

Weapon categories

The weapon categories of the Defence Code (Article L-2331-1)

(DGDDI/Bureau E2)

Category 1	- Firearms and their ammunition designed or intended for land, sea or air warfare
Category 4	- 'Defensive' firearms and their ammunition, acquisition and possession of which are subject to authorisation
Category 5	- Weapons for hunting and their ammunition
Category 6	- Edged and pointed weapons
Category 7	- Target shooting, fairground and indoor weapons and their ammunition
Category 8	- Historical and collectible weapons and ammunition <i>(including collectible weapons, deactivated weapons and reproductions of historical weapons)</i>

Details of these categories are given in [Article 2 of decree no. 95-589 of 6 May 1995](#).

Further details on category 8 weapons:

- **Category 8§1:** antique weapons of which the model is prior to 1 January 1870 and the year of manufacture is prior to 1 January 1892 and [weapons listed in the tables in the annex of the order of 7 September 1995](#).

- **Category 8§2:** deactivated weapons (rendered incapable of firing) bearing the stamp of the *Banc Officiel d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne* (below):



● **Category 8§3:** weapons reproducing the external appearance and the principles of operation of the various mechanisms of the original models of antique weapons designed before 1 January 1870, defined hereafter: rifles, shotguns, short-barrelled rifles, carbines, pistols and revolvers designed to use black powder and lead bullets, muzzle-loading or loading through the front of the cylinder, or firing cartridges with paper or cardboard cases and breech-loading, excluding any weapon in which cartridges with metal cases can be used.

Warning: Reproductions of antique weapons that do not satisfy these conditions are governed by the arrangements applicable to weapons of category 1, 4, 5 or 7, depending on their technical characteristics (Art 2 B, *Category 8§3* of the decree of 6 May 1995).