

Firearms Act

(1/1998; amendments up to 804/2003 included)

Chapter 1 **Scope of application**

Section 1 *Scope of application*

This Act applies to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles.

What is provided in this Act on firearms also applies to missile and rocket-launcher systems and gas sprays. However, sections 2-10, 12, 15, 31-33, 35, 35a, 36, 42-45, 45a, 45b, 46-55 and 56-63, section 66(1)(1-3), sections 68, 70-72, 74-77, 80-82, 89, 90, 110, 112 and 112a do not apply to gas sprays. The provisions on other exemptions concerning the scope of application are laid down in section 17. (601/2001)

Section 2 *Firearm*

Firearm means a tool with which bullets, pellets or other projectiles or incapacitating substances can be fired with the help of powder gas pressure, explosion pressure of primer mass or of other explosion pressure so that it may cause danger to people.

The following tools are not deemed firearms unless they can, without special knowledge and skills, be converted into tools with which bullets or pellets can be fired so that it may cause danger to people:

- 1) nail machines designed and manufactured to be used in construction work;
- 2) tools designed and manufactured to be used in life-saving or for a scientific or industrial purpose of use.

Provisions on the rendering of a firearm permanently unfit for use are laid down by decree.

Section 3 *Firearm component*

Firearm component means a chamber detached from a firearm and a corresponding component as well as a barrel and breech-closing device.

Provisions on the rendering of a firearm component permanently deactivated are laid down by decree.

Section 4 *Projectile*

Projectile means a bullet, pellet or another construct fired with the help of powder gas pressure, explosion pressure of primer mass or of other explosion pressure which may cause danger to people.

Section 5 *Cartridge*

Cartridge means a ready-to-use combination of a case, primer, powder and projectile and a combination of a primer, powder and projectile, and a corresponding construct suitable for use with a firearm.

For the purposes of this Act:

- 1) *shotshell* means a ready-to-fire rimmed cartridge consisting of a case, base, bullet or pellets, wadding, powder and of a primer placed in the centre of the base of the cartridge, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;
- 2) *centre-fire cartridge* means a ready-to-fire cartridge consisting of a case, bullet or pellets, powder and of a primer placed in the centre of the base of the cartridge, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;
- 3) *rim-fire cartridge* means a ready-to-fire cartridge consisting of a case, bullet or pellets, powder and of primer mass placed on inside the rim cavity causing the powder to ignite, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;
- 4) *gas cartridge* means a ready-to-fire cartridge spreading tear gas or an incapacitating substance with a comparable purpose of use and effect consisting of a case, powder, primer and of a part turning into a gas when fired, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;
- 5) *signalling cartridge* means a ready-to-fire rimmed or centre-fire cartridge manufactured to be used for signalling and illumination consisting of a case, powder, primer and of a part producing light, smoke or sound when fired, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure.

The provisions of the Explosive Substances Act (263/1953) and the provisions issued under it apply to cartridge components which are or which contain explosive substances.

Section 6 *Types of firearms*

The types of firearms referred to in this Act are a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle, pistol, small-calibre pistol, revolver, small-calibre revolver, combination weapon, gas weapon, signalling pistol, black-powder weapon and another firearm.

For the purposes of this Act:

- 1) *shotgun* means a firearm with a smooth-bore or rifled barrel designed to be supported against the shoulder with both hands, the overall length of which is at least 840 millimetres and the length of the barrel of which is at least 400 millimetres and which is chambered for a shotshell;
- 2) *rifle* means a firearm with a rifled barrel designed to be supported against the shoulder with both hands, the overall length of which is at least 840 millimetres and the length of the barrel of which is at least 400 millimetres and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rim-fire cartridge;
- 3) *small-calibre rifle* means a rifle chambered for a .22 rim-fire cartridge;
- 4) *pistol* means a firearm the overall length of which is less than 840 millimetres and the length of the barrel of which is less than 400 millimetres and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rim-fire cartridge;

- 5) *small-calibre pistol* means a pistol chambered for a .22 rim-fire cartridge;
- 6) *revolver* means a firearm the total length of which is less than 840 millimetres and the length of the barrel of which is less than 400 millimetres and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rim-fire cartridge loaded into a revolving cartridge cylinder;
- 7) *small-calibre revolver* means a revolver chambered for a .22 rim-fire cartridge loaded into a revolving cartridge cylinder;
- 8) *combination weapon* means a firearm with at least two barrels designed to be supported against the shoulder, the overall length of which is at least 840 millimetres and the length of the barrel of which is at least 400 millimetres and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rim-fire cartridge and for a shotgun cartridge;
- 9) *gas weapon* means a firearm chambered for a gas cartridge and with which no other cartridges can be fired;
- 10) *signalling pistol* means a firearm chambered for a signalling cartridge and with which no other cartridges can be fired;
- 11) *black-powder weapon* means a firearm designed and manufactured to be used only with black powder;
- 12) *another firearm* means a firearm which in its structure, dimensions and other characteristics deviates from the firearms defined in this section.

Section 7

Modes of operation of firearms

The modes of operation of firearms referred to in this Act are single-shot, single-shot with magazine, self-loading single-shot and automatic shot.

For the purposes of this Act:

- 1) *single-shot* means a mode of operation in which each barrel of a firearm without a magazine is reloaded with a new cartridge after each shot and in which the firing mechanism for each barrel is cocked using outside force after each shot;
- 2) *single-shot with magazine* means a mode of operation in which each barrel of a firearm with a magazine is reloaded with a new cartridge and in which the firing mechanism for each barrel is cocked using outside force after each shot;
- 3) *self-loading single-shot* means a mode of operation in which a firearm reloads and winds up automatically after each shot using the energy generated in the weapon or with the help of an energy source attached to the weapon and in which only one round from each chamber can be fired by one pull on the trigger;
- 4) *automatic shot* means a mode of operation in which a firearm reloads and winds up automatically after each shot using the energy generated in the weapon or with the help of an energy source attached to the weapon and in which several rounds can be fired by one pull on the trigger.

Section 8

Pocket gun

Pocket gun means a revolver or small-calibre revolver which can be fitted into a rectangular box with the inside measuring 140 x 190 millimetres, and another firearm mentioned in section 6 which can be fitted into a rectangular box with the inside measuring 130 x 180 millimetres so that the barrel and the butt are aligned with the bottom of the box.

When placing a firearm in the box, the magazine shall be detached and the weapon shall be equipped with its ordinary sighting device and grip or with the side plates of the butt, and with no components increasing the external dimensions of the weapon.

Section 9 *Specially dangerous firearm*

Specially dangerous firearm means:

- 1) a grenade launcher, mortar, breech-loading cannon and a firearm of a corresponding structure and purpose of use, and a missile and rocket-launcher system;
- 2) an automatic firearm;
- 3) a firearm disguised as an object other than a firearm.

Section 10 *Specially dangerous cartridges and projectiles*

Specially dangerous cartridges mean:

- 1) cartridges designed and manufactured to penetrate armour;
- 2) cartridges equipped with an explosive or incendiary projectile;
- 3) centre-fire cartridges with a hollow point projectile or a projectile which expands on impact which have been designed and manufactured to be used with a pistol or revolver;
- 4) cartridges designed and manufactured to fragment on impact;
- 5) cartridges with a flechette projectile;
- 6) cartridges with more than one bullet.

Specially dangerous projectiles mean the projectiles of cartridges as referred to in subsection 1(1-3).

Section 11 *Gas spray*

Gas spray means a tool with which tear gas or an incapacitating substance with a comparable purpose of use and effect can be spread in the air.

Section 12 *Converting a firearm and firearm component*

Conversion of a firearm means a measure as a result of which the type, mode of operation or calibre of a weapon changes, or a weapon other than a pocket gun becomes a pocket gun.

Conversion of a firearm component means a measure carried out on a firearm component with the result that the type of the firearm changes in the manner referred to in subsection 1 if the component in question is attached to the firearm.

Section 13 *Carrying, transport, storage and possession*

For the purposes of this Act, with regard to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles:

- 1) *carrying* means their use for the approved purposes of use laid down in this Act; (601/2001)
- 2) *transport* means their **moving/transferring** from one place to another;
- 3) *storage* means their possession when they are not carried or transported;
- 4) *possession* means their carrying, transport or storage.

Section 14

Firearms trade (601/2001)

Firearms trade means the following activities conducted for commercial purposes:

- 1) trade and manufacture of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles;
- 2) repair and conversion of firearms and firearm components;
- 3) keeping of a shooting range;
- 4) training in the use of firearms.

Section 15

Weapons collector (601/2001)

Weapons collector means a natural person or an association or foundation registered or performing a public function in Finland that the Ministry of the Interior has approved as a weapons collector.

Section 16

Definitions relating to transport

For the purposes of this Act:

- 1) *country of departure* means the country from where the inter-State transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles starts;
- 2) *country of destination* means the country where the inter-State transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles ends;
- 3) *country of transit* means the country through which firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles are transported from one country to another;
- 4) *prior consent* means a certificate to be presented to the authorities in a Member State of the European Union (EU) showing that there are no obstacles to the transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles to another EU Member State;
- 5) *end-user certificate* means a certificate issued by the authorities in the country of destination or other reliable certificate on the end user of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles;
- 6) *transfer licence* means a licence granted for the transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles from one EU Member State to another;
- 7) *European firearms pass* means a certificate issued by the authorities in an EU Member State as referred to in Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, hereafter the *Firearms Directive*, showing that the person named in the certificate has in that State the right to possess the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles entered in the pass.

For the purposes of this Act, with regard to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles:

- 1) *import* means their transport to Finland from a country other than an EU Member State;
- 2) *export* means their transport from Finland to a country other than an EU Member State;
- 3) *transfer* means their transport from one EU Member State to another;
- 4) *transit* means their transport from a country other than an EU Member State, via Finland, to a country other than an EU Member State.

