

firearm regulations FOR SOUTH AFRICA | AND BEYOND

by Anne Gaines-Burrill

OCEANS UNITED BY RAIL

TOURS D'EXCELLENCE v/a

HUNTERS

*Support
and Travel*





images courtesy of www.freedigitalphotos.net | Gualberto107

THE FIREARMS CONTROL ACT, 2000 (ACT 60 OF 2000)

BACKGROUND

After the change of government in 1994, South Africa was brought back into the United Nations and other world bodies and therefore had to adhere to various protocols that are laid down by these organizations. Pressure was put on South Africa and various member states of SADC (Southern African Development Community) of which there are 15 member states, namely, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to implement a SADC protocol on Firearms. In 1999 South Africa led the way and approved a policy on Firearms Control that was to be proposed and eventually to be written into law in all member states of SADC.

Hence the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 50 of 2000) was promulgated in South Africa and the aim was to:

1. Improve control over legally possessed firearms.
2. To reduce firearm-related crime
3. Enable the government to remove illegally possessed firearms from society.
4. To control the supply and use of firearms and prosecute offenders for negligent or criminal use of firearms.

You might ask where hunting comes into this scheme of things. The regulating authority seemed to think that point 3 and 4 were applicable to the hunting industry and wrote the provisions into the Act that related to visitors and the temporary import permit.

Over time the Act was to be phased in, with the whole Act being accredited and in place in its entirety by 30 June 2009. The part of the Act that affects visitors bringing firearms to South Africa is in place and has been for three years, with very little change. The intention of the protocol is to have one Firearm Permit that will be valid in all SADC signatory states, but we wait with anticipation as to whether this comes to pass.

At this time Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar (at present suspended from SADC) Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles and Swaziland prohibit the temporary importation of firearms by visitors to their respective countries.

The following firearm and import regulations apply to South Africa and the remaining SADC member states, with a brief summary of the requirements for the other African countries where hunting is conducted.





SOUTH AFRICA

- ▶ Application can be made in advance through a third party or you can apply on arrival after going through the immigration and customs formalities at both OR Tambo International Airport, and Cape Town International Airport.
- ▶ No fee is payable to the regulatory authorities for the permit.
- ▶ A Transporters Permit is required to be in place and issued to an individual or a company if firearms and ammunition are going to be stored, transported or handled on behalf of the owner. The responsible person must be competent and hold a competency certificate in all five disciplines i.e Handgun, shotgun, rifle, hand machine carbine (semi-automatic) and now a muzzleloader.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Semi-automatic shotguns for wing shooting, or a custom-made handgun can be brought into SA for hunting purposes only. The application must be made 60 days in advance of arrival by a third party or directly to the Central Firearms Register.
- ▶ You can temporarily import a maximum of four firearms per hunter, but not more than one of the same caliber.
- ▶ A maximum of 200 rounds of ammunition is allowed to be brought into South Africa by regulation, but please keep in mind the airline restriction instigated by IATA (International Airline Transport Association) that 11 lbs (5 kg's) of ammunition is allowed, per hunter.
- ▶ You can only bring ammunition applicable to the firearms that you will be bringing with you.
- ▶ No person under the age of 21 is allowed to bring firearms to South Africa or apply for a temporary firearms import permit in his/her name.
- ▶ The barrel, frame or action is to be marked with the same serial number.
- ▶ Automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ Semi-automatic shotguns for wing-shooting, or a custom-made handgun, can be brought into South Africa for hunting purposes only. The application must be made in advance of arrival either by a third party or to the Central Firearms Register.
- ▶ If the handgun is custom-made and not on the Central Firearms Registry computer, you can be asked to obtain a letter

from the manufacturer that states the firearm is manufactured for hunting purposes only, and also photographs will be requested.

