COMPETITOR FIREARM COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Taking target firearms overseas to New Zealand

Part 1 explains Australian export clearance and NZ Visitor Licence & Import Permit rules.
Part 2 sets out the four-step process for travelling with competition shotguns and ammunition.

PART 1 Understanding Australian & New Zealand border requirements

You must hold approvals from ABF and Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand (FSE)

Taking a competition shotgun to New Zealand constitutes a temporary export from Australia and a temporary import into New Zealand. Travellers must comply strictly with Australian Border Force (ABF) export controls and the New Zealand *Arms Act 2026* (administered from September 2026 by **Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand — FSE**, replacing Te Tari Pūreke).

Shotguns must be individually registered in your name on your Australian State Firearms Registry, and you must provide confirmed proof of genuine sporting reason (such as an official NZCTA or ACTA championship entry confirmation) plus NZ secure storage details.

IMPORTANT — APPLY BETWEEN 4 AND 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO TRAVEL: FSE requires Visitor Licence applications at least 4 months (and no earlier than 6 months) before arrival, whereas your Australian ABF Restricted Goods Permit (RGP) is valid strictly for 28 days from approval. Do not use *@bigpond.com* or *@bigpond.net.au* emails—FSE's portal rejects them.

PART 2 How to organise it, in order

1 Apply for your NZ Visitor Firearms Licence & Permit to Import

- Create a **MyFirearms** account via RealMe login at **firearmssafety.govt.nz** (avoid BigPond email addresses).
- Upload your State Firearms Licence, passport ID page, digital passport-style photo (4:3 ratio), return flight details, NZCTA competition entry, and nominated NZ licence holder storage details.
- Complete the online NZ Firearms Safety Code theory test, list exact shotgun serial numbers and ammunition counts, and pay the non-refundable **NZ$25** fee at least 4 months before arrival.

Firearms Safety & Education NZ (FSE) • +64 4 499 2870 (0800 844 431) • firearms@firearmssafety.govt.nz

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 serial numbers on your NZ permit, Form B957, and RGP match your State Registration Certificates letter-for-letter.

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

3 Notify your airline and pack to strict trans-Tasman aviation standards

- Book firearm and ammunition carriage directly with your carrier (e.g. Qantas, Air New Zealand) at least 72 hours before 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—never inside the primary gun case.

4 Airport processing: Depart Australia and clear NZ Customs & Police

- **Departing Australia:** Arrive 3 hours early. Present shotguns, licence, registration, Form B957, and RGP to ABF for physical serial inspection and stamping prior to airline check-in.
- **Arriving in New Zealand:** Declare all firearms and ammunition on your NZ Traveller Declaration; report to NZ Customs and the Airport Police / Border desk with your FSE approval, Australian licence, and shotgun for physical issuance/clearance.
- **Returning to Australia:** Declare firearms on your Incoming Passenger Card and present your stamped RGP/export papers to ABF for smooth re-entry without requiring a B709A import permit.

FOUR THINGS THAT HOLD TRAVELLERS UP

✖ **Missing the 4-to-6 month NZ window** (FSE requires 4 months lead time; ABF RGP must be lodged within 28 days of departure)

✖ **Using a @bigpond email or wrong photo ratio** (blocks FSE portal acknowledgements or delays Visitor Licence review)

✖ **Packing cartridges inside the gun case** (breaches trans-Tasman airline & aviation security rules)

✖ **Skipping ABF inspection on departure** (unverified exports cause delays and penalties when re-entering Australia)