

New law governing the ownership and purchasing of weapons.



Important changes about this new law came into application.

All weapons are listed according to three categories:

- Illegal or prohibited weapons
- weapons sold over the counter
- Weapons submitted to authorization.

1. The detention of **prohibited weapons** is strictly forbidden.

You must surrender these illegal weapons to the local police of your current residence before 30 June 2007.

War weapons and automatic firearms are now considered as prohibited.

These prohibited weapons should be freely surrendered to the Local Police, or transferred to an authorized and licensed purchaser, or they have to be made disabled by the office “ Banc d’épreuves” des armes à feu à Liège

2. If you are in possession of a firearm **without authorization**, you must proceed as follows and this before 30 June 2007

- Either register the firearm at the local police and apply for a license,
- or freely surrender the firearm to the local police of your residence.

3. You are legally in possession of a **registered (licensed) weapon (with a form Modèle 4)**, formerly classified as “**war weapons**” or “**defensive weapons**”.

- a) If your current license has not reached **5 (five) years**, that license will remain valid until the 5 years have elapsed. Before the expiry date of the 5 years, that license would be submitted to renewal at the office of the “ Gouverneur de la Province” of your residence.
- b) Your current license is greater than **5 (five) years**, you must apply for its renewal at the office of “ Gouverneur de la Province” of your residence and this before 30 June 2007.
- c) You are bearer of a **hunting license** issued by the “ Région Wallonne”, “Bruxelloise or Flamande”, **still valid** and you own a long hunting firearm,

⇒ if you are in possession of an authorization Modèle 4, that authorization will remain valid as long as you have a valid hunting license.

4. You are in possession of a hunting weapon or a sporting weapon

- You were in possession of an authorization –European firearm card,
⇒ You **must register** that weapon at the Local Police of your residence before 30/06/20007

a) **If that firearm is a long hunting firearm and if you are bearer of a hunting license,**

⇒ You will be receiving a new attestation, which will remain valid as long as you are bearer of that valid hunting license.

If that weapon is made for sporting purposes, you must obtain a firearm-sporting license before 30/06/2007 at the office of the “ Communauté Française, flamande or Germanophone”.

b) You are not the bearer of a hunting license.

(1) You have purchased the weapon **before** 01/01/2006,

- ⇒ you must apply for an authorization at the office of “Gouverneur de la Province”.
- ⇒ That authorization will remain valid for 5 years

(2) You have purchased the weapon **after** 01/01/2006,

- ⇒ you must apply for an authorization at the office of “Gouverneur de la Province”.
- ⇒ That authorization will remain valid for 1 year.

5. Reasons and conditions for the buying and the detention of firearms.

a) Reason given in support of request

The following reasons for owning a firearm are the only ones recognized by law

- Hunting and/or game management
- Sport and recreation
- Exercise of a hazardous profession
- Self-defence
- Intention to acquire a collection of historic weapons based on a theme
- Participation in historic, folkloric, cultural or scientific activities

b) In order to be granted such a permit,

- the requestor **must be aged over 18**,
- have no **previous convictions**,
- give a **legitimate reason** and prove that it is **genuine**,
- obtain **authorization** from the spouse and children over 18,
- pass a **theoretical and practical examination**
- produce a **medical certificate** confirming that he or she is fit to handle a weapon without risk to him-/herself or to others.

For the request to be taken into consideration, the requestor is bound to pay the dues.

6. If you consider **purchasing** or **importing** weapons from any other countries but Belgium, an import license will be necessary before importing that weapon in Belgium.

7. Where to obtain the application form?

The application form for detaining “licensed firearms” is at your disposal at the SHAPE FEDERAL POLICE Registration Section, Building 210, Room 108.

It might also be requested by email sent to jacques.dobbels@shape.nato.int or to registration.office@shape.nato.int

8. All applicants who had introduced these last months a request for the same purpose (former document) are requested to start again the new application. The fees paid will be reimbursed when reporting to the SFPRS.

DO NOT FORGET : THE DEADLINE IS 30 JUNE 2007.

We realize these changes are not easy to understand.

Should you have any question, feel free to contact my colleague,
Commissaire Jacques DOBBELS, OIC SFPRS by mail or phone (065.44 3933)

Your **SHAPE** Federal Police.