Section 17

Exemptions concerning scope of application

This Act does not apply to:

- 1) transfer to or from Finland, import, export, acquisition or conveyance/handing over to State purposes of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles by the State;
- 2) possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles owned by the State if the reason for the possession is carrying out the tasks of persons employed by the State, persons studying in State educational institutions or of those completing their military service based on conscription or their voluntary military service;
- 3) acquisition of cartridges for firearms as referred to in paragraph 2 if the cartridges are acquired by persons employed by the State or persons studying in State educational institutions;
- 4) exercises or competitions relating to voluntary defence work arranged by the Defence Forces under the leadership of a person employed by them;
- 5) transport or storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles owned by the State;
- 6) manufacture of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles in State establishments;
- 7) repair or conversion of firearms and firearm components in State establishments;
- 8) conveyance/handing over of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles removed from use by the State;
- 9) firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles which have come into the possession of State authorities on the basis of tasks within their competence;
- 10) transfer to or from Finland, import, export, manufacture, repair, conversion or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles belonging to the armed forces of a foreign State if the activity is based on the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the status of their forces (Finnish Treaty Series 65/1997) or on another international peacekeeping assignment, or if the activity has been granted permission under the Territorial Surveillance Act (755/2000); (601/2001)
- 11) transfer to or from Finland, import, export or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles belonging to the competent officials in States applying the Schengen acquis referred to in Article 40 or 41 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at common borders, hereafter the Schengen Convention, provided the activity is based on surveillance or pursuit as referred to in the above mentioned articles of the Schengen Convention. (601/2001)

Chapter 2**Activities subject to authorisation**

Section 18

Activities subject to authorisation

Unless otherwise provided in this Act, the following activities are subject to authorisation:

- 1) transfer and import to Finland, transfer and export from Finland, transit for commercial purposes as well as trade, acquisition, possession and manufacture of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles;
- 2) repair and conversion of firearms and firearm components;
- 3) keeping of a shooting range for commercial purposes;
- 4) training in the use of firearms for commercial purposes. (601/2001)

A licence or permit for the activities referred to in subsection 1 may be granted if there is an acceptable reason for granting the licence or permit, and if there is no reason to suspect misuse of the licence or permit or the objects acquired or possessed under it.

Section 19

Exemptions from authorisation

Under this Act, the following activities are not subject to authorisation:

- 1) export of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles for a private purpose;
- 2) acquisition and possession of firearm components when the party acquiring or possessing them has the right to possess a firearm assembled of firearm components corresponding to the firearm components in question;
- 3) possession of firearms as well as acquisition and possession of firearm components if the party acquiring or possessing them is a weapons collector keeping a file provided by law; (601/2001)
- 4) transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles for commercial purposes and storage necessary for the performance of the transport if the transporter is engaged in professional transport of goods;
- 5) manufacture of cartridges, other than specially dangerous cartridges, for a private purpose if the manufacturer has a permit entitling the holder to possess the cartridges in question;
- 6) repair for a private purpose of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a relevant permit; (601/2001)
- 7) possession of a signalling pistol on a foreign commercial or recreational vessel if the vessel is only temporarily in Finnish territorial waters. (601/2001)

The transport and storage of black-powder weapons manufactured before 1890 are not subject to authorisation. Keeping such black-powder weapons in a museum or collection is not subject to authorisation, either, unless the weapons are used for shooting. The ministry handling firearm issues may, subject to the requirements laid down in this section, also issue provisions on the exemption from authorisation regarding other weapon-historically valuable old firearms.

The provisions on the firearm components to be deemed corresponding firearm components as referred to in subsection 1(2) are laid down by decree.

Chapter 3

Carrying on the firearms trade

Section 20

Trade permit for dealing in firearms

The Ministry of the Interior grants and revokes a permit for carrying on the firearms trade (*trade permit for dealing in firearms*). (601/2001)

The permit may be granted for:

- 1) trading in firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles;
- 2) manufacturing firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles for commercial purposes;
- 3) repairing and converting firearms and firearm components for commercial purposes;
- 4) keeping a shooting range for commercial purposes;
- 5) training in the use of firearms for commercial purposes for the approved purposes of use laid down in this Act. (601/2001)

The permit may be granted to an applicant entitled to carry on a trade who notifies the person in charge referred to in section 26 and who, with regard to his or her financial status, adequately meets the requirements for carrying on the firearms trade in an appropriate manner. If the applicant is a natural person, he or she shall also have a firearm licence as referred to in section 27(1). The permit is not granted if the police department for the area in which the storage facilities for firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles are located has not approved the storage facilities.

Section 21

Content and validity of a trade permit for dealing in firearms (601/2001)

A trade permit for dealing in firearms shall state the activity covered by the permit and the type of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles for which the permit has been granted. The permit entitles the holder to carry on the firearms trade only at the place of business stated in the permit. The trade may, however, be carried on elsewhere on a temporary basis.

The permit is granted indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be granted for a fixed term.

Section 22

Notification of changes in information contained in a trade permit for dealing in firearms and changes in storage facilities

A party carrying on the firearms trade (*firearms dealer*) shall notify the licensing authority of the termination of the firearms trade, a change in the corporate form of the firearms dealer and of changes in the location of the place of business within 30 days of the termination of the firearms trade, change in the corporate form or changes in the location of the place of business. (601/2001)

A firearms dealer shall, without delay, notify the police department for the area in which the storage facilities for firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles are located of changes in the storage facilities.

Section 23

Expiry and revocation of a trade permit for dealing in firearms

A trade permit for dealing in firearms expires unless the activities referred to in the permit have been started within one year of the date on which the permit was granted.

The permit shall be revoked if:

- 1) the permit holder so requests; or if
- 2) the permit holder no longer meets the requirements laid down in section 20(3).

The permit may be revoked for a fixed term, or entirely, if:

- 1) the activities referred to in the permit have been interrupted for a period of at least three months; or if
- 2) the permit holder or the person in charge referred to in section 26 has violated this Act, the provisions issued under it or the permit terms, or if he or she has otherwise proved unsuitable for carrying on the activities referred to in the permit.

Section 24

Bankruptcy or death of a firearms dealer

The bankruptcy estate or deceased's estate of a firearms dealer may continue to carry on the firearms trade under the permit granted to the firearms dealer for a period of one year from the beginning of the bankruptcy or the date of death. The trustee of the bankruptcy estate or deceased's estate shall notify the licensing authority of the bankruptcy or death of the firearms dealer within 30 days of the beginning of the bankruptcy or the date of death.

What is provided in subsection 1 on the bankruptcy and death of a firearms dealer applies, as appropriate, when an association or foundation, under the provisions pertaining to it, has ceased to function.

Section 25

Duty to keep a file

A firearms dealer entitled to trade, manufacture, repair or convert shall keep a file of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles as further provided by Government decree. (601/2001)

A firearms dealer shall, as further provided by decree, on request, present the file to the police and surrender it to the licensing authority when the trade permit for dealing in firearms expires or if it is revoked.

The file shall be stored for at least ten years after the last entry was made in the file.

Section 26

Person in charge

A firearms dealer shall have in his or her employment a person in charge of the firearms trade (*person in charge*), who shall see to it that the activity is carried on under this Act, the provisions issued under it and the permit terms. The person in charge shall see to it that only those persons employed by the firearms dealer who have a firearm licence as referred to in section 27(1), while being employed by the firearms dealer, transport, store or otherwise handle firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles as referred to in section 27(1).

A person in charge is subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Interior, which may also revoke the approval. If necessary, due to the extent of the activity of the firearms dealer, the authority granting the approval may demand that there be more than one person in charge. (601/2001)

A person may be approved as a person in charge if he or she is reliable and to be deemed suitable for carrying on the firearms trade, and if he or she has:

- 1) the knowledge of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles necessary for appropriately carrying on the firearms trade and if he or she has passed the test arranged by the Ministry of the Interior; and
- 2) a firearm licence as referred to in section 27(1). (601/2001)

Section 27

Firearm licence (601/2001)

A person employed by a firearms dealer who transports, stores or otherwise handles firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles shall have a licence for this purpose (*firearm licence*). The licence entitles the holder to transport, store and otherwise handle, in a manner appropriate for the firearms trade, the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles in the possession of the firearms dealer to be transported or stored under a permit granted under this Act. The licence also entitles the holder to discharge the firearms referred to above for the purposes of **presentation**, trial or training if this is necessary for the firearms trade.

A firearm licence may be granted not only to a person as referred to in subsection 1 but also to a person who, in the course of his or her work, temporarily transports, stores or otherwise handles firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles.

A firearm licence may be granted to a person who has reached the age of 18 and who, on the basis of his or her state of health and behaviour, is to be deemed suitable for handling firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles.

A firearm licence is granted and revoked by the police department for the applicant's municipality of residence.

Section 28

Validity and terms of a firearm licence (601/2001)

A firearm licence is granted for a maximum of five years at a time.

The licensing authority may include in the licence a term under which the firearm may not be discharged, or under which the licence entitles the holder to handle only the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles entered in the licence.

Section 29

Expiry and revocation of a firearm licence

A firearm licence expires upon the death of the licence holder.

The licence shall be revoked if the licence holder so requests.

The licence may be revoked if:

- 1) the licence holder is guilty of an offence indicating violent behaviour, the offence referred to in Chapter 50, sections 1-4 of the Penal Code (39/1889), or of another offence which proves him or her to be unsuitable for transporting, storing or other-

wise handling firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles;

2) the licence holder is guilty of a firearms offence, aggravated firearms offence, firearms violation or of another punishable act committed by using a firearm;

3) the licence holder has violated the licence terms or otherwise shown disregard for compliance with the provisions on firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles; or if

4) the licence holder is, due to his or her state of health, or his or her way of life or behaviour endangering his or her own safety or that of others, to be deemed unsuitable for transporting, storing or otherwise handling firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles.

Section 30

Reprimand and appointment of a new person in charge

The licensing authority may, in the cases referred to in section 23(3)(2), instead of revoking the permit, issue the firearms dealer a reprimand if the permit holder has corrected the faults found in the firearms trade and if the revocation of the permit would be unreasonable in the circumstances. If the person in charge has acted in the manner referred to in section 23(3)(2), the licensing authority may order the firearms dealer to notify a new person in charge.

The licensing authority may, instead of revoking a licence, issue the holder of a firearm licence a reprimand if the revocation of the licence would be unreasonable in the circumstances.

Section 31

Other provisions on commercial manufacture of cartridges

In addition to what is provided in this Chapter, the provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the provisions issued under it shall be observed in the manufacture of cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles containing explosive substances for a commercial purpose.

