper status so that they can be considered against the requirements of section 24A¹ of the Arms Act 1983.

Regulation 15 of Arms Regulations 1992² provides additional clarity on what is required to be provided as part of the application for a firearms or dealer's licence. The process for applying for a firearms licence is described on the Police website³. The process is supported by information found in the Police National Intelligence Application, by what the applicant tells Police, and by what related and independent referees for the applicant tell Police. Overseas travel, countries visited, and duration of time in these countries is

¹ <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS440359.html>

² <https://legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1992/0346/latest/DLM169118.html>

³ <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/licences-permits-and-endorsements/apply-new-zealand-firearms>

information that is required to be provided in the application. In addition to this, Police can consider any other information to aid the decision on the licence application.

What is police policy about New Zealand firearms license holders who temporarily reside overseas bringing firearms back to New Zealand when they return?

An import permit would be required to bring firearms into New Zealand. Any application will need to be considered on the information that is available. Part of this will include what the firearm is and proof of it being lawfully obtained. The information could also include how long the firearms licence holder has been overseas, which countries they have visited, what they are seeking to import, whether they have the appropriate endorsement(s) (if required), and whether they have the right security at their address which has been checked and approved by Police.

What is the process for a New Zealand firearms license holder currently overseas to obtain an import permit in order to bring firearms back to New Zealand on their return?

The same process applies as above. The process for applying for an import permit is described on the Police website⁴.

What is the process for New Zealand FA license holders who residing overseas temporarily to bring with them B category firearms on their return to New Zealand where their current New Zealand license is only A cat but they are legally possessing a B cat firearm in the overseas jurisdiction? Can they bring the B cat firearm back with them and have the police or another New Zealand B cat holder take possession of firearm until they obtain the correct endorsement?

The permanent importation of a pistol can only be done by firearms or dealer's licence holders that have the appropriate endorsement. An existing firearms licence holder seeking a B endorsement must be a member of a recognised pistol club, meet the requirements of that club, and then can make application to Police to be considered for the B endorsement. Detail of the B endorsement application process is found on the Police website⁵. This application process includes referee checks, including from the recognised pistol club, and checking and approving security for pistols.

Police has a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/firearms-information-responses>

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Mike McIlraith
Director Partnerships
Arms Safety and Control

⁴ <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/licences-permits-and-endorsements/apply-permits-import-or>

⁵ <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/licences-permits-and-endorsements/apply-endorsement>