

CYPRUS

FIREARMS

CHAPTER 57 OF THE LAWS

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1959

CHAPTER 57.

FIREARMS.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

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1949 Cap. 86. A LAW TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO
 30 of 55. THE IMPORTATION, POSSESSION AND USE OF FIREARMS.
 32 of 55.

[1st August, 1933.]

Short title. 1. This Law may be cited as the Firearms Law.

Interpreta- 2. In this Law—
 tion. “certificate of registration” means a certificate
 issued under section 9 of this Law ;

2(a) of 30/55. “Chief Constable of Police” includes any police officer
 specially detailed by the Chief Constable of Police for the
 purpose ;

“ Commissioner ” means the Commissioner of the district ; 56 Vol. II, 1249.

“ firearms ” means a firearm of every description and an air-gun, air-rifle, air-pistol or any other kind of gun from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged, and every part thereof, but does not include any toy gun or toy pistol from which any shot, bullet or missile is discharged by force of a spring alone nor a firearm which is preserved for antiquarian interest and not for use ;

“ principal officer of police ” or “ officer for the time being in charge of the police of the district ” means the local officer in charge. 2 of 5/34.

3. (1) No person shall import or attempt to import into the Colony or export or attempt to export therefrom or have under his control or in his possession any— Prohibition of importation, etc., of certain types of firearms, etc.

(a) rifle ;

(b) firearm which is so designed or adapted that, if pressure is applied to the trigger, missiles continue to be discharged until the pressure is removed from the trigger or the magazine containing the missiles is empty ; 2 of 32/55.

(c) weapon of whatever description designed or adapted for the discharge of any noxious liquid, gas or similar thing ;

(d) firearm of a class or type specified by the Governor in Council by an Order to be published in the Gazette.

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of any of the provisions of subsection (1) hereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding seven years or to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine and any firearm in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

4. (1) Save under a special permit granted by the Governor and subject to any terms and conditions contained therein, no person shall import or attempt to import into the Colony or export or attempt to export therefrom or have under his control or in his possession any revolver or pistol of any kind. Restriction on importation, etc., of revolvers, etc. 2 of 32/55.

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of any of the provisions of subsection (1) hereof or who acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any term and condition contained in a special permit granted thereunder shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding seven years or to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine and any revolver or pistol in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

Importation
of certain
types of
firearms.
3 (a) of
30/55.

5. (1) The Chief Constable of Police may, in his discretion, grant a licence to import any firearm other than those specified in sections 3 and 4 to any person who, in his opinion, is a fit and proper person to possess a firearm and intends to import such firearm for his own personal use.

(2) Every such licence shall contain the name and residence of the person authorized thereby to import a firearm under this section and a description of the firearm in respect of which such licence is granted.

(3) Every such licence shall be in force for such period not exceeding three years as may be specified therein provided that the Chief Constable of Police may at any time, upon giving one month's notice to the holder thereof, cancel such licence.

3 (b) of
30/55.

(4) Any person who imports or attempts to import any firearm contrary to the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine and any firearm in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

Importation
of shot guns
by visitors.
4 of 5/34.
4 (a) of
30/55.

6. (1) The Comptroller or any officer of Customs empowered by him in that behalf may grant to any visitor a special licence to import a shotgun for the personal use of such visitor subject to such terms and conditions as the Comptroller or the officer may think fit to impose.

(2) Before granting a licence under subsection (1) hereof the Comptroller or any officer of Customs empowered by him in that behalf shall require the visitor to sign a declaration that the shot gun is imported for the visitor's own personal use.

Possession,
etc., of
firearms
without
registration
and licence
prohibited.

7. (1) From and after the date of the coming into operation of this Law, no person shall have in his custody

possession or control, or shall use or carry a firearm unless such person is the holder of—

- (a) a certificate of registration; and
- (b) in the case of a firearm other than a revolver, ^{5 of 5/34.} pistol, air-gun, air-rifle or air-pistol, an annual licence in the form A in the Schedule ^{Schedule.} hereto issued by the Commissioner (hereinafter called a "firearms licence") :

Provided that the Commissioner may in his discretion issue a firearms licence to any person to have in his custody, possession or control or to use or carry a firearm in respect of which a certificate of registration has been issued to any other person :

Provided further that no person shall during any close ^{5 of 5/34.} season as defined in the Game and Wild Birds Protection ^{Cap. 65.} Law, or any amendment thereto, use or carry a firearm except—

- (i) under a special permit in the form B in the Schedule ^{Schedule.} hereto under the hand of the Commissioner authorizing the carrying of a firearm for the purpose specified in such permit ; or
- (ii) for any purpose authorized under section 6 of the ^{5 (a) of} Game and Wild Birds Protection Law, or any ^{30/55.} amendment thereto.

(2) A firearms licence shall expire on the 31st July next following the date of issue and there shall be payable in respect thereof a fee of one pound.

(3) The holder of a firearms licence in respect of which the fee prescribed in sub-section (2) hereof has been paid shall be entitled, during the period such firearms licence is in force, to be issued with a firearms licence in respect of any additional firearm in his custody, possession or control, upon payment of a fee of two hundred and fifty mils for each such additional firearm.

(4) Any person who has in his custody, possession or control, or who uses or carries a firearm in contravention of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding twenty-five ^{5 (b) of} pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine and any ^{30/55.} firearm the property of such person in respect of which such offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

- (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply—
- (a) to any person carrying a firearm belonging to a person provided with a certificate of registration firearms licence in force and by order of such person and for the use of such person only;
 - (b) to any licensed repairer of firearms or to any person actually employed by such repairer for the purposes of his trade ;
 - (c) to the heir, executor or administrator of the estate of a deceased person who at the time of his death was entitled to keep a firearm, until the expiration of six months from the death of such person.

5 (b) of
30/55.

Deposit of
firearms with
principal
officer of
police.
6 of 5/34.

8. (1) Any person having in his custody, possession or control any firearm for which a certificate of registration has been issued but who does not desire to obtain a firearms licence may deposit free of charge such firearm with the principal officer of police of the district within which such person resides for a period not exceeding one year and may at any time during such period withdraw the same on production of a firearms licence or for the purpose of export, or for the purpose of transferring it in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of this Law.

(2) Any firearm deposited under the provisions of subsection (1) hereof may, if still on deposit, be destroyed by the principal officer of police of the district at the expiration of one year from the date of deposit without payment of compensation.

(3) The principal officer of police of the district or any person acting under him in that behalf shall not be liable for any damage, loss, or destruction of any firearm deposited under the provisions of this section except where such damage, loss, or destruction is due to the wilful default of such principal officer of police or person acting under him in that behalf as the case may be.

Registration
of firearms.
6 of 30/55.

9. (1) Any person who desires to register a firearm shall make an application in writing to the Chief Constable of police specifying his name and residence, the description of the firearm in respect of which registration is desired and, when the application is made in respect of a firearm which has been previously registered, the registered number of such firearm.

56 Vol. II
1249.

(2) On receipt of such application the Chief Constable of Police may, in his discretion, unless the applicant is disqualified by virtue of the provisions of this or any other Law from possessing, carrying or using a firearm, issue to such person a certificate of registration in the form C in the Schedule hereto.

(3) Before issuing a certificate of registration the Chief Constable of Police shall require the applicant to produce the firearm and thereupon, unless such firearm bears any number or mark which in the opinion of the Chief Constable of Police is sufficient for purposes of identification and convenient for registration, shall cause such firearm to be marked either on the stock or barrel in such manner as not to injure or disfigure the same with a number whereby the same may be known and identified.

(4) There shall be payable in respect of a certificate of registration a fee of one hundred mils in stamps :

Provided that no fee shall be payable for any firearm in respect of which a licence was granted under the provisions of the Firearms Law, 1930, or any Law repealed thereby. 7 of 5/34.

(5) The Chief Constable of Police shall register every certificate of registration granted by him in a book to be kept for the purpose wherein he shall enter the particulars of each certificate.

(6) The Chief Constable of Police may in his discretion at any time cancel any certificate of registration by notice in writing to the holder thereof and thereupon the holder of such certificate shall return the same to the Chief Constable of Police and if he fails or refuses to do so he shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds. 7 of 5/34.

10. (1) Any person who wishes to transfer to another person by way of sale or gift any firearm in respect of which he is the holder of a firearms licence or any firearm which he has deposited in accordance with the provisions of section 8 (1) shall make application to the Chief Constable of Police in the form E in the Schedule hereto. Transfer of firearms. 8 of 5/34. 7 (a) of 30/55. Schedule.

(2) The Chief Constable of Police upon receipt of such application may, in his discretion, unless the intended transferee is disqualified by virtue of the provision of this or any other Law from possessing, carrying or using a firearm, issue to the transferee a certificate of registration in respect of such firearm in accordance with the provisions

of section 9 and shall thereupon cancel the certificate of registration issued to the transferor :

7 (b) of
30/55.

Provided that before issuing a certificate of registration the Chief Constable of Police shall require the applicant to produce the firearm for his inspection and marking if necessary.

2 of 17/37.

(3) (a) If the firearm in respect of which a certificate of registration has been issued under subsection (2) is a firearm for which a firearms licence has been issued upon payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (2) of section 7 the Commissioner shall, upon the production to him by the transferee of the said certificate together with the firearms licence of the transferor within three days of the issue of such certificate, endorse the said licence to the transferee free of any charge ; otherwise the transferee shall obtain a firearms licence for such firearm in accordance with the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of section 7 ;

(b) Upon the endorsement of a firearms licence to the transferee as in paragraph (a) of this subsection the transferee shall, during the unexpired period of such licence, have all the rights and be subject to all the liabilities of the transferor under such licence in lieu of the transferor ;

(c) If the firearm in respect of which a certificate of registration has been issued under subsection (2) is a firearm for which a firearms licence has been issued upon payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (3) of section 7 such licence shall, upon the issue of such certificate, be deemed to be cancelled and the transferee shall forthwith obtain a licence for such firearm in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1) of section 7 upon payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (2) or subsection (3) of section 7 as the case may be.

7 (c) of
30/55.

(4) Any person who transfers or attempts to transfer any firearm to any other person, save in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Loss, etc., of
certificate of
registration.

8 (a) of
30/55.

11. (1) If any certificate of registration issued under the provisions of this Law shall be accidentally destroyed, defaced, or lost, the Chief Constable of Police may, if he shall be satisfied as to the destruction, defacement, or loss of such certificate of registration, supply the person in whose name the certificate of registration had been issued with

a duplicate of such certificate, and such duplicate shall have the same force and effect as the original certificate of registration.

(2) Before issuing a duplicate certificate the Chief Constable of Police shall require the applicant to produce the firearm for his inspection and