Chapter 4

Commercial transfer, import, export and transit

Section 32

Commercial prior consent

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a prior consent for the transfer of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial prior consent*).

A prior consent may be granted to a firearms dealer who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to be transferred. Granting a prior consent also requires that the transfer is not likely to cause danger to the maintenance of public order or security.

The authority granting a prior consent may require that an end-user certificate be presented. An end-user certificate shall always be presented for a specially dangerous firearm.

Section 33 *Commercial import permit*

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a permit for the import of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial import permit*).

The provisions of section 32(2-3) apply to the granting of the permit.

The holder of a commercial import permit shall provide the Customs Administration with an account stating whether the firearms and cartridges to be imported have been examined to ensure their safety in use as referred to in section 110(1).

Section 34 *Commercial import permit for gas sprays*

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a permit for the transfer and import of gas sprays to Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial import permit for gas sprays*).

The provisions of section 32(2) apply to the granting of the permit.

Section 35 *Commercial transfer licence*

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a licence for the transfer of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles from Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial transfer licence*).

The licence may be granted to a firearms dealer who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to be transferred. A requirement for granting the licence is that, on the basis of a notification issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are no obstacles to the transfer and that the transfer conditions are safe.

The commercial transfer licence document shall be carried when moving/transferring the objects.

Section 35a *Fixed-term commercial transfer licence (601/2001)*

The Ministry of the Interior may grant a commercial transfer licence that is valid for a fixed term (*fixed-term commercial transfer licence*) for several different transfers. In addition to what is provided in section 35(2), a requirement for granting the licence is that the firearms dealer in another EU Member State receiving the objects is the same for each transfer.

Transfers shall be notified in writing to the Ministry of the Interior before any transfers are made as further provided by Government decree.

Section 36 *Commercial export permit and commercial transit permit*

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a permit for the export of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles from Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial export permit*), and a permit for their transit for a commercial purpose (*commercial transit permit*).

A commercial export permit may be granted to a firearms dealer who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to be exported. The authority granting a commercial export permit may require that the applicant present an end-user certificate or other reliable account stating that there are no obstacles to the granting of the permit.

A commercial transit permit may be granted to an applicant who presents an end-user certificate or other reliable account stating that there are no obstacles to the granting of the permit.

The licensing authority shall, if the handling of the permit matter so requires, ascertain from the ministry handling foreign affairs that there are no foreign or security policy obstacles to the granting of the permit.

Section 37

Commercial export permit for gas sprays and commercial transit permit for gas sprays

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a permit for the transfer and export of gas sprays from Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial export permit for gas sprays*), and a permit for their transit for a commercial purpose (*commercial transit permit for gas sprays*). A commercial transit permit for gas sprays may also be granted for transit where both the country of departure and the country of destination, or either of them, are EU Member States.

A commercial export permit for gas sprays may be granted to a firearms dealer who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the gas sprays to be exported. The authority granting a commercial export permit for gas sprays may require that the applicant present an end-user certificate or other reliable account stating that there are no obstacles to the granting of the permit.

A commercial transit permit for gas sprays may be granted to an applicant who presents an end-user certificate or other reliable account stating that there are no obstacles to the granting of the permit.

The licensing authority shall, if the handling of the permit matter so requires, ascertain from the ministry handling foreign affairs that there are no foreign or security policy obstacles to the granting of the permit.

Section 38

Validity of a commercial prior consent and permits

A commercial prior consent and the permits referred to in this Chapter other than a commercial transfer licence are granted for the validity of the trade permit for dealing in firearms. They are, however, granted for a maximum period of three years.

Section 39

Expiry and revocation of a commercial prior consent and licences and permits

A commercial prior consent, commercial import permit, commercial import permit for gas sprays, commercial transfer licence, fixed-term commercial transfer licence, commercial export permit and commercial export permit for gas sprays shall expire if the trade permit for dealing in firearms expires or is revoked. (601/2001)

The licensing authority shall revoke a commercial transfer licence, fixed-term commercial transfer licence, commercial export permit, commercial transit permit, commercial export permit for gas sprays and commercial transit permit for gas sprays it has granted if, according to a notification issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are obstacles to the transfer, export or transit or if there is a foreign or security policy obstacle to it. A commercial transfer licence and fixed-term commercial transfer licence shall also be revoked if the transfer conditions are no longer safe. (601/2001)

The licensing authority and the authority granting a commercial prior consent may revoke a commercial prior consent, commercial import permit and commercial import permit for gas sprays they have granted if the transfer or import may cause danger to the maintenance of public order and security.

Section 40

Notification duty of the Customs Administration

The Customs Administration shall, at three-month intervals, notify the ministry handling firearm issues of the import to Finland of objects stated in a commercial import permit and commercial import permit for gas sprays as further provided by decree.

Section 41

Transferring, exporting and transiting defence materiel

The provisions of the Act on the Export and Transit of Defence Materiel (242/1990) and the provisions issued under it shall be observed in the transfer, export and transit of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles regarded as defence materiel.

Chapter 5

Acquisition, private manufacture and conversion as well as possession

Section 42

Acquisition permit (601/2001)

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or registered office grants and revokes a permit for the acquisition of a firearm and firearm component (*acquisition permit*). The Ministry of the Interior, however, grants and revokes a permit for the acquisition of a specially dangerous firearm and its component. An acquisition permit also entitles the holder to temporarily possess a firearm or firearm component. The provisions on a possession permit are laid down in section 52.

The police department for the applicant's place of residence grants and revokes a permit for an applicant with no municipality of residence in Finland. The applicant shall present a certificate of consent issued by the authorities in his or her country of residence for the acquisition of the firearm and firearm component referred to in the application. The applicant shall also provide a written account of why he or she wishes to possess a firearm and firearm component in Finland.

The permit application is submitted in person to a police department as referred to in subsections 1 and 2. The police department may also allow the applicant to submit the application other than in person if it has already previously granted the applicant a permit entitling him or her to possess a firearm or firearm component. The firearms officer referred to in section 45b submits the permit application of an association or foundation. For a special reason, an application may also be submitted to another police department or to a Finnish mission abroad.

Section 43 *Approved purposes of use*

An acquisition permit may be granted for the following purposes of use:

- 1) shooting of animals permitted by hunting legislation;
- 2) target shooting or practice;
- 3) work where a weapon is necessary;
- 4) a show/demonstration, presentation/filming or a corresponding performance/presentation;
- 5) keeping in a museum or collection;
- 6) keeping as a souvenir;
- 7) signalling. (601/2001)

For keeping as a souvenir, a permit may, in an individual case, be granted for the acquisition of a firearm other than a specially dangerous firearm or its component if the applicant proves that the firearm or firearm component is of a special historic or other souvenir value to him or her.

Section 44 *Requirements for a firearm and firearm component to be acquired*

An acquisition permit may only be granted for a firearm or firearm component which, on the basis of the number of cartridges in the magazine, the calibre or other properties, and with regard to the purpose of use notified by the applicant, is not unnecessarily powerful or efficient, and which is suitable for the purpose of use notified by the applicant. If the purpose of use notified by the applicant is shooting of animals permitted by hunting legislation, the provisions of the Hunting Act (615/1993) and the provisions issued under it shall also be observed when assessing the suitability of the firearm.

A permit for a pocket gun or its component may be granted for keeping in a museum or collection, for keeping as a souvenir and for work where a weapon is necessary.

A permit for an automatic firearm, grenade launcher, mortar, breech-loading cannon or for a firearm of a corresponding structure and purpose of use, for a missile or rocket-launcher system or for a component of these weapons may be granted only if the purpose of use notified by the applicant is a show/demonstration, presentation/filming or a corresponding performance/presentation or keeping in a museum or collection. A permit for the above mentioned firearms or their components may, for a special reason, also be granted for work where a weapon is necessary.

A permit for a firearm disguised as an object other than a firearm or for its component may be granted only for a special reason.

Section 45

Requirements for an acquisition permit applicant that is a natural person
(601/2001)

An acquisition permit may be granted to a person who has reached the age of 18 and who, on the basis of his or her state of health and behaviour, is to be deemed suitable for possessing firearms and firearm components. With the consent of the parents or guardians, the permit may, however, also be granted, for shooting of animals permitted by hunting legislation or for target shooting or practice, to a person who is 15 but not 18 years old and who otherwise fulfils the requirements for an acquisition permit applicant.

When applying for a permit

- 1) for shooting of animals permitted by hunting legislation or for target shooting or practice, the applicant shall produce a reliable account of his or her hobby;
- 2) for work, the applicant shall produce an account stating that he or she, during his or her training or otherwise, has acquired sufficient knowledge of the safe handling of firearms and that he or she has an acceptable reason for carrying a firearm in his or her work.

A permit for keeping firearms and firearm components in a museum or collection may only be granted to a weapons collector with the Ministry of the Interior's approval for collecting firearms or firearm components and whose storage facilities for firearms and firearm components have been approved by the police department for the area in which the storage facilities are located. (601/2001)

Section 45a

Requirements for an acquisition permit applicant that is an association or foundation
(601/2001)

An acquisition permit may be granted to an association or foundation registered or performing a public function in Finland that, on the basis of the purpose of its activities and other factors, is to be deemed suitable for possessing firearms and firearm components. The permit may only be granted to an applicant whose storage facilities for firearms and firearm components have been approved by the police department for the area in which the storage facilities are located and who has a firearms officer as referred to in section 45b.

As regards the requirements for an acquisition permit applicant, the provisions of section 45(2-3) shall also be observed, as appropriate.

Section 45b

Firearms officer in an association or foundation (601/2001)

An association or foundation as referred to in section 45a shall have a person in charge of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles (*firearms officer*), who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the obligations and licence and permit terms laid down in this Act and in the provisions issued under it. The firearms officer shall be employed by the association or foundation or otherwise participate in its activities.

A firearms officer is subject to the approval of the police department for the area in which the registered office of the association or foundation is located, which may also revoke the approval. The police department may demand that there be more than one firearms officer if this is necessary due to the activities of the association or foun-

dation. Approval as a firearms officer may be granted to a person who has reached the age of 18 and who, on the basis of his or her state of health, behaviour and knowledge, is to be deemed suitable for possessing firearms and firearm components.

The approval entitles the person to acquire, possess and convey/hand over the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles referred to in the permit granted to the association or foundation.

Section 46

Validity and terms of an acquisition permit

An acquisition permit is granted for a maximum period of six months. A permit for a weapons collector is, however, granted for a maximum period of one year.

The licensing authority may include in the permit a term under which it is not permitted to shoot with a firearm belonging to a collection.

Section 47

Acquisition permit for a person residing abroad

The police department for the applicant's place of residence or for the area in which objects are to be acquired grants and revokes a permit for the acquisition of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles for a person residing abroad (*acquisition permit for a person residing abroad*). The permit entitles the holder to acquire the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles stated in the permit. The permit does not entitle the holder to possess the objects, and they may not, in Finland, be conveyed/handed over to the permit holder but they shall, without delay, be delivered to the address in the permit holder's country of residence stated in the permit.

Section 48

Requirements for granting an acquisition permit to a person residing abroad

An acquisition permit for a person residing abroad may be granted to an applicant who presents a certificate of consent issued by the authorities in his or her country of residence for the acquisition of the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles referred to in the application, or another account on the basis of which there are no obstacles to the granting of the permit.

A person residing in another EU Member State and applying for a permit for a weapon other than a gas spray shall also have a private transfer licence granted in Finland for the transfer of the object to his or her country of residence.

Section 49

Validity of an acquisition permit for a person residing abroad

An acquisition permit for a person residing abroad is granted for a maximum period of 30 days.

Section 50

Private manufacturing permit

The authority referred to in section 42(1) grants and revokes a permit for the manufacture or conversion of a firearm and firearm component for a private purpose (*private manufacturing permit*). The permit entitles the holder to temporarily possess a firearm and firearm component, and to acquire and possess firearm components necessary for the manufacture or conversion of a firearm and firearm component. The provisions on a possession permit are laid down in section 52.

The permit may be granted subject to the requirements laid down in section 45 or 45a, observing, as appropriate, the provisions of section 42(2-3) and sections 43-44. (601/2001)

Section 51

Validity and terms of a private manufacturing permit

A private manufacturing permit is granted for a maximum period of one year.

The licensing authority may include in the permit a term under which it is not permitted to shoot with a firearm belonging to a collection.

Section 52

Possession permit

Anyone who acquires a firearm or firearm component under an acquisition permit, or manufactures or converts a firearm or firearm component under a private manufacturing permit shall, during the validity of the permit, apply for a permit for the possession of the firearm or firearm component (*possession permit*). The permit shall, however, be applied for within 30 days of the acquisition, manufacture or conversion. The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or registered office grants and revokes the permit. (601/2001)

The firearm and firearm component shall be presented to the police when applying for a possession permit. The acquisition permit document or the private manufacturing permit document shall also be presented and, on request, surrendered to the police. Anyone who has not acquired under an acquisition permit he or she has been granted, or manufactured or converted under a private manufacturing permit, a firearm or firearm component shall, within 30 days of the expiry of the validity of the permit, surrender the permit document to the police department for his or her place of residence or to another police department.

Section 53

Validity and terms of a possession permit

A possession permit is granted indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be granted for a fixed term. A permit for work where a firearm is necessary is, however, granted for a maximum of five years at a time. (601/2001)

The licensing authority may include in the permit a term under which it is not permitted to shoot with a firearm belonging to a collection. A permit granted for work where a weapon is necessary shall include a term under which the permit is valid only for as long as the permit holder is carrying out that particular assignment.

Section 54

Parallel permit (601/2001)

A parallel right to possess a firearm or firearm component for which a possession permit has been issued may be granted with the consent of the permit holder (*parallel permit*). With the consent of the State, a parallel permit may also be granted for a firearm or firearm component owned by the State. A parallel permit for a firearm or firearm component belonging to a collection may only be granted to a weapons collector. The authority referred to in section 42(1) or (2) grants and revokes the permit.

The permit may be granted subject to the requirements laid down in section 45, observing, as appropriate, the provisions of section 42(2-3) and sections 43 and 44.

When applying for the permit, the consent of the permit holder or the State to the granting of a parallel permit shall be presented. The licensing authority may also demand that the firearm or firearm component be presented to the police.

Section 55

Validity and terms of a parallel permit

A parallel permit is granted for the validity of the possession permit unless, for a special reason, it should be granted for a shorter time. The permit is, however, granted for a maximum period of ten years.

The licensing authority may include in the permit a term under which it is not permitted to shoot with a firearm belonging to a collection.

Section 55a

Gas spray permit (601/2001)

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or registered office grants and revokes a permit for the acquisition and possession of a gas spray (*gas spray permit*), observing, as appropriate, the provisions of section 42(2-3). The permit is granted for a maximum of five years at a time. A permit for keeping gas sprays in a museum or collection may also be granted indefinitely.

The permit entitles the holder to acquire, possess and exchange the gas sprays stated in the permit during the validity of the permit. A permit granted to an association entitles a person employed by the permit holder who has reached the age of 18 and who has sufficient knowledge of the safe handling of gas sprays, to carry the gas spray referred to in the permit in his or her work if this is necessary in order to protect his or her personal integrity or property or that of others.

Section 55b

Requirements for granting a gas spray permit (601/2001)

A gas spray permit may be granted for the following approved purposes of use:

- 1) training or demonstration/show, filming/presentation or other similar presentation/a corresponding performance;
- 2) keeping in a museum or collection;
- 3) protection of personal integrity or property or that of others.

The permit may be granted to a natural person who satisfies the requirements laid down in section 45(1). The permit may also be granted to an association or foundation that satisfies the requirements laid down in section 45a(1). As regards the firearms officer of an association or foundation, the provisions of section 45b shall be observed.

A permit applicant that is a natural person as well as a firearms officer shall **demonstrate/prove** that they have sufficient knowledge, obtained through training or otherwise, of the safe handling of gas sprays.

Section 55c

Terms of a gas spray permit (601/2001)

The licensing authority may include in a permit a term under which the permit does not entitle the holder to acquire or exchange a spray, or under which a permit granted to an association does not entitle persons employed by the permit holder to carry a gas spray in their work.

The licensing authority may also include in the permit a term under which the permit entitles the holder to carry a gas spray only on the assignment or location entered in the permit.

Section 56

Carrying a firearm on an assignment

A permit granted for the possession of a firearm for work entitles the holder to carry, on the assignment in question, only a firearm for the possession of which the permit has been granted or a weapon with corresponding properties.

Section 57

Approval as a weapons collector (601/2001)

A weapons collector is subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Interior, which may also revoke the approval.

A natural person who meets the requirements laid down in section 45(1) may be approved as a weapons collector. Approval as a weapons collector may also be granted to an association or foundation registered or performing a public function in Finland which, on the basis of the purpose of its activities and other factors, is to be deemed suitable for possessing firearms and firearm components and which has a firearms officer as referred to in section 45b. The approval may be given to an applicant who, for keeping firearms or firearm components in a museum or collection, presents an acceptable plan for well-ordered weapons collection. An applicant that is a natural person as well as a firearms officer shall have the expertise in weapons history and technology necessary for carrying on the activity.

The application is submitted in person to the police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or registered office. The firearms officer submits the application of an association or foundation. For a special reason, an application may also be submitted to another police department.

Section 58

Content and validity of approval as a weapons collector

Approval as a weapons collector shall state the firearms and firearm components to which the approval applies. The authority granting the approval may place restrictions on the approval on the basis of the expertise in weapons history and technology of the weapons collector, the field of collecting and the total evaluation made of the hobby.

The approval is granted indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be granted for a fixed term.

Section 59

Notification of changes in storage facilities for the firearms and firearm components of a weapons collector

A weapons collector shall, without delay, notify the police department for the area in which the storage facilities for firearms and firearm components are located of changes in the storage facilities.

Section 59a

Firearms file of a weapons collector (601/2001)

The Ministry of the Interior may, upon application, allow a weapons collector, instead of applying for a possession permit, to keep a file of the firearms he or she acquires, manufactures or converts as further provided by Government decree. This right shall cease and the provisions of Chapter 8 apply to the firearms if the approval granted to the weapons collector expires or is revoked.

A weapons collector keeping a file shall, within 60 days of acquiring, manufacturing or converting a firearm, return the acquisition permit or private manufacturing permit to the authority that granted the permit.

The provisions of section 60(2) apply to presenting and surrendering the file to the police.

Section 60

Firearm components file of a weapons collector

A weapons collector shall keep a file of the firearm components he or she acquires and which are in his or her possession as further provided by decree, or apply for a permit entitling the holder to acquire and possess a firearm component. A file need, however, not be kept, or a permit acquired, if the weapons collector has the right to possess a firearm assembled of corresponding firearm components as referred to in section 19(1)(2).

A weapons collector shall, as further provided by decree, on request, present the file to the police and surrender it when the approval granted to him or her expires or if the approval is revoked.

Section 61

Acquiring and possessing cartridges (601/2001)

An acquisition permit, private manufacturing permit, possession permit and parallel permit entitle the holder to acquire and possess cartridges, other than specially dangerous cartridges, suitable for use with a firearm that the permit holder is entitled to lend as provided in section 87(1). The licensing authority may, however, include in the permit a term under which the permit does not entitle the holder to acquire or possess cartridges suitable for use with a firearm belonging to a collection or kept as a souvenir.

Section 62

Ammunition permit (601/2001)

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or registered office grants and revokes a permit for the acquisition, manufacture and possession of cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles (*ammunition permit*).

The permit may be granted subject to the requirements laid down in section 45(1) or 45a(1), observing, as appropriate, the provisions of section 42(2-3) on firearms and firearm components.

A permit for the acquisition, manufacture and possession of specially dangerous cartridges and projectiles may only be granted for a special reason.

Section 63

Validity of an ammunition permit

An ammunition permit is granted indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be granted for a fixed term.

Section 64

Permit relating to security measures/close protection during international State visits

The ministry handling firearm issues grants and revokes a permit for the possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles for the arrangement of security measures/close protection during international State visits.

The permit may be granted if this is necessary in order to protect the personal integrity or property of persons enjoying special protection.

