

Visitor Shotgun and Firearm Permits —Guidance

Key points

- A **Visitor's Firearm Permit or Visitor's Shotgun Permit is required** to bring or possess firearms or shotguns in Great Britain as a visitor.
- **Applications MUST be accompanied by** your licence or permit issued in your country of origin. If you do not have one, you must provide a copy of the photo page of your passport. Alternatively, if you belong to a shooting club in your country, you should submit a document from your club secretary confirming your shooting experience.
- A **Permit MUST be obtained before travel**
- **Allow at least 16 weeks (4 months)**

Who issues and who can sponsor

- **Permits are issued by the local police force** covering the sponsor area of residence.
- **A UK sponsor is required** (club, individual, estate, or recognised national body).
- **The NRA will sponsor** visits to Bisley, Wedgnock, specified F-class ranges and applications from NRA overseas members.

Validity and scope

- **A Permit can be valid for up to 12 months**, and for temporary residence of a year or less avoids the need for an import licence and subsequent export licence when returning home
- **A Visitor's Shotgun Permit** may include **permission to acquire** (purchase) a shotgun; you **must** specify this on your application.

Permits will only be issued for the types of firearms and ammunition that are legal in GB

Shotgun visitor permit specifics

- A Shotgun Permit only covers sporting shotguns including Semi-Automatic shotguns **provided –**
- **1)** The barrel is **NOT** less than 24 inches, and the bore does **NOT** exceed 2 inches
- **2)** There is no magazine or has a non-detachable magazine than **CANNOT** hold more than 2 cartridges.
- **3)** Is not a revolver gun.

You must comply with **1)** to **3)** above. Any shotguns not meeting these conditions must be held on a Firearm Permit.

- Apart from those shotguns that are prohibited in the UK

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27/section/5>

- Any additional component parts (e.g. spare barrels) must be listed on the application
- **Some shotgun ammunition (slug, cartridges containing less than 5 projectiles)** is treated as firearm-controlled and requires a firearms permit.

Firearms visitor permit specifics

Permits will only be issued for the types of firearms and ammunition that are legal in GB.

Firearms that are prohibited and will not be authorised on a firearms visitor permit can be found at- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27/section/5>

- **Every firearm, component part (e.g. spare barrel, moderators, spare bolt etc), to be imported, borrowed, hired must be listed** on the permit.
- **All ammunition** you import or will acquire whilst in the UK must appear on the permit.
- Expanding ammunition for pistols is separately controlled, and if you need it, must be requested as a separate item on your permit.
- Air rifles/pistols with a muzzle energy less than 12ft/lbs/6ft lbs do NOT require a firearms visitor permit except in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- If you're shooting with a Home Office Approved club in GB (the NRA is an Approved club), your permit authorises the club to make you a temporary member. This, for example, may allow members of a team shooting in an NRA competition at Bisley to use each other's rifles, without having the other's firearm entered on their own permit. The exemption does not extend to the act of importing or exporting the firearm.

Application requirements

- **Complete the NRA or local force application forms.**
- **Provide a full UK address (including House name or Number AND postcode)** where you will stay.
- **Supply evidence of lawful firearm authorisation in your home country;** if none, provide passport photo page and explanation.
- **Submit clear, printable documents (PDF/Word).**

Fees, delivery and logistics

- **NRA sponsor fees:** £75 individual; £325 group (includes police fee) plus delivery/courier costs.
- **Additional charges** may apply for meeting at airports near Bisley.
- **Do not rely on Customs accepting third-party handover; obtain the permit before travel.**

Group applications

- **Group = 6–20 people travelling together** to the same locations and **all** dates must be the same.
- **Group applications produce individual permits** for each member to use independently within authorised limits.

Jurisdictional notes

- **Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland** have different rules; the NRA processes permit for Great Britain only.
- **European Firearms Pass is not accepted as proof of licence;** provide national licence or equivalent evidence.

Practical tips

- **Start applications early** minimum 16 weeks/4 months.
- **Request permit dates** a few **weeks before arrival** and a **few weeks after departure**, your Permit acts as an Export Licence – without a valid permit you will not be able to take your firearms out of the country.
- **Verify you have completed application against the provided checklist** prior to submission. This prevents delays. The NRA will return any incomplete application.
- **Application to be legible**, if the NRA are not able to read the written completed form it will be returned for amendment.

Contact

- **Completed Visitor permits forms to:** visitorpermits@nra.org.uk
- **Advice prior to Visitor permit completion to:** legal@nra.org.uk; +44 (0)1483 797777 ext 143

You are solely responsible for ensuring that all information submitted is accurate and complete at the time of application.

If any changes are required to an existing application, you must contact the NRA directly at visitorpermits@nra.org.uk. Do not contact Police Licensing under any circumstances.

Please be aware that amendments requested within one month of your attendance may not be processed in time, and the Police may be unable to issue a revised permit. Last-minute changes are unlikely to be accommodated.

All permit-related enquiries must be directed exclusively to the email address provided above. Failure to follow this process may result in no permit being issued.