- ▶ No self-protection firearms allowed.
- ▶ Muzzleloaders must now go through the same permit process as any other firearm as from the 10th of January 2012. No special dispensations are in place any longer. Black powder can only be purchased now once a South African Temporary Import is in place and issued by the relevant authorities.
- ▶ Air rifles that eject more than 8 joules of energy require a license. Any air rifle that has a calibre of a .22 and bigger must have a temporary import permit.
- ▶ In-transit permits are required by any passenger spending the night in South Africa while in transit to a third country. The same prerequisites apply as obtaining the normal temporary import permit.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

Permit to be obtained by a third party:

1. Copy of a form I letter requesting the third party to obtain the permit in advance of your arrival and a declaration that you are aware of the safe handling, storage, transportation and use of the firearms in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000).
2. Copy of your passport, photo and signature page. This copy must be notarized as a true copy of the original, stamped and signed by a notary accordingly.
3. Proof of ownership in the form of a US Customs form 4457 or a firearm licence, depending on your country of origin. This copy must also be notarized as a true copy of the original.
4. A copy of the SAPS 520 application form completed in black ink.
5. A letter of invitation from your outfitter confirming the dates of your hunt, the place the hunt is being conducted, the species you are harvesting and the firearms he suggests you bring,(appropriate calibers for the respective species to be harvested).
6. If you wish to bring a semiautomatic shotgun or handgun you must supply a letter of motivation stating the reason for wanting to hunt in South Africa with these firearms keeping in mind the application must be submitted 60 days before arrival in SA.

PERMIT TO BE OBTAINED BY THE HUNTER ON ARRIVAL:

- ▶ Passport
- ▶ Proof of ownership in the form of a US Customs form 4457, or firearm licence depending on your country of origin.
- ▶ SAPS 520 form completed in black ink, but the signature on page 6 must be completed in front of the Police official. It cannot be signed before arriving.
- ▶ A copy of a letter of invitation from your outfitter and I or professional hunter, with the relevant permit numbers on it for the outfitter and I or professional hunter issued by the regulating authority.
- ▶ A copy of the proof of export (applicable to some European countries) obtainable before departing your country of residence.
- ▶ A hard copy of your flight schedule I flight itinerary.

BOTSWANA

There is a change to the hunting provisos in Botswana this year and hunting is only permitted on private land and some government areas subject to being successful in an auction bid that are held from time to time.

- ▶ Application for your firearm import permit to be made 35 days in advance of arrival to your outfitter.
- ▶ The application must be made by your outfitter on your behalf.
- ▶ The admin fee of approximately US \$150 per hunter is charged by the outfitter to complete the required paperwork and submit to the Police for issuance.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Only 2 rifles and 1 shotgun per hunter are allowed into Botswana
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ Military-style firearms and calibers like .308/.303 are prohibited as is .22 caliber.
- ▶ A maximum of 100 rounds of ammunition per firearm is allowed.

* An import tax is charged by Customs on arrival and this is subject to the calibre size of the ammunition.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. An application form will be sent to you by the outfitter and returned no later than 35 days before arrival into Botswana.
1. You must also send a Letter of Proxy giving the outfitter permission to obtain the permit on the hunters behalf.
2. Notarised copy of the proof of ownership in the form of a US Customs form 4457 I or a firearm license, depending on your country of origin.
3. Notarised copy of the signature and photo page of the passport.

MOZAMBIQUE

- ▶ Application for your temporary firearm import permit must be made in advance on your behalf by your outfitter.
- ▶ A fee of approximately US \$300 per hunter, depending on the number of firearms and amount of ammunition you wish to import. There is a Police licence and temporary import permit from customs that has to be obtained.



RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited
- ▶ A maximum of 60 rounds of ammunition per firearm is allowed.
- ▶ Your outfitter will request information from you and will submit an application on your behalf as it must be submitted in the local Portuguese language. This must be done at least eight weeks before arriving in Mozambique

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. You need to send 4 x colour passport photos.
2. 2 x certified copies of the signature and photo page of your passport.
3. 2 certified copies of your proof of ownership (either the US Customs form 4457 or a copy of your firearm licence, whichever is applicable to your country of origin).