The permit is granted for a fixed term.

Section 65

Certificate of consent

Anyone who has a municipality of residence in Finland is, at his or her request, issued a certificate of consent to be presented to a foreign authority (*certificate of consent*), showing that he or she may be granted abroad a permit for the acquisition of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles. A certificate of consent is issued by the police department for the applicant's municipality of residence.

A certificate of consent is issued to a natural person who holds an acquisition permit for the firearm or firearm component in question, a private manufacturing permit or gas spray permit, or who has the right to acquire and possess the cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles in question. A certificate of consent is also issued to a firearms officer as referred to in section 45b who has the right to acquire and possess the object under a permit granted to an association or foundation. The acquisition permit document, the private manufacturing permit document or the gas spray permit document, or the document for the permit entitling the holder to acquire and possess cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles shall be presented to the police when applying for a certificate of consent. (601/2001)

A certificate of consent is issued for the period of validity of the permits referred to in subsection 2. It is, however, issued for a maximum period of one year.

Section 66

Expiry of permits and a certificate of consent

A permit entitling the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles shall expire:

- 1) if the permit holder permanently **conveys/hands over** a firearm or firearm component to someone else;
- 2) if the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles are, by a court decision, ordered forfeit to the State;
- 3) if the firearm is rendered permanently unfit for use or the firearm component permanently deactivated;
- 4) upon the death of the permit holder or when the association or foundation, under the provisions pertaining to it, ceases to function. (601/2001)

A parallel permit expires when the possession permit expires or if it is revoked.

A certificate of consent expires when the acquisition permit, private manufacturing permit, gas spray permit or the permit granted for the acquisition and possession of cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles expires or if it is revoked. (601/2001)

Section 67

Revoking permits

A permit entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles shall be revoked if:

- 1) the permit holder so requests;
- 2) the parents or guardians revoke their consent referred to in section 45(1);
- 3) the holder of an acquisition permit or the State revokes the consent referred to in section 54(1).

A permit entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles may be revoked if:

- 1) the permit holder is guilty of an offence indicating violent behaviour, the offence referred to in Chapter 50, sections 1-4 of the Penal Code, or of another offence which proves him or her to be unsuitable for acquiring or possessing firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles;
- 2) the permit holder is guilty of an aggravated firearms offence, firearms offence, firearms violation or of another punishable act committed by using a firearm;
- 3) the permit holder has violated the permit terms or otherwise shown disregard for compliance with the provisions on firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles;
- 4) the permit holder is, due to his or her state of health, or his or her way of life or behaviour endangering his or her own safety or that of others, to be deemed unsuitable for acquiring or possessing firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles;
- 4a) the association or foundation or its firearms officer referred to in section 45b has violated this Act, the provisions issued under it or the permit terms, or has otherwise shown disregard for compliance with the provisions on firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles; (601/2001)
- 4b) the association or foundation no longer satisfies the requirements laid down in section 45a(1); (601/2001)

- 5) the possession of a firearm is no longer necessary for work; or if (601/2001)
- 6) the firearm or firearm component is lost or stolen. (601/2001)

The authority revoking a parallel permit shall notify the holder of the possession permit of the revocation of the parallel permit. (601/2001)

Section 67a

Expiry and revocation of approval as a firearms officer (601/2001)

Approval as a firearms officer expires upon the death of the firearms officer or when the association or foundation, under the provisions pertaining to it, ceases to function.

Approval as a firearms officer shall be revoked if the association or foundation or the firearms officer so requests.

Approval as a firearms officer may be revoked in the cases referred to in section 67(2)(1)-(4), or if permits granted to the association or foundation entitling the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles expire or are revoked.

Section 68

Expiry and revocation of approval as a weapons collector (601/2001)

Approval as a weapons collector expires upon the death of the weapons collector or when the association or foundation, under the provisions pertaining to it, ceases to function.

Approval as a weapons collector shall be revoked if the weapons collector so requests.

Approval as a weapons collector may be revoked in the cases referred to in section 67(2)(1-4), (4a) and (4b).

Section 68a

Exception to revocation of permits and approval (804/2003)

If a permit holder or a person who has been approved as a firearms officer or weapons collector informs the police, at his or her own initiative, of an illegal firearm or firearm component, illegal cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles or illegal explosives, and surrenders them to the police, the illegal possession of the surrendered object shall not cause his or her permit entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles or his or her approval as a firearms officer or weapons collector to be revoked.

Section 69

Reprimand (601/2001)

The licensing authority or the authority that granted approval to a firearms officer or weapons collector may, instead of revoking a permit entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles or the approval, issue a reprimand if revoking the permit or approval would be unreasonable in the circumstances.

Section 70

Notification and presentation of a firearm component (601/2001)

If the right to acquire and possess a firearm component is based on the person's right to possess a firearm assembled of corresponding firearm components as referred to in section 19(1)(2), the person shall, within 30 days of the acquisition, notify the police department for his or her municipality of residence or registered office of the acquisition as further provided by Government decree. The firearm component shall be presented at the same time.

Section 71

Notification duty of a person residing in another Member State of the European Union

A person residing in another EU Member State who has been granted in Finland a permit entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm or firearm component shall, without delay, notify the competent authorities in his or her country of residence of the matter.

Section 72

Other provisions on private manufacture of cartridges

In addition to what is provided in this Chapter, the provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the provisions issued under it shall be observed in the manufacture of cartridges for a private purpose.

Chapter 6

Private transfer and import

Section 73

Transfer and import to Finland under permits granted for possession (601/2001)

An acquisition permit, private manufacturing permit, possession permit, parallel permit and gas spray permit entitle the holder to transfer and import to Finland, for a private purpose, the firearm and firearm component stated in the permit and cartridges, other than specially dangerous cartridges, suitable for use with the firearm stated in the permit.

An ammunition permit entitles the holder to transfer and import to Finland the cartridges and projectiles stated in the permit.

A permit granted in Norway, Sweden, Iceland or Denmark for the possession of a firearm or firearm component entitles the holder to transfer and import to Finland the firearm and firearm component stated in the permit, and a sufficient amount of cartridges suitable for use with the firearm stated in the permit, and to possess them for a maximum period of three months of their transfer or import to Finland. The requirement is that the purpose of the transfer or import is to participate in a shooting or hunting event organised in Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark or Finland. The permit also entitles the holder to transfer the objects back to Sweden or Denmark.

Section 74

European firearms pass

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence grants a European firearms pass to a natural person who has the right to possess a firearm or firearm component under a possession permit or parallel permit. The possession permit document or the parallel permit document shall be presented to the police when applying for the firearms pass. (601/2001)

The holder of a European firearms pass shall present and, on request, surrender the firearms pass to the police department for his or her municipality of residence for the making of the necessary entries concerning:

- 1) a change in the personal data on the holder of the firearms pass;
- 2) a change in the validity or terms of the possession or parallel permit;
- 3) conversion of the firearm or firearm component;
- 4) conveyance/handling over, loss and theft of the firearm or firearm component, and the rendering of the firearm permanently unfit for use and the firearm component permanently deactivated.

In the cases referred to in subsection 2, the European firearms pass shall be presented and, on request, surrendered within 30 days of the events mentioned in paragraphs 1-4.

A European firearms pass is valid for the validity of the permits entitling the holder to possess the firearms or firearm components entered in the pass. It is, however, valid for a maximum period of five years of the date on which it was granted. The validity of the firearms pass may be extended.

Section 75

Transfer and import to Finland and possession under a European firearms pass (601/2001)

The holder of a European firearms pass may transfer and import to Finland a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in shooting competitions and classified in categories B, C or D of the Firearms Directive, and a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in hunting and classified in categories C or D of the Firearms Directive, and a sufficient amount of cartridges suitable for use with the firearm. The holder of the firearms pass shall also be in possession of a written invitation or other reliable account stating that the transfer or import is necessary in order to participate in a shooting competition or hunting event. The holder of the firearms pass may also possess the firearm, firearm component and cartridges for as long as necessary in order to participate in the shooting competition or hunting event.

The European firearms pass shall be carried when the firearm, firearm component or cartridges are carried or transported.

Section 76

Private prior consent

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence, place of residence or registered office grants and revokes a prior consent for the transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to Finland for a private purpose (*private prior consent*). (601/2001)

A private prior consent may be granted to anyone who has the right to possess the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles in question.

Granting a prior consent also requires that the transfer is not likely to cause danger to the maintenance of public order or security.

Section 77 *Validity of a private prior consent*

A private prior consent is granted for the validity of the permit entitling the holder to possess the objects referred to in section 76(2). It is, however, granted for a maximum period of one year.

Section 78 *Private import permit (601/2001)*

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or place of residence grants and revokes a permit for the transfer and import of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to Finland for a private purpose (*private import permit*). The permit entitles the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles.

The permit may be granted to a natural person subject to the requirements laid down in section 45(1), observing, as appropriate, the provisions of sections 43-44, 55b(1) and 62(3). A person with no municipality of residence in Finland shall also present a certificate issued by the authorities in his or her country of residence showing that he or she has the right to possess the firearm or firearm component in question in his or her country of residence.

Section 79 *Validity of a private import permit*

A private import permit is granted for a maximum period of three months.

Section 80 *Transfer from Finland subject to authorisation*

Unless otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 3, the transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles from Finland for a private purpose requires that the transferor holds in Finland a private transfer licence for their transfer.

The holder of a European firearms pass may, however, transfer from Finland a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in shooting competitions and classified in categories B, C or D of the Firearms Directive, and a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in hunting and classified in categories C or D of the Firearms Directive, and a sufficient amount of cartridges suitable for use with the firearm. The transferor shall also be in possession of a written invitation or other reliable account stating that the transfer is necessary in order to participate in a shooting competition or hunting event. (601/2001)

The transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles from Finland for a private purpose shall not require a specific licence if the transferor holds a permit for their possession granted by the authorities in each country of transit and country of destination that belong to the European Union, or the

transfer does not require a licence under the regulations of these countries.
(601/2001)

Section 81 *Private transfer licence*

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence, place of residence or registered office grants and revokes a licence for the transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles from Finland for a private purpose (*private transfer licence*). (601/2001)

The licence may be granted if, on the basis of a notification issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are no obstacles to the transfer and if the transfer conditions are safe.

