COMPETITOR FIREARM COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Taking target firearms overseas to Europe (Schengen Area)

Part 1 explains Australian export clearance and Schengen national firearm & transit permit rules.
Part 2 sets out the four-step process for travelling with competition shotguns and ammunition.

ACTA AUSTRALIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION

PART 1 Understanding Australian & Schengen border requirements

There is NO single "Schengen Firearm Permit" — you need permits for every destination AND transit state

While travellers move freely between the 29 Schengen countries, firearm movement is strictly governed by national laws under *EU Directive (EU) 2021/555*. Because the **European Firearms Pass (EFP)** is issued exclusively to EU/Schengen residents, Australian competitors must obtain a **National Temporary Firearm Import Permit** from the host country—plus separate prior **Transit Permits** for every Schengen country crossed by air, road, or rail.

To avoid multiple European transit permits (e.g. Dutch CDIU consent at Amsterdam or German transit clearance at Frankfurt), book flights from a non-EU hub directly into your final host competition country whenever possible.

IMPORTANT — APPLY 10 TO 14 WEEKS PRIOR TO TRAVEL: European federation, consulate, and police permits require substantial lead time (and official translations in some states), while your Australian ABF Restricted Goods Permit (RGP) is valid strictly for 28 days from approval. Allow extra airport buffer time for mandatory **EU ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM (EES)** biometric border checks.

PART 2 How to organise it, in order

1 Secure host-country Temporary Import Permit (& any Schengen Transit Permits)

- Obtain an official personalised competition invitation from the ISSF, FITASC, or host national shooting federation (e.g. FITAV in Italy, FFTir in France, DSB in Germany, or RFEDETO in Spain).
- Lodge your national firearm permit application via the event organiser/federation or relevant Consulate/Customs office, listing exact shotgun specifications, serial numbers (including spare barrels), C.I.P. proof status if requested, and cartridge counts.
- If your itinerary connects through another Schengen hub or crosses borders by car, obtain prior written firearm transit permits from each transit country.

FITASC / ISSF Host Federation & EU Border Info • fitasc.com • issf-sports.org • travel-europe.europa.eu

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 receiver and barrel serial numbers on all European permits, Form B957, and RGP match your State Registration Certificates letter-for-letter.

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

3 Notify your airline, verify transit hubs & pack to strict aviation standards

- Book firearm carriage directly with your airline(s) at least 72 hours out (note several European carriers charge per-sector firearm handling fees).
- Confirm non-EU layover rules (e.g. Dubai, Doha, Singapore, Abu Dhabi)—some Middle East/Asian hubs require advance police transit clearance even airside.
- Pack shotguns unloaded and disassembled (or fitted with a trigger lock) in a locked hard case; pack ammunition (max 5 kg gross, Div. 1.4S, and within host-country cartridge caps—e.g. 1,000 rounds in Italy) in factory boxes in a separate locked checked bag.

4 Airport processing: Depart Australia, clear Schengen entry & endorse exit

- **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 check-in.
- **Entering & Exiting Europe:** Complete EES biometric border screening at your first Schengen port, then report to Customs (**Red Channel**) / Border Police with original printed permits, shoot invitation, and shotgun for physical serial verification—and get your permit stamped out on departure from the EU.
- **Returning to Australia:** Declare firearms on your Incoming Passenger Card and present your stamped RGP/export papers to ABF for duty-free re-entry.

FOUR THINGS THAT HOLD TRAVELLERS UP

✖ **Unpermitted Schengen flight connections** (connecting via Frankfurt, Amsterdam, or Paris without a transit permit from that country causes seizure)

✖ **Tight connection times at first EU entry** (EES biometric enrolment plus Border Police gun sign-off regularly takes 90+ minutes)

✖ **Unlisted spare barrels or mismatched serials** (European police inspect separate barrel numbers alongside receiver serials)

✖ **Skipping EU exit stamp or ABF departure check** (failing to sign firearms out of Schengen or Australia triggers border penalties)