

Importation from a non-EU country

Rules (by weapon category)

Category 1 and 4 weapons and ammunition

(DGDDI/Bureau E2)

● You reside outside France (in a non-EU country) and you are travelling to France (temporary importation)

Possessors of category 1 and 4 firearms (**sporting shooters**) can import **competition firearms and the corresponding ammunition (categories 1 and 4)** temporarily, under the temporary admission customs procedure, on the occasion of **international competitions**.

However, they must be able to present an **official invitation** from the organisation to any authorised person, including any customs officer, specifying the dates, locations, firearms used, etc. The quantity of ammunition authorised varies according to the category: contact the organiser for information.

● You reside in France and you purchase a firearm and/or ammunition in a non-EU country (permanent importation)

Permanent importation of category 1 and 4 firearms and ammunition is subject to **autorisation for importation of war materiel, weapons and ammunition (AIMG)**.

The AIMG application is made using form **CERFA 11192*02**. **Four** copies of the completed form 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).

The application must be accompanied by the **acquisition and possession authorisation**, delivered by the prefecture of your place of residence in France.

When you go through customs, you must submit **three** copies of an **importation certificate (form CERFA no. 11190*01)** with the corresponding customs declaration and AIMG.

Weapons are subject to customs duties ranging from 1.7% to 3.2% and to VAT at the standard rate of 19.6% (goods with a value of less than or equal to 175 euros may be exempted from customs duties under the conditions stipulated for **travellers**).

Category 5 weapons and ammunition

● You reside outside France (in a non-EU country) and you are travelling to France (temporary importation)

Hunters and sporting shooters can import two hunting firearms (category 5) and 100 cartridges per firearm temporarily, under the temporary admission customs procedure.

● You reside in France and you purchase a firearm and/or ammunition in a non-EU country (permanent importation)

Permanent importation of category 5 firearms and ammunition is subject to **authorisation for importation of war materiel, weapons and ammunition (AIMG)**.

The AIMG application is made using form **CERFA 11192*02**. Four copies of the completed form 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 must be accompanied by a copy of the validation of the **hunting permit** or of the **shooting licence**, currently valid.

When you go through customs, the AIMG must be attached to your customs declaration. Weapons are subject to customs duties ranging from 1.7% to 3.2% and to VAT at the standard rate of 19.6% (goods with a value of less than or equal to 175 euros may be exempted from customs duties under the conditions stipulated for **travellers**).

Category 6 weapons

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”.

The AIMG application is made using form **CERFA 11192*02**. **Four** copies of the completed form 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)**.

The AIMG must be attached to your customs declaration.

Weapons are subject to customs duties ranging from 1.7% to 3.2% and to VAT at the standard rate of 19.6% (goods with a value of less than or equal to 175 euros may be exempted from customs duties under the conditions stipulated for **travellers**).

Category 7 weapons and ammunition

- **For firearms:** temporary or permanent importation of category 7 firearms from non-EU countries is **unrestricted**.
- **For ammunition:** importation of **category 7 ammunition** from non-EU countries is subject to **authorisation for importation of explosive powders and substances for civilian use (AIPE)**.

AIPE applications are made using form **CERFA no. 13375*01**, which is available and can be completed on the customs website, www.douane.gouv.fr, section */les formulaires douaniers / matériels de guerre, armes et munitions, biens à double usage et produits explosifs*. The completed form must be sent to the **Ministère de l'industrie (DGCIS/SBDU - 61, boulevard Vincent Auriol, Télédoc 151 Bâtiment 4 Siéyès 75703 Paris Cedex 13)**.

The authorisation is delivered by the *Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects /service des titres du commerce extérieur (SETICE - 14 rue Yves Toudic - 75010 PARIS - telephone 01 73 79 74 42 ; fax: 0173 79 74 36)*.

Weapons are subject to customs duties ranging from 1.7% to 3.2% and to VAT at the standard rate of 19.6% (goods with a value of less than or equal to 175 euros may be exempted from customs duties under the conditions stipulated for **travellers**).

Category 8 weapons

Temporary or permanent importation of category 8 firearms from non-EU countries is **not prohibited**. However, it is subject to **special customs clearance procedures**, enabling the authorities to make sure that the firearms fulfil the specific conditions of category 8.

Different arrangements are applicable to historical firearms (category 8§1), deactivated firearms (category 8§2) and reproductions of historical and collectible firearms (category 8§3).

- **Historical firearms (category 8§1)**: Compliance with the criteria for admission in this category 8 is checked by the **Etablissement technique de Bourges (ETBS)** (contact details below). Firearms are shipped to ETBS premises under a **customs transit document** from the point of entry to the European Community. The ETBS issues an expert assessment report; the firearms are then cleared through customs at the Bourges CRD customs office.

- **Deactivated firearms (category 8§2)**: France does not recognise deactivations performed in non-EU countries. Firearms for deactivation are shipped to the **Banc d'épreuve de Saint-Etienne** (contact details below) under a **customs transit document** from the point of entry of the goods to the European Community. The *Banc d'épreuve de Saint-Etienne* delivers a deactivation certificate; the firearms are then cleared through customs at the Saint-Etienne customs office.

- **Reproductions of historical firearms (category 8§3)**: the **Etablissement technique de Bourges (ETBS)** (contact details below) is responsible for expert assessment of reproductions of historical and collectible firearms on samples taken by the importing customs office from each batch submitted. The ETBS issues an expert assessment report; the firearms are then cleared through customs at the Bourges customs office.

Etablissement technique de Bourges

Centre technique armes et munitions

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