The private transfer licence document shall be carried when **transferring/moving** the objects.

Section 82 *Expiry of the validity of a European firearms pass and expiry of a private prior consent*

The validity of a European firearms pass expires upon the expiry of all the rights to possess the firearms and firearm components entered in the pass.

A private prior consent expires upon the expiry of all the rights to possess the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles entered in the consent.

Section 83 *Revoking a private prior consent, private import permit and private transfer licence*

A private prior consent may be revoked if the transfer may cause danger to the maintenance of public order and security.

The provisions of section 67 apply, as appropriate, to the revocation of a private import permit.

A private transfer licence shall be revoked if, according to a notification issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are obstacles to the transfer or if the transfer conditions are no longer safe.

Section 83a *Notification duty of the Customs Administration (601/2001)*

The Customs Administration shall, at three-month intervals, notify the Ministry of the Interior of the import to Finland of objects stated in acquisition permits, private manufacturing permits, gas spray permits and private import permits as further provided by Government decree.

Chapter 7 **Conveyance/Handing over, lending and supervised use**

Section 84

Conveying/Handing over a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles may not be conveyed/handed over to anyone unless otherwise provided in this Act.

The objects referred to in subsection 1 may, however, be surrendered to the police and to another authority that is competent to handle firearm issues.

Section 85

Those entitled to permanent conveyance/handing over

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles may be permanently conveyed/handed over for commercial purposes only by a firearms dealer who has the right to the conveyance/handing over under a trade permit for dealing in firearms.

Unless otherwise provided in this Act, a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles may be permanently conveyed/handed over for a private purpose only by the holder of a possession permit or gas spray permit and, in the case of cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles, also by the holder of a parallel permit or ammunition permit. (601/2001)

Section 86

Requirements for the conveyee

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles may be conveyed/handed over:

- 1) permanently only to someone who has the right to acquire the object;
- 2) for transport only to someone who has the right to transport the object;
- 3) for storage only to someone who has the right to store the object.

A firearms dealer who has the right to manufacture firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles may permanently convey/hand over the objects he or she has manufactured only to a firearms dealer entitled to carry on the trade of dealing in firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles.

Section 87

Lending a firearm and firearm component

A firearm may be lent to someone else as follows:

- 1) a shotgun may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a shotgun, rifle or combination weapon;
- 2) a rifle or combination weapon may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a rifle or combination weapon;
- 3) a small-calibre rifle or black-powder weapon may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle, pistol, revolver, combination weapon or black-powder weapon; (601/2001)
- 4) a pistol or revolver may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a pistol or revolver;

- 5) a small-calibre pistol or small-calibre revolver may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a pistol, small-calibre pistol, revolver or small-calibre revolver;
- 6) a gas weapon may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a gas weapon;
- 7) a signalling weapon may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a signalling weapon;
- 8) another firearm referred to in section 6(2)(12) may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a corresponding firearm;
- 9) a pocket gun may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a pocket gun;
- 10) a specially dangerous firearm may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a firearm with a corresponding mode of operation or an otherwise corresponding firearm;
- 11) a gas spray may only be lent to someone who has the right to possess a gas spray.

Anyone to whom a firearm is lent may, at the same time, also be conveyed/handed over a sufficient amount of cartridges, other than specially dangerous cartridges, suitable for use with the firearm.

If a permit entitling the holder to possess a firearm includes a term under which it is not permitted to shoot with the firearm, the lender shall inform the borrower of the matter. The borrower shall comply with the term.

A firearm component may be lent to someone else if the borrower, under subsection 1, could be lent a firearm with which the component to be lent has been designed and manufactured to be used. A firearm component may also be lent to someone who otherwise has the right to possess the firearm component in question.

Section 88

Supervised use of a firearm

A person who has reached the age of 18 and who has the right to possess a firearm may allow the use of the firearm under his or her immediate supervision, provided that the person is able to efficiently supervise and guide the user of the firearm so that the use is not likely to cause any danger.

Section 89

Notification of conveyance/handing over (601/2001)

Anyone who permanently conveys/hands over a firearm or firearm component to someone else shall, within 30 days of the conveyance/handing over, submit a notification of the conveyance/handing over (*notification of conveyance*) to the police department that granted the permit entitling the holder to acquire the firearm or firearm component, or to another police department. The notification duty does not apply to conveyances/handing over between firearms dealers who have been granted a permit for carrying on the trade of dealing in or manufacturing firearms or firearm components where the conveyance/handing over concerns a firearm or firearm component for which no possession permit has been granted. The notification shall state the information further provided by Government decree.

Section 90

Duty to present and surrender a possession permit document (601/2001)

The holder of a possession permit shall, within 30 days of the permanent conveyance/handling over of a firearm or firearm component to someone else, present and, on request, surrender the possession permit document to the police department for his or her municipality of residence or registered office.

Chapter 8

Procedural provisions and interim measures

Section 91 *Taking possession*

When a trade permit for dealing in firearms or a permit entitling the holder to possession granted for private use expires or is revoked, the police shall make a decision on taking of possession of the firearms, firearms components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles unless they have already been conveyed/handed over to the holder of a relevant permit.

The police shall also make a decision on taking of possession if a person in possession of an illegal firearm or firearm component or illegal cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles informs the police of the object at his or her own initiative and surrenders it to the police. The decision on taking of possession shall be revoked if the police seize the object under Chapter 4 of the Coercive Measures Act (450/1987), or if the object is ordered forfeit to the State. (804/2003)

Section 92 *Taking temporary possession*

If there are reasonable grounds to suspect misuse of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles, or if a procedure to revoke a related permit has been initiated, the police shall, without delay, make a decision on taking temporary possession of the objects.

A policeman shall take a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles away from their holder if there is an apparent risk of misuse. The policeman shall, without delay, notify the police department for the place in whose territory the objects have been taken away from their holder or the police department for the permit holder's place of residence, of their taking away. The police shall, within 14 days of taking away of the objects, undertake measures to make a decision on temporary taking of possession of the objects, or return the objects taken away to their holder.

Section 93 *Effect of taking temporary possession on the validity of a permit*

A trade permit for dealing in firearms or a possession permit granted for private use relating to a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles of which the police have taken temporary possession, ceases to be valid.

If the police have taken temporary possession of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a parallel permit, the possession permit and other parallel permits relating to the firearm or firearm component remain valid.

Section 94

Duration of taking temporary possession

A decision under which the police have taken temporary possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles is valid for a maximum period of three months. The police may, for a special reason, extend the validity of the decision by a maximum of six months at a time. During the validity of the decision:

- 1) the permit relating to the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles shall be revoked;
- 2) the police shall make a decision on taking of possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate;
- 3) the holder of the permit shall be issued a reprimand and the objects of which the police have taken possession shall be returned to the holder; or
- 4) the objects of which the police have taken possession shall be returned to the holder of the permit, or to the person in possession of the deceased's estate.

If the objects of which the police have taken possession are returned to the holder of the permit, the validity of the permit shall be renewed.

If the police have taken temporary possession of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a parallel permit, the firearm or firearm component may, notwithstanding subsection 1, be returned to the holder of the possession permit unless this is likely to cause danger to the maintenance of public order and security.

Section 95

Procedure relating to taking possession and temporary possession

The police shall, without delay, notify the permit holder or the person in possession of the deceased's estate of taking of possession, temporary taking of possession and a decision to extend the period of validity of temporary taking of possession. If the police have taken possession of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a parallel permit, the holder of the possession permit shall also, without delay, be notified of the decision. The notification of taking of possession or temporary taking of possession shall state the reason for the taking of possession and, in case of temporary taking of possession, also its effect on the validity of the permit.

The police shall prepare a record of taking of possession, temporary taking of possession and the extension of temporary taking of possession, or enter them in another document.

Section 96

Surrendering, taking possession by the police and returning a permit document and certificate of consent

When the validity of a trade permit for dealing in firearms, a permit entitling the holder to acquisition or possession granted for private use or a certificate of consent ceases, the permit document or the certificate of consent shall, without delay, be surrendered

to the police. The police have the right to take possession of the permit document or the certificate of consent.

If the validity of the permit referred to in subsection 1 is renewed, the permit document shall, without delay, be returned to the holder of the permit.

Section 97 *Search of premises*

The provisions on the right to gain access to domestic premises to take possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles because of a suspected crime, or to prevent a dangerous act or event are laid down in the Coercive Measures Act (450/1987) and the Police Act (493/1995).

Section 98 *Police investigation*

The provisions of Chapter 4 of the Police Act shall be observed in an investigation relating to the revocation of a licence or permit granted under this Act.

Section 99 *Handing over/Conveying objects in the possession of the police (804/2003)*

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91(1), and a firearm which is in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91(2) may be **handed over/conveyed**, within three months of the issue of the decision, to the holder of a relevant permit who is named or approved by the owner. The police may, for a special reason, extend the period by a maximum of three months.

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91(2) shall be **handed over/conveyed** to their owner if the owner's identity is known to the police and he or she holds a permit for the possession of the objects. A firearm may also be **handed over/conveyed** to its owner, even if the owner does not hold a permit for the possession of the firearm, if the firearm is rendered permanently unfit for use.

Section 100 *Sale on behalf of the owner and transfer to State ownership (804/2003)*

The police sell at a public auction on behalf of the owner a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles as referred to in section 99(1) which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession and which have not been **handed over/conveyed** to the holder of a relevant permit. The police shall also sell at a public auction a firearm as referred to in section 99(2) if the owner of the firearm does not hold a permit for the possession of the firearm in question, or if the firearm is not rendered permanently unfit for use. Any necessary costs that arise from handling the object and from holding the auction may be deducted from the selling price.

A firearm component, gas spray, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession made under section 91(2) and which have not been **handed over/conveyed** to their lawful owner as provided in section 99(2), transfer to State ownership without redemption. A

firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession made under section 91 shall also transfer to State ownership without redemption if the owner of the object surrenders the object to the State without reimbursement. In addition, a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which have not been sold at an auction under subsection 1 or which are in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91(2), and whose owner is unknown transfer to State ownership without redemption.

