COMPETITOR FIREARM COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Transit hubs & stopovers: Doha, Dubai, Abu Dhabi & Singapore

Part 1 explains airside through-check vs. landside stopover firearm rules across major hubs.
Part 2 details exact permit & airline clearance procedures for each transit airport.

PART 1 Understanding airside transit vs. hotel stopovers

Single-ticket airside connections and landside hotel stopovers follow strictly different laws

When flying between Australia and Europe/UK, firearm transit rules depend on both the hub country and your ticket structure. In **Doha, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi**, airside transit on a single through-checked airline PNR is cleared via your airline's security portal without a separate police application—whereas **Singapore** strictly mandates an individual **Singapore Police Force (SPF)** approval even if you never leave the transit lounge.

Never split tickets or take guns landside: Unauthorised possession of a firearm or single cartridge at a Middle East or Asian hub carries severe custodial penalties. If taking a hotel stopover in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, or Singapore, shotguns **cannot** leave the airport—they must be pre-declared for secure Airport Police armoury impoundment until your onward flight.

IMPORTANT — AVOID HONG KONG (HKG) & BOOK SINGLE THROUGH-TICKETS: Transiting Hong Kong requires a formal HK Police Arms Licence/Exemption via a local agent (up to 14 years' jail for breaches). Always book one continuous ticket so baggage transfers airside, and hold your final destination permit before requesting hub clearance.

PART 2 Hub-by-hub clearance requirements

1 Doha — Hamad International Airport (DOH) via Qatar Airways

- **Airside Transit:** No separate Qatari Police application required on a single Qatar Airways booking. Submit the online *Carriage of Firearms* form uploading your passport, State Licence, destination import permit, and exact gun case dimensions/weight (max 32 kg).
- Print and sign the emailed **Declaration of Surrender of Firearms** for check-in (ammunition max 5 kg gross, UN0012/UN0014, packed separately; bag must not be marked “Explosive”). Any flight change/rebooking voids approval and requires re-submission.

Qatar Airways Firearm Clearance • No airline carriage fee • qatarairways.com/en/help/firearms.html

2 Dubai — Dubai International Airport (DXB) via Emirates

- **Airside Transit & Stopovers:** Submit Emirates' online *Request to carry firearms, weapons and ammunition* form **within 30 days of travel** and at least **3 working days (recommend 10+ days)** prior, attaching passport, licence, shoot invite, and destination permit.
- Emirates coordinates Dubai Police / DCAA clearance and emails written confirmation—**do not go to the airport without this email**. If taking a Dubai hotel stopover, select *“Stopping over in Dubai”* so Airport Police impound the gun airside.

Emirates Firearms Desk • Submit 3–30 days prior (Mon–Fri) • emirates.com (Help & Support → Forms)

3 Abu Dhabi — Zayed International Airport (AUH) via Etihad Airways

- **Airside Transit:** Contact Etihad Airways at least **7 to 14 days before travel** to lodge firearm & ammunition details (Div. 1.4S, UN0012/UN0014, max 5 kg gross in separate checked bag) alongside your passport, Australian licence, and destination permits.
- Etihad logs Abu Dhabi Airport Police transit clearance onto your booking. As in Dubai, stopover passengers cannot take shotguns into UAE hotels unless competing locally under a UAE Shooting Federation / Ministry of Interior permit.

Etihad Special Assistance / Dangerous Goods • Apply 7–14 days prior • etihad.com/en/help

4 **Singapore — Changi Airport (SIN) via Qantas, Singapore Airlines or British Airways**

- **Separate Police Permit Mandatory:** Under Singapore's *Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Act 2021 (GEWCA)*, all passengers flying to, from, or **transiting airside through** Singapore must obtain prior approval from the **Singapore Police Force (Police Regulatory Department — PRD)**.
- Submit your SPF application and airline firearm request at least **7 working days (recommend 3–4 weeks)** before departure. On Qantas services via SIN, email your SPF approval to **#sindam@qantas.com.au** and arrange the mandatory **SGD $130 armed security escort fee**.

Singapore Police Force (PRD) • +65 6835 0000 • police.gov.sg • Qantas SIN: #sindam@qantas.com.au

FOUR THINGS THAT HOLD TRAVELLERS UP

✖ **Transiting Singapore without SPF approval** (airline clearance alone is insufficient at Changi; police permit + escort fee required)

✖ **Booking separate "self-transfer" tickets** (forces you landside through Customs with an unlicensed firearm—arrest risk)

✖ **Unannounced flight changes on Qatar/Emirates** (schedule changes invalidate hub gun clearances unless re-submitted)

✖ **Stray cartridges or choke tools in carry-on** (zero tolerance at Gulf & Singapore X-ray screening; strip range bags before packing)