NAMIBIA

- ▶ Application for a Namibian Temporary Import Permit can be made by the hunter on arrival in Namibia.
- ▶ No fee is applicable for the issuing of the firearm permit.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ No limit to the number of firearms brought into the country, but please keep in mind the airline restriction on the carriage of firearms and baggage allowance.
 - ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
 - ▶ Maximum of 80 rounds of ammunition per firearm is allowed.
 - ▶ Only ammunition is allowed for the specific caliber of firearm that you bring into Namibia.
-



TANZANIA

- ▶ Application for your firearm import permit must be made in advance of arrival. If the permit is not available on your arrival you cannot take your firearms out of the airport.
- ▶ Application can be made on your behalf by your outfitter.
- ▶ A fee is payable to obtain a firearm permit. Depending on the outfitter it is approximately US \$250 per firearm.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ A maximum of 3 firearms are allowed.
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ Maximum of 100 rounds of ammunition is allowed per firearm.
- ▶ Minimum caliber allowed for dangerous game is .375
- ▶ Minimum caliber on all other game is .240.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Good copy of your passport, photo and signature page.
2. Good copy of your proof of ownership depending on where you come from, either the US Customs form 4457 or your firearm licence.
3. 6 x colour passport photographs. A good scanned passport photocopy can be accepted.
4. You must declare the exact number of rounds of ammunition you intend to bring into the country. Don't bring more or less, it can cause complications with the authorities.

ZAMBIA

Hunting in Zambia on Government concessions has been closed for the year of 2013 so please check with your outfitter/booking agent if anything has changed for the New Year.



- ▶ Application for your Firearm Import permit must be made in advance of your arrival. This must be made by your outfitter.
- ▶ The fee is approximately US \$250 per hunter to obtain a firearm import permit.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Maximum of 3 firearms per hunter is allowed.
- ▶ No restriction on the amount of ammunition bought into Zambia but you will be restricted by the airline: a maximum of 11 lbs (5 kg's) per hunter is allowed.
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic handguns prohibited.
- ▶ Military-style firearms are also prohibited.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Copy of the photo and signature page of your passport.
2. Good copy of the proof of ownership which is either the US Customs form 4457 or a firearm licence, depending on your country of residence.



ZIMBABWE

- ▶ Application for a temporary firearm import permit can be made on arrival at the port of entry.
- ▶ Officially there is no fee payable for the issuing of the firearm permit.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Handguns are permitted to be used as a backup or as a primary hunting firearm. It is advised to inform your outfitter so he can apply in advance for a handgun permit.
- ▶ BUT no handguns are allowed in National Parks and Park Estates.
- ▶ Should you wish to hunt with a bow in the National Parks and Park Estates, a permit is required to be issued in advance of arrival from the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management.
- ▶ Semi- and automatic firearms are strictly prohibited in Zimbabwe.
- ▶ Maximum of 100 rounds of ammunition is allowed per firearm.
- ▶ You may only bring ammunition applicable to the firearm you are bringing into the country. Do not take ammunition into Zimbabwe if you do not have a firearm.
 - ❖ A customs fee is payable on arrival on the ammunition bought into Zimbabwe.
 - ❖ Department of Immigration Control will ask incoming hunters to produce a CMU certificate which is a declaration issued by Department of National Parks and Wild Life to the outfitter on your behalf ... A copy of this must be produced to the Immigration Official at the port of entry by the hunter and stamped before entering the country.



ETHIOPIA

- ▶ Application for your firearm import permit must be made in advance of arrival. The initial application must be made by your outfitter.
- ▶ The fee is approximately US \$250 per firearm. This is applicable just to get the Firearm import permit.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Maximum of 2 firearms allowed per hunter.

- ▶ Maximum of 50 rounds of ammunition per firearm is allowed.
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are strictly prohibited.
- ▶ Military-style firearms are prohibited.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. The outfitter will need a good copy of the photo and signature page of your passport.
2. A good copy of the proof of ownership, be it the US Customs form 4457 or a copy of your firearm licence.
3. Please supply a flight itinerary issued by an airline or travel agent with all your flights stipulated on it and make sure the airline you choose to fly on to these countries will transport sporting weapons.

BURKINA FASO

- ▶ Application for your firearm import permit must be made in advance of your arrival.
- ▶ It can be made by your outfitter and there is a fee of EUR 100 payable per firearm.



RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Only 2 firearms are allowed per hunter.
- ▶ Maximum of 50 rounds of ammunition and 100 shotgun cartridges are allowed.
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ No military-style firearms allowed.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Good copy of your passport, signature and photo page.
2. Copy of your proof of ownership like the US Customs form 4457 or your firearm licence depending on the requirements of the country you originate from.
3. Please supply a flight itinerary issued by an airline or travel agent with all your flights stipulated on it and make sure the airline you choose to fly on to these countries will transport sporting weapons.