Chapter 9 Consequences

Section 101 *Firearms offence (601/2001)*

A person who, in violation of this Act, deliberately

- 1) transfers or imports to Finland, transfers from Finland, exports, transports in transit or manufactures for commercial purposes, or trades in or acquires, possesses or conveys/hands over firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles;
 - 2) repairs or converts a firearm or firearm component, keeps a shooting range or gives training in the use of firearms for commercial purposes;
 - 3) lends a firearm or firearm component to someone who has not the right to possess it;
 - 4) neglects in full or in part the duty of a firearms dealer to keep a file under section 25(1);
 - 5) neglects the duty under section 110(1) to have firearms or cartridges manufactured, repaired, transferred or imported to Finland for sale examined; or
 - 6) neglects the duty under section 112a to present a firearm rendered permanently unfit for use or a permanently deactivated firearm component to the police department,
- shall be sentenced for a *firearms offence* to a fine or to imprisonment for a maximum of two years.

An attempt is punishable.

Possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles as referred to in subsection 1(1) is not deemed a firearms offence if the person in possession of such an object informs the police of the object at his or her own initiative and surrenders it to the police. (804/2003)

Section 102 *Aggravated firearms offence*

If in the firearms offence,

- 1) the object of the offence is a specially dangerous firearm or a large number of firearms or firearm components;
 - 2) considerable financial benefit is sought; or
 - 3) the offence is committed with a particularly methodical manner,
- and if the offence is aggravated when assessed as a whole, the offender shall be sentenced for an *aggravated firearms offence* to imprisonment for a minimum of four months and a maximum of four years.

An attempt is punishable.

Section 103 *Firearms violation*

If the firearms offence, with due consideration to the nature or number of the objects of the offence or the other circumstances connected with the offence, is to be deemed petty when assessed as a whole, the offender shall be sentenced for a *firearms violation* to a fine.

A person who, in violation of this Act, deliberately (601/2001)

- 1) neglects the notification duty under section 22(1), section 24(1), section 89 or section 111(1);
 - 2) neglects the duty under section 22(2) or section 59 to notify of changes in storage facilities;
 - 3) neglects to apply for a possession permit within the period laid down in section 52(1);
 - 4) neglects in full or in part the duty of a weapons collector to keep a file under section 59a(1) or section 60(1); (601/2001)
 - 5) neglects the duty under section 52(2), section 90 or section 112 to present or surrender a permit document to the police, the duty under section 74(3) to present or surrender a European firearms pass to the police, or the duty under section 96(1) to surrender a permit document or certificate of consent to the police; (601/2001)
 - 6) neglects the duty under section 70 to notify the police of the acquisition of a firearm component, or to present a firearm component to the police;
 - 7) neglects his or her supervision duty after allowing someone else to use a firearm under section 88;
 - 8) stores a firearm or firearm component or carries or transports a firearm;
 - 9) neglects the duty under section 108(1)(3) or section 112 to present a firearm rendered permanently unfit for use or a permanently deactivated firearm component to the police;
 - 10) neglects the duty to have a firearm examined under a term included in a private manufacturing permit under section 110(2); or
 - 11) neglects the duty under section 117 to present a licence or permit document, European firearms pass, or firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles possessed under a permit document or licences or permits entered in the European firearms pass,
- shall also be sentenced for a *firearms violation*.

Section 104 *Forfeiture*

A person who is guilty of a firearms offence, aggravated firearms offence or firearms violation shall be ordered to forfeit to the State the object with regard to which he or she has violated the provisions of this Act, or the value of the object. If a firearm is ordered forfeit, the components of the firearm in question and the cartridges and projectiles suitable for use with the firearm shall also be ordered forfeit.

An object belonging in full or in part to a person other than the offender, accomplice or person on whose behalf or with whose consent the offence has been committed, may not be ordered forfeit. An object may, however, be ordered forfeit from the person to whom it has been **transferred** after the commission of the offence if the person knew of the crime when receiving the object.

If the sanction of forfeiture would be unreasonable in the circumstances, the sanction or claim relating to it may be waived. Instead of the sanction of forfeiture, and with the consent of the owner, it may be ordered that the firearm be rendered permanently unfit for use or the firearm component permanently deactivated.

Chapter 10 **Miscellaneous provisions**

Section 105 *Duty of care*

The holder of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles has a duty to take such care of the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles that there is no danger of them falling into the hands of unauthorised people.

Section 106 *Storage, carrying and transport*

A firearm shall be stored in a locked place or otherwise locked, or so that a component belonging to the firearm is stored separate from the firearm. Even when stored like this, a firearm or firearm component may not be stored in a place where it can be easily stolen.

If a specially dangerous firearm or a total of more than five pistols, revolvers, self-loading single-shot rifles or other self-loading single-shot firearms as referred to in section 6(2)(12) are to be stored, they shall be stored in a secure, locked cabinet under the decree of the Ministry of the Interior. A secure cabinet is not, however, required if the police department for the area in which the storage facilities for firearms are located has approved the facilities. (601/2001)

In a public place and in premises accessible to the public, a firearm may be carried only unloaded in a container, and carried and transported only when there are reasonable grounds for this. In a motor vehicle, a firearm may be carried only unloaded in a container or placed in a protected place, and carried only when there are reasonable grounds for this. The provisions of the Hunting Act and the provisions issued under it shall also be observed in the transport of a hunting weapon.

The provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the Act on Transport of Dangerous Goods (719/1994) and the provisions issued under these Acts also apply to the storage and transport of cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles containing explosive or incendiary material.

Section 107 *Terms relating to storage and transport, licences and permits, prior consents and a certificate of consent*

The police may impose terms necessary for the maintenance of public order and security on the storage and transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles.

The licensing authority and the authority granting a prior consent or certificate of consent may include in licences and permits, prior consents and in a certificate of con-

sent granted under this Act, terms necessary for the maintenance of public order and security.

Section 108

Firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate

After the death of the holder of a permit entitling the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles, the person in possession of the deceased's estate shall, without delay, take possession of the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles. The person has the right to store and, for an acceptable reason, also to transport the objects referred to above for six months after the death of the permit holder. During this period, the person shall:

- 1) acquire a permit entitling the holder to possess the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles,
- 2) convey/hand over the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to someone who is entitled to acquire them;
- 3) attend to the rendering of the firearm permanently unfit for use and the firearm component permanently deactivated, and to present them to the police; or
- 4) surrender the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to the police.

Any firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles found in the deceased's estate after the period mentioned in subsection 1 shall be surrendered to the police without delay.

In the cases referred to in subsection 1(4) and subsection 2, the police shall make a decision on taking of possession of the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles. The police shall prepare a record of the taking of possession or enter it in another document.

Section 109

Firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate and surrendered to the police

The provisions of sections 99 and 100 apply to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession.

Section 110

Examining firearms and cartridges

Firearms and cartridges manufactured, repaired, transferred and imported to Finland for sale shall be examined before being put on the market or otherwise conveyed/handed over to ensure their safety in use as further provided by Government decree. The examination duty does not apply to firearms or cartridges of value to collectors that are manufactured, repaired or transferred or imported to Finland for keeping in a museum or collection. (601/2001)

A private manufacturing permit may include a term under which a firearm manufactured for personal use shall also be examined in order to ensure its safety in use.

A firearm or cartridge not approved in the examination may not be marketed or otherwise conveyed/handed over.

The Ministry of the Interior may grant a cartridge manufacturer or importer the right to use a cartridge examination mark. Further provisions on the requirements for granting and revoking the right to use an examination mark are given by Government decree. (601/2001)

Section 111

Lost or stolen firearm, firearm component, licence or permit document or European firearms pass

Anyone who has lost a firearm or firearm component that he or she has had in his or her possession, or had it stolen is obliged to notify the police of the matter without delay. When informing the police of the matter, the licence or permit document or another account of the right to possess the firearm or firearm component shall be presented.

A licence or permit holder who has lost his or her licence or permit document or European firearms pass, or had it stolen and who has obtained a new licence or permit document or firearms pass as a replacement of the one lost or stolen shall, without delay, surrender the licence or permit document or firearms pass found later on to the police.

Section 112

Presenting a firearm rendered permanently unfit for use and a permanently deactivated firearm component (601/2001)

The holder of a permit entitling the holder to possess a firearm or firearm component shall, within 30 days of the rendering of the firearm permanently unfit for use or the firearm component permanently deactivated, present the firearm or firearm component to the police department for his or her municipality of residence or registered office. The permit document for the permit entitling the holder to possession shall, at the same time, be presented and, on request, surrendered to the police.

Section 112a

Transferring and importing to Finland a firearm rendered permanently unfit for use and a permanently deactivated firearm component (601/2001)

Anyone who transfers or imports to Finland a firearm rendered permanently unfit for use or a permanently deactivated firearm component shall, within 30 days of the transfer or import, present the firearm or firearm component to the police department for examination.

Section 113

Duty of the police to keep files

The police shall keep files necessary for attending to their duties relating to licence administration and supervision, of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles. The files may also contain entries on the acquisition, possession, transfer, import and export of the objects referred to above, and necessary for making to the authorities in other countries notifications as referred to in the Firearms Directive, in Council Directive 93/15/EEC on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses, and in the Schengen Convention. 180/2001

The files referred to in subsection 1 are non public. In addition, an application for a licence or permit relating to a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles, an application for a prior consent, certificate of consent and approval granted to a weapons collector and a decision made in the matter are non public. The police may, however, for a special reason, make a decision to confirm a piece of data concerning the validity or content of a specific licence or permit if the identity of the party requesting the data is known to the police. Otherwise, what is provided in the Act on the Processing of Personal Data by the Police (761/2003) applies to the keeping and use of the files and to the conveyance/handing over of data from the files. However, the provisions of subsection 3 apply to the deletion of data in the files. (800/2003)

Section 114 has been repealed by the Act Amending the Firearms Act (601/2001).

Section 115

Supervising compliance with the Act

The ministry handling firearm issues is responsible for the general supervision of this Act and the provisions issued under it. The police are responsible for the supervision of compliance with the Act and the provisions issued under it. The Frontier Guard and the Customs Administration supervise compliance with the Act and the provisions issued under it in their respective areas of competence.

