COMPETITOR FIREARM COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Taking target firearms overseas to England (UK)

Part 1 explains Australian export clearance and UK Police Visitor Permit regulations.
Part 2 sets out the four-step process for travelling with competition shotguns and ammunition.

ACTA AUSTRALIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION

PART 1 Understanding Australian & UK border requirements

You must hold an ABF Restricted Goods Permit (RGP) and a UK Visitor's Shotgun Permit (VSP)

Taking a competition shotgun to England constitutes a temporary export from Australia and a temporary import into the United Kingdom. Travellers must comply with Australian Border Force (ABF) export controls and Section 17 of the UK *Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988*.

Under UK law, overseas visitors cannot apply directly to UK police—a UK-based sponsor (such as the CPSA, event organiser, or host shooting ground) must apply to their local territorial Police Firearms Licensing Department on your behalf (statutory police fee: £48 individual or £240 for a group of 6–20).

IMPORTANT — APPLY 12 TO 16 WEEKS PRIOR TO TRAVEL: UK Police Constabularies experience significant licensing backlogs, while your Australian ABF Restricted Goods Permit (RGP) is valid strictly for 28 days from approval. Ensure your original paper UK permit is posted and in your hand before boarding flights from Australia.

PART 2 How to organise it, in order

1 Secure a UK Sponsor & apply for a Visitor's Shotgun Permit (VSP)

- Contact your UK host ground, event organiser, or the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) to act as your UK sponsor.
- Provide copies of your Australian State Firearms Licence, passport bio page, UK storage address, and competition invitation.
- Submit exact shotgun details (make, model, action, gauge, barrel length, and receiver/barrel serial numbers).
- Allow time for the issuing UK police force to grant the permit and post the original paper VSP document to Australia.

CPSA Visitor Services • +44 1483 485400 • info@cpsa.co.uk • cpsa.co.uk

2 Obtain Australian Border Force (ABF) export clearance

- Register as a client in the Integrated Cargo System using **Form B319** (with 100 points of ID) to obtain your Customs Client ID (CCID).
- Lodge an **Export Declaration (Form B957)** up to 60 days before departure to generate an Export Declaration Number (EDN).
- Apply for your **Restricted Goods Permit (RGP)** within **28 days of departure** (covers up to 4 break-action shotguns and 4,000 target rounds without a separate Defence Export Controls permit).
- Verify that every serial number matches your State Firearms Registration Certificates letter-for-letter.

ABF Border Information • 131 881 • abf.gov.au

3 Notify your airline and pack to strict international aviation standards

- Request firearm carriage approval directly with your airline (e.g. Qantas, British Airways, Emirates) at least 72 hours prior to departure.
- Pack shotguns unloaded and disassembled (or fitted with a trigger lock) inside a heavy-duty, lockable hard case.
- Pack ammunition (max 5 kg gross weight per passenger, Division 1.4S) in original factory boxes inside a separate locked checked bag.
- Verify transit hub rules carefully—several Middle East and Asian layover airports enforce strict transit permit mandates or bans.

4 Airport processing: Depart Australia and clear UK Border Force

- **Departing Australia:** Arrive 3.5 hours early. Present shotguns, licence, registration, Form B957, and RGP to ABF for physical serial inspection and stamping before airline baggage drop.
- **Arriving in England:** Collect your gun case from Oversize Baggage and proceed straight to the Customs **Red Channel** (Goods to Declare).
- Present your original paper VSP, passport, and shotgun to UK Border Force officers for verification.
- **Returning to Australia:** Declare firearms on your Incoming Passenger Card and present your stamped RGP/export papers to ABF for duty-free re-entry without requiring a B709A import permit.

FOUR THINGS THAT HOLD TRAVELLERS UP

✖ **Late VSP or expired RGP timing** (apply 12–16 weeks out for UK Police, but lodge ABF RGP within 28 days of flying)

✖ **Unapproved transit hub layovers** (missing transit permits at hub airports can trigger firearm seizure)

✖ **Travelling with a digital VSP copy** (UK Border Force requires the physical paper permit at the Red Channel)

✖ **Skipping ABF inspection on departure** (unverified exports delay re-entry into Australia and risk penalties)