CAMEROON

- ▶ The application to temporarily import firearms into Cameroon for hunting purposes must be made in advance of your arrival into Cameroon.
- ▶ The application must be made at the nearest Cameroon Consulate to your place of residence.
- ▶ The consular fee is approximately US \$600. Once the permit is issued it will be sent to your outfitter who will obtain your hunting licence.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Maximum of 2 firearms allowed per hunter
- ▶ Maximum of 50 rounds of ammunition per firearm is allowed.
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ Military-style firearms are strictly prohibited.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. A good copy of your passport (photo and signature page) is required when applying.
2. Proof of ownership of the firearms, which is either the US Customs form 4457 or your firearm licence.
3. Please supply a flight itinerary issued by an airline or travel agent with all your flights stipulated on it and make sure the airline you choose to fly on to these countries will transport sporting weapons.



BENIN

- ▶ Application must be made in advance of your arrival by your outfitter. The cost for the firearm import permit and your hunting licence is approximately EUR 850.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Maximum of 2 firearms and 50 rounds of ammunition per firearm is allowed.
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ No military-style firearms are allowed.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Copy of your passport, signature and photo page.
2. Proof of ownership of the firearms, which is either the US Customs form 4457 or a copy of the firearm licence applicable to your country of origin.
3. Please supply a flight itinerary issued by an airline or travel agent with all your flights stipulated on it and make sure the airline you choose to fly on to these countries will transport sporting weapons.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



- ▶ Application for your firearm import permit must be made in advance of your arrival into the C.A.R.
- ▶ There is a fee of EUR 850 approximately to be paid for your firearm import permit and hunting licence. The application is submitted by your outfitter.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ There are no restrictions on the number of firearms allowed into the C.A.R. You can bring one firearm in under 6 mm and one shotgun, with the rest over 6 mm in caliber size.
- ▶ Any amount of ammunition is allowed. (But here you will be restricted by the airline and the amount of firearms/ammunition you can carry).
- ▶ Handguns, semi- and automatic firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ Military-style firearms are prohibited.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Good copy of your passport, signature and photo page.
2. Copy of your proof of ownership, which is either the US Customs form 4457 or your firearm licence, whichever is applicable to your country of residence.
3. Please supply a flight itinerary issued by an airline or travel agent with all your flights stipulated on it and make sure the airline you choose to fly on to these countries will transport sporting weapons.



UGANDA

- ▶ Application can be made on your behalf by your outfitter
- ▶ A fee is payable of approximately US \$200 to obtain your firearm permit.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- ▶ Maximum of 2 firearms allowed with 50 rounds of ammunition
- ▶ No semi- or automatic firearms allowed.
- ▶ Handguns are prohibited, as are military-style firearms.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Application submitted on your behalf by your outfitter.
2. Copy of your proof of ownership be it the US Customs form 4457 or a copy of your firearm licence.
3. Please supply a flight itinerary issued by an airline or travel agent with all your flights stipulated on it and make sure the airline you choose to fly on to these countries will transport sporting weapons.

The Ugandan High Commission have confirmed that this is a temporary requirement and in time these rules and regulations can be amended. *Subject to Governmental approval.*



If you are planning to visit any of these countries it is advisable to make a few security checks with your intended outfitter first, then check with your International Relations department of the country you come from and watch the press for signs of unrest in the country you plan to hunt in.

If you have any queries or questions on the temporary importation of firearms to South Africa or any other country in Africa please ask your outfitter | professional hunter or contact me at www.hunterssupport.com | air2000@global.com



Images courtesy of www.freedigitalphotos.net | Gualberto107

Anne Gaines-Burrill is the sole owner/director of Air 2000 which is a charter company that specializes in the transportation of hunters around southern Africa. With the change in the Firearms Control Act, Anne decided to get involved in the implementation of the requirements and has taken time to study the Act and has acquired the knowledge to offer assistance through Hunters Support Services to visiting hunters obtaining their pre-issued firearms permits and generally helping with the arrangements for a trouble free safari.

Hunters' Support | 1st Floor Terminal Building | Lanseria International Airport | Johannesburg | South Africa
Tel: +27 11 659 2649 | Fax: +27 11 659 2931 | air2000@global.co.za

The information in this booklet is current and correct at the time of going to print but rules and regulations are subject to change

www.hunterssupport.com