

UNITED STATES IMPORT PERMIT INFORMATION

Effective immediately, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has implemented a new policy that will make it easier for Canadians and other non-residents (nonimmigrant aliens) to bring firearms and ammunition into the United States for hunting and other sporting purposes. The new policy generally allows non-residents to use an ATF Form 6 import permit multiple times for 12 months following the date the import permit is issued.

Canadians and other non-residents no longer need to get a new import permit each time they plan to enter the United States with firearms and ammunition.

More specifically, the new policy works as follows. If a non-resident submits to ATF an import application (i.e., Form 6) accompanied by a hunting licence, and receives an approved import permit, this permit now authorizes them to do the following: they can bring the firearms and ammunition listed on the import permit into the United States repeatedly for 12 months after the date the permit is approved - as long as they have a valid State hunting licence to present to a U.S. Customs Inspector each time they enter the United States.

Similarly, if a non-resident submits to ATF a Form 6 import application accompanied by invitations/registrations to participate in a qualifying competitive target shooting event or sports or hunting trade show, and receives an approved import permit (which will have the invitations/registrations attached to it,) this permit now authorizes the non-resident to do the following: they can bring the firearms and ammunition listed on the permit into the United States repeatedly for 12 months after the date the permit is approved - as long as the invitations/registrations attached to the permit are for future events.

If a non-resident plans to attend numerous competitive target shooting events/sports or hunting trade shows during the year, but does not expect to have invitations/registrations until shortly before each event, they may want to rely on the hunting licence exception. In other words, non-residents may want to provide ATF with a hunting licence along with their Form 6 import application, rather than invitations/registrations.

ATF is currently revising the Form 6 application for non-residents, and it should be available later this year from ATF and the Canadian Firearms Centre.

If you have any questions about the new policy, please call the ATF Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch at (202) 927-8320. Information about the new policy also is available on the ATF Web site at: <http://www.atf.treas.gov/firearms/form6updatesfaqs.htm>

For more information contact the Canadian Firearms Centre by phone at 1-800-731-4000 or by fax at 1-613-941-1991. The Canadian Firearms Centre can also be contacted by e-mail at canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca