

Importation of Firearms

You have 2 options:

One: Do all the paper work yourself, which we will supply to you.

Two: Strongly Recommended: You can obtain this Firearms Importation Permit from PHASA –

Professional Hunters Association of South Africa at a minimal fee of about \$140.

Privileges of doing so:

1. No long cues at the airport which could be up to 4 hours.
2. You know before hand that all your documentation is in order.
3. If your Rifle do not arrive on the same flight with you; you do not need to drive back from the hunting area and loose a day or 2 of hunting to sign for it when it do arrive, it will be delivered to you where ever you are hunting within SA. You can contact them at phasa@pixie.co.za or website www.phasa.co.za/index.php=18.

The following is applicable for the importation of your Firearm/s, no matter what option you go for:

The Temporary Firearm Import Application – SAP 520 can be obtained from our website at www.motsomi.com/about.html or we can e-mail it to you, which must be completed before arrival in South Africa. This is recommended if possible to help streamline the entry process. If you apply for the permit before arrival the SAP 520 and all supporting documentation must be send to PHASA at least 25days before arrival in South Africa.

Instructions for completing the SAP 520 Form:

1. Black ink must be used to fill in the form.
2. Please note that not all sections of the form apply. Visitors bringing their own firearms in for hunting purposes should fill in the following:
 - Page 2 Section D: 5, Section E: 1 – 25.4 Natural person's details
 - Page 4 Section G:1 – 5 & 8 – 9.2 Import/Export details
 - Page 5 & 6 Section I **SIGN 4.3** Details of Firearms etc
 - Page 6 Section J **SIGN 3**

Required along with the SAP 520 will be the following:

1. Copy of Passport
2. Copy of return Airline Ticket
3. Proof of Ownership, i.e. firearm licenses, etc. To preclude any problems on arrival, please make sure you have proof of ownership by the way of a Custom Declaration Form 4457 (officially stamped); it can be obtained from your closest custom agent such as at a small airport.
4. Proof of Export: Documentary proof of export from the country of origin. Will be obtained when exporting fire arm from the airport. Form 4457 will do.
5. Invitation Letter from Motsomi (Hunting outfitter): The letter will state the following: Company name and details, name of your outfitter & his registration nr, ph's registration nr as well as addresses and contact telephone numbers in South Africa of where you will be staying / hunting during the course of your hunt and confirmation that the applicant will be using the specific firearms as applied. This information is necessary for the actual Temporary Import Permit, as well as if the police need to be in contact for any reason.

The police are also fully aware of the nature conservation legislation and the fact that a hunt undertaken by a foreign client legally must be organized by a hunting-outfitter.

Therefore, if a client cannot produce who his outfitter is and where he will be hunting, it may be presumed he does not have an outfitter and could be hunting illegally in South Africa. In such a case the SAPS may not issue a Temporary Import Permit and hold the visitor's firearm/s in safekeeping until that person leaves South Africa.

Firearms will be physically inspected to ensure the serial numbers match those of the licenses and the application forms. Ammunition will also be inspected, and it is important to note that this ammunition also requires a permit.

Please ensure that sufficient time is allowed to go through the temporary importation process and to clear customs. During the busy periods of the hunting season up to seventy clients may be needing permits at the same time. We would therefore recommend at least four hours should be set aside for this procedure. Unless a Firearms importation permit was obtained in advance.

Also, please ensure that your firearms arrive on the same flight as you do. This must be done with the airline company on departure. Your firearm/s may only be signed for by you and will not be released to your outfitter or professional hunter should it/they arrive on a separate flight. In this case, the firearm/s will be held by the SAPS until such time as you claim ownership in person.

Please do not pay for any service regarding the handling of a firearm at Johannesburg International Airport, or any port of entry. This is a free service and the South African Police Service asks clients not to pay anybody involved in handling firearms from the time of arrival in South Africa right through until you receive your firearms and the permit from the SAPS. Clients that are paying the various airline company staff or the security company involved are actually creating a problem. Please note however that there is a handling fee charged by airlines and/or security companies for the handling of handguns and some airlines charge a handling fee for all firearms.

Temporary Import Permits (SAP520) is issued to the particular person and is not transferable. Temporary Import Permits are issued for a period of 90 or 180 days. When the visitor departs from the country, he MUST take all his firearms as stated on the Import Permit with him. He is not allowed to leave any of the firearms mentioned on the SAP312 in South Africa.

Should a firearm not be declared and a temporary import permit not issued, and you proceed through customs without declaring a firearm, you will face severe penalties and possible arrest on departure from South Africa.

There is no permit required, nor any charge by the South African Police Service for a bow. Handling fees are charged by airline and/or security companies for bows and handguns.

Allowances and Specifications

1. Maximum of 4 firearms, but no more than one firearm per caliber and 200 rounds per firearm will be allowed into the country per client. The only exception to this is for shotguns, where more than one shotgun of the same caliber may be allowed for bird hunting purposes if the client produces on arrival at the South African Police Gun Office an acceptable written motivation as to why he/she requires more than one shotgun of the same caliber.
2. Permits will only be issued for ammunition which is accompanied by a firearm of the same caliber.

3. Ammunition must be in a hard box (not necessarily locked) in your checked luggage, away from the firearm, but declared on departure and arrival, check with your airline company since these can differ.
4. Temporary Import Permits will not be issued for anyone under the age of 21.
5. Firearms that may NOT be imported are: (Section 32 of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969) (Act NO. 75 of 1969)
 - Automatic Rifles
 - Semi-automatic rifles
 - Automatic or Semi-automatic Shotguns
 - Handguns for self-defense
 - Weapons that fall under military categories
6. Strict controls on automatic and semi-automatic firearms are enforced. This will affect clients wanting to bring in semi-automatic shotguns on temporary import permits. The latest requirement which is in effect that no temporary import permit will be issued for a semi-automatic shotgun unless an application is made in 21 days in advance together with a motivational letter as to why the shotgun is needed. The application must be made through the Central Firearms Registry.
7. Handguns will only be allowed for hunting purposes and must be accompanied by a letter from an association in the country of origin, stating that the handgun will be used for hunting purposes as well as from your outfitter.

Please check the PHASA Website at www.phasa.co.za for any updates to this information.

What to do at Johannesburg International Airport:

1. Clear passport control in the arriving terminal.
2. Go to the Import/Export Office. Next to it is an area marked: "Firearms and Security Items". Here you will identify your rifle case and sign for it, if required. You will not receive it yet.
3. Proceed to baggage claim at the respective carousel. Pick up general baggage, and then proceed to the GREEN line at Customs.
4. Finish other custom clearance procedures.
5. Proceed to the arriving terminal from where you go to the South African Police Firearms Office (SAP), where one of Motsomi's representatives will meet you. For passengers arriving in Terminal A1 or A2 exit the arrival hall and turn right, look out for the SAP office.
6. Here you will receive your Pre-approved Importation Permit - if you applied for it - from a PHASA representative or else you will need all the documentation to apply for the permit and receive your firearms when you are done. The Motsomi representative will be with you to help you through the process.
7. Your firearm(s) and ammo will be checked against your temporary import permit after which you will be free to leave.