

Introduction of weapons and ammunition from a Member State of the European Union

Rules (by weapon category)

Category 1 and 4 weapons and ammunition

●You reside in another Member State of the European Union and you are travelling to France (temporary transfer)

Possessors of category 1 and 4 firearms (**sporting shooters**) must have:

- the **European firearms pass**;
- an **invitation in writing** to an **official target shooting competition** giving the date and location of the competition.

Subject to these conditions, they are authorised to introduce temporarily onto French territory up to **six** target shooting firearms classified in one of the categories subject to public law, including no more than **three** classified in paragraphs 1 to 3 of category **1** or centre-fire firearms classified in category **4**.

●You reside in France and you purchase a firearm and/or ammunition in another Member State of the European Union (permanent transfer)

Permanent transfer of **category 1** (§1, 2 and 3) and **category 4** firearms, ammunition and their components is subject to the obtaining of a **prior agreement for transfer of firearms and ammunition**.

Applications for prior agreement for category 1 or 4 firearms must be made using form **CERFA no. 11290*01** and sent in **triplicate** to the **Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects (bureau E/2, cellule matériels de guerre, 11, rue des deux communes, 93558 Montreuil Cedex - Tel : 01 57 53 46 80 , fax : 01 57 53 45 85)**.

The application for prior agreement must be accompanied by a photocopy of the **firearm(s) acquisition and possession authorisation** delivered by the prefecture of the place of residence.

Two copies of the prior agreement are delivered; they are valid for **one year**. Copy no. 2 must be sent to the firearms supplier by the beneficiary, so that the supplier can obtain the **transfer permit** delivered by the authorities of the exporting country following the prior agreement by France.

A copy of the transfer permit accompanies the firearms/ammunition to the destination; it must be shown when required by authorised agencies.

Category 5 weapons and ammunition

●You reside in another Member State of the European Union and you are travelling to France (temporary transfer)

Hunters and sporting shooters can visit France with one or more firearms in order to carry on their activity, without prior authorisation, under the following conditions:

- they must be in possession of the **European firearms pass** referring to the firearms;
- hunters** must be able to **prove** that they are travelling for the purpose of hunting, and **sporting shooters** must show an **invitation in writing** or proof of their registration for an official target shooting competition bearing the date and the location of the competition;
- hunters who hold hunting permits** can introduce **three** hunting firearms in category **5** or classified among category **7** firearms subject to declaration, and **one hundred** cartridges per firearm.

●You reside in France and you purchase a firearm and/or ammunition in another Member State of the European Union (permanent transfer)

Permanent transfer of category 5 firearms, ammunition and their components is subject to the obtaining of a **prior agreement for transfer of firearms and ammunition**.

Applications for prior agreement must be made using form **CERFA no. 11290*01** and sent in **triplicate** to the **Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects (bureau E/2, cellule matériels de guerre, 11, rue des deux communes, 93558 Montreuil Cedex - Tel : 01 57 53 46 80, fax : 01 57 53 45 85)**.

The prior agreement application must be accompanied by a photocopy of the validation of the hunting permit or the target shooting licence (currently-valid documents issued by France).

Two copies of the prior agreement are delivered; they are valid for **one year**. Copy no. 2 must be sent to the firearms supplier by the beneficiary, so that the supplier can obtain the **transfer permit** delivered by the authorities of the exporting country following the prior agreement by France.

A copy of the transfer permit accompanies the firearms/ammunition to the destination; it must be shown when required by authorised agencies.

Category 6 weapons

Temporary or permanent introduction of category 6 weapons from another Member State is subject to **authorisation for importation of war materiel, weapons and ammunition (AIMG)**.

The application is made using form **CERFA 11192*01**.

Only the category 6 weapons designated by name in Article 2 of the decree of 6 May 1995 are subject to **authorisation for importation of war materiel, weapons and ammunition (AIMG)**.

These are:

- *“bayonets, sword-bayonets, daggers, dagge -knives, coshes, clubs, cane swords, lead and iron-tipped sticks, excluding those that are tipped at only one end, crossbows, Japanese flails (nunchaku), throwing stars, knuckledusters, competition catapults, tranquilliser dart guns.*
- *generators of incapacitating or lachrymatory aerosols”.*

Epees, sabres and bows are thus **not subject to AIMG**.

Special provisions are applicable to **daggers and dagger knives**. Only daggers and dagger knives showing **all** the following characteristics are subject to AIMG:

“blade integral with the grip or fitted with a system for making it integral with the handle, double-edged over its whole length or at least at the point, of length greater than fifteen centimetres, of thickness greater than or equal to four millimetres, with a grip incorporating a guard”.

Three copies of the completed AIMG application must be sent to the **Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects (bureau E/2, cellule matériels de guerre, 11, rue des deux communes, 93558 Montreuil Cedex - Tel : 01 57 53 46 80 , fax : 01 57 53 45 85)**.

It is not necessary to present the weapons at a customs office.

Category 7 weapons and ammunition

●You reside in another Member State of the European Union and you are travelling to France (temporary transfer)

Hunters and sporting shooters can visit France with one or more firearms in order to carry on their activity, without prior authorisation, under the following conditions:

- they must be in possession of the **European firearms pass** referring to the firearms;
- hunters** must be able to **prove** that they are travelling for the purpose of hunting, and **sporting shooters** must show an **invitation in writing** or proof of their registration for an official target shooting competition bearing the date and the location of the competition;
- hunters who hold hunting permits** can introduce **three** hunting firearms in category **5** or classified among category **7** firearms subject to declaration, and **one hundred** cartridges per firearm.

●You reside in France and you purchase a firearm and/or ammunition in another Member State of the European Union (permanent transfer)

●**For firearms**: France does not issue prior agreements for transfer of firearms and ammunition for category 7 firearms. However, these firearms must be accompanied by the corresponding **firearms and ammunition transfer permit** delivered by the exporting country.

●**For ammunition**: transfer of category 7 ammunition from another Member State to France is subject to the obtaining of a **prior agreement for transfer of firearms and ammunition**.

Applications for prior agreement are made using form **CERFA no. 11290*01** and must be sent in **triplicate** to the **Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects (bureau E/2, cellule matériels de guerre, 11, rue des deux communes, 93558 Montreuil Cedex - Tel : 01 57 53 46 80, fax : 01 57 53 45 85)**.

A firearms and ammunition **transfer permit** is then delivered by the authorities of the exporting country following the prior agreement by France.

A copy of the transfer permit accompanies the firearms/ammunition to the destination; it must be shown when required by authorised agencies.

Category 8 weapons

Temporary or permanent introduction of category 8 §1 and §3 firearms from the European Union to French destinations is **unrestricted**, subject to the provision of **proof of the historical character of the firearm**. In practice, the firearms may be inspected by the customs authorities.

In addition, the public authorities are authorised to ensure that **deactivated** firearms in **category 8§2** present **guarantees equivalent** to those provided by the *Banc d'épreuve de Saint-Etienne*, the institution responsible for firearm deactivation in France.