Section 116

Supervision of firearms dealers and weapons collectors

The police shall examine the storage facilities for firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles of an applicant for a trade permit for dealing in firearms. The examination shall be repeated if changes are made to the storage facilities. In addition, the police shall, at least once a year, examine the files kept under section 25(1) by firearms dealers operating in their territory, as well as the bookkeeping, stores and storage facilities of the firearms dealers. The police have, when performing the examination, the right to access to the bookkeeping of the firearms dealer, and to the facilities in which the objects referred to above are stored.

The police shall, before granting a permit for the acquisition of the first firearm or firearm component belonging to a collection, examine the facilities in which the firearms and firearm components are to be stored. The examination shall be repeated if changes are made to the storage facilities. The police may, where necessary, also examine the file kept by a weapons collector under section 59a(1) and section 60(1). (601/2001)

The police shall prepare a record of the examinations they have performed or enter them in another document.

Section 117

Presenting documents and firearms (601/2001)

A licence or permit document as referred to in this Act and a European firearms pass, as well as firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles possessed under a permit document or permits entered in the European firearms pass shall, on request, be presented to the police, to border guard and customs authorities, and to an official of the Forest and Park Service who performs surveil-

lance activities on State land managed by the Forest and Park Service and who has been granted special police powers under section 8 of the Police Act.

Section 117a
Firearms board (601/2001)

A firearms board operates at the Ministry of the Interior and, at the request of the Ministry, gives statements on matters falling within the scope of application of this Act. Further provisions on the firearms board are given by Government decree.

Section 118
Appeal

Appeal against a decision made by the Ministry of the Interior under sections 32-35, 35a, 36, 37 and 64 of this Act is lodged with the Supreme Administrative Court, and against other decisions made under this Act with an Administrative Court as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996). (601/2001)

A decision as referred to in this Act on the revocation of a licence or permit, approval, taking of possession, temporary taking of possession or the extension of the validity of temporary taking of possession, is implemented irrespective of appeal unless forbidden by the appellate authority.

When appeals concerning the acquisition or possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles are dealt with in an Administrative Court, the State is represented by an official of the Provincial Police Command appointed to the task by the State Provincial Office. (601/2001)

The State agent has the right of appeal against the decision of an Administrative Court. (601/2001)

Section 119
Further provisions

Further provisions may be issued by Government decree on: (601/2001)

- 1) the measurement of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles;
- 2) which cartridges and projectiles are specially dangerous;
- 3) the procedure to be applied to the application for licences and permits, prior consents, a certificate of consent, approval granted to a weapons collector and for a European firearms pass, on the content of the application and on accounts necessary to decide the matters;
- 4) the content of licence and permit documents, prior consents, a certificate of consent, approval granted to a weapons collector and a European firearms pass;
- 5) the procedure to be applied when firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles have been ordered forfeit to the State or when they have, under this Act, come into the ownership of the State;
- 6) the transport and storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles;
- 7) the marking of firearms and firearm components with a serial number or other corresponding marking suitable for identifying an object; (601/2001)
- 8) the test laid down in section 26(3)(1). (601/2001)

Further provisions may be issued by Ministry of the Interior decree on: (804/2003)

- 1) the forms to be used in the procedures referred to in this Act;
- 2) the disposal of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which, under this Act, have been ordered forfeit to the State or have come into the ownership of the State, on their use for the needs of the State, on their **handing over/conveyance** for keeping in a museum or collection, or on their sale at a public auction or in another manner; (804/2003)
- 3) the technical safety structures required for the transport and storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles, and on the procedure for evaluating the structures;
- 4) the approved purposes of use of firearms referred to in this Act, and on the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles suitable for use for these purposes of use;
- 5) the procedure relating to the evaluation of the requirements laid down for approval as a weapons collector;
- 6) the terms to be issued under this Act necessary for the maintenance of public order and security.

The Ministry of the Interior gives, as appropriate, further instructions on the technical aspects of the rendering of firearms permanently unfit for use and firearm components permanently deactivated, and on the procedure to be applied to the presentation of objects laid down in section 112a. (601/2001)

Chapter 11

Provisions on entry into force and transitory provisions

Section 120 *Entry into force*

This Act comes into force on 1 March 1988.

This Act repeals the Firearms and Ammunition Act of 27 January 1933 (33/1933) as amended. However, the Decree on the Examination of Firearms and Ammunition of 27 August 1982 (656/1982) issued under the Act remains in force.

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be undertaken before the Act's entry into force.

Section 121 *Licences and permits granted under the previous Act*

Licences and permits relating to firearms, firearm components and cartridges granted under the previous Act remain in force.

Section 122 *Acquiring a trade permit for dealing in firearms for commercial manufacture of cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles*

Anyone who, upon the entry into force of this Act, manufactures cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles for commercial purposes shall, within six months of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a trade permit for dealing in firearms entitling the holder to carry on the activity.

Section 123

Acquiring a firearm licence

Anyone who, upon the entry into force of this Act, is employed by a firearms dealer to transport, store or otherwise handle firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles in the possession of the firearms dealer shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a firearm licence.

Section 124

Acquiring a permit for firearms and firearm components

Anyone who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a firearm the possession of which does not require a permit under provisions in force upon the entry into force of the Act shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a permit for the possession of the firearm.

Anyone who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a component of the firearm referred to in subsection 1 shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a permit for the possession of the firearm component. Instead of acquiring a permit:

- 1) a weapons collector may draft a file as referred to in section 60 of the firearm components in his or her possession; and
- 2) anyone who has the right to possess a firearm assembled of corresponding components as referred to in section 19(1)(2) may make the notification referred to in section 70 to the police department for his or her municipality of residence.

The firearm or firearm component shall be presented when applying for the permit unless this is considered unnecessary by the licensing authority.

Section 125

Acquiring a permit for specially dangerous cartridges and projectiles

Anyone who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a specially dangerous cartridge which he or she has the right to possess, or a specially dangerous projectile shall, within six months of the entry into force of this Act, acquire an ammunition permit entitling the holder to possess the cartridge or projectile.

The cartridge or projectile shall be presented when applying for the permit unless this is considered unnecessary by the licensing authority.

Section 126

Firearms held in possession under a permit granted in the area of defence administration

Anyone who, under the Decree on the Firearms and Ammunition of Persons Employed by the Defence Forces or Belonging to the Civil Guards (128/1933), has been granted the right to acquire or possess a firearm shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a permit under this Act.

The firearm shall be presented when applying for the permit unless this is considered unnecessary by the licensing authority.

Section 127

Conveying/Handing over a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles to someone else or to the State

Anyone who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles for the possession of which he or she should, under sections 124-126, acquire a permit may, instead of acquiring the permit, within the period mentioned in the section concerned, convey/hand over the object to someone who, under this Act, has the right to acquire the object. The objects may also be surrendered to the police, in which case they transfer to State ownership without redemption.

Section 128

Requirements for granting a licence or permit, and licence and permit fees

A licence or permit applied for:

- 1) under section 122 is granted to an applicant who is entitled to carry on a trade, who notifies the person in charge referred to in section 26, who, in the cases referred to in section 20(3), has a firearm licence, and whose storage facilities for cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles have been approved by the police department for the area in which the storage facilities are located;
- 2) under section 123 is granted without the evaluation of the requirements for granting the licence laid down in section 27;
- 3) under sections 124-126 is granted without the evaluation of the requirements for granting a permit laid down in section 45.

The licences and permits referred to in subsection 1 are granted without a licence or permit fee.

Section 129

Transitional provision relating to weapons collection

A permit for the acquisition and possession of a firearm or firearm component for keeping in a collection may be granted within six months of the entry into force of this Act even if the applicant does not have the approval referred to in section 57(1).

Section 130

Firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which have come to a deceased's estate during the previous Act

If firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles belong to a deceased's estate which has not been distributed upon the entry into force of this Act, the provisions of section 108 shall be observed. The period mentioned in subsection 1 of this section starts to run on the date of the entry into force of the Act.

Section 131

Licence or permit matter or an appeal initiated during the previous Act

The provisions in force upon the entry into force of this Act apply to a licence or permit matter or appeal relating to firearms, firearm components or cartridges which has been initiated before the entry into force of this Act.

Entry into force and application of amendments:

(758/2000) This Act comes into force on 1 January 2001.

(180/2001) This Act comes into force on a date to be defined by decree. (The Act Amending the Firearms Act (180/2001) came into force on 25 March 2001 under the Government Decree (259/2001) on the Entry into Force of the Act Amending the Firearms Act (180/2001)).

(259/2001) This Decree comes into force on 25 March 2001

(601/2001)

1. *Entry into force.* This Act comes into force on 1 March 2002.

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be undertaken before the Act's entry into force.

2. *Licences and permits, prior consents and approvals as weapons collectors granted under the previous Act.* Licences and permits, prior consents, trade permits for dealing in firearms and approvals granted to weapons collectors relating to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and specially dangerous projectiles which have been granted under the Firearms Act (1/1998) and the Firearms and Ammunition Act (33/1933), and the terms applying to them remain in force.

A permit entitling the holder to possess a gas spray granted under the previous Act shall expire if the permit holder is granted a gas spray permit as referred to in section 55a.

3. *Acquisition of a trade permit for dealing in firearms for keeping a shooting range or for training in the use of firearms for commercial purposes.* Anyone who, upon the entry into force of this Act, keeps a shooting range for commercial purposes or gives training in the use of firearms for commercial purposes shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a trade permit for dealing in firearms entitling the holder to carry on the activity.

4. *Storage of firearms in a secure cabinet.* The firearms referred to in section 106(2) shall, within two years of the entry into force of this Act, be stored in a secure cabinet laid down in the section, or in storage facilities approved by a police department.

5. *Licence or permit matter, an appeal or a petitionary matter concerning approval as a weapons collector initiated during the previous Act.* The provisions in force before the entry into force of this Act apply to a licence or permit matter or appeal relating to firearms, firearm components, cartridges or specially dangerous projectiles, or to a petitionary matter concerning approval as a weapons collector which has been initiated before the entry into force of this Act.

(764/2003) This Act comes into force on 1 October 2003.

(800/2003) This Act comes into force on 1 October 2003.

(804/2003) This Act comes into force on 1 January 2004.