



**Notice to Importers 2875 issued on 7 April 2016 by Import Licensing Branch (ILB),
Queensway House, West Precinct, Billingham TS23 2NF**

DEACTIVATED FIREARMS IMPORT LICENSING AND EU TRANSIT ARRANGEMENTS

Deactivated firearms

1. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 published on 15 December 2015 introduced new EU-wide standards for deactivated firearms to ensure that deactivated firearms cannot be reactivated. This Regulation also introduced an EU Deactivation Certificate and a new EU deactivation mark. The UK will be requiring additional measures under article 6 of the Regulation for certain firearms and further guidance will be issued shortly.
2. To ensure that deactivated firearms cannot be reactivated when they enter the UK, from 8th April 2016, an import licence will be required for the import or transfer into the UK of a deactivated firearm. An import licence will be required for each shipment. The only acceptable proof that a firearm is deactivated is an EU Deactivation Certificate. No other Deactivation Certificate can be accepted. The EU Deactivation Certificate must state that the firearm has been deactivated in accordance with the additional measures required by the UK, where applicable. The firearm must also have the new EU deactivation mark on it. Deactivated firearms that cannot meet this requirement will not be issued with an import licence.

Overseas re-enactment events using deactivated firearms

3. Re-enactors will be able to apply for a three-year import licence provided you have the new EU Certificate of deactivation which, if applicable, also confirms that the firearm has been deactivated to the UK standard and are a member of a re-enactment society when you attend the overseas re-enactment event. Separate import licences will be required for EU and non-EU events.

Deactivated firearms manufactured on or before 31 December 1899

4. Deactivated firearms manufactured on or before 31 December 1899 are exempt from the need for an import licence. Please be aware that you may need to prove this at the border. If in doubt, please apply for an import licence.

Applying for an import licence

5. Applications for deactivated firearms import or transfer licences can be made at www.ilb.bis.gov.uk. Guidance on registering and applying can be found on the front screen.

Help

6. If you are in any doubt or require further clarification on the need for an import licence, please email enquiries.ilb@bis.gsi.gov.uk.

This notice is for information purposes only and has no force in law. Please note that where legal advice is required, you should make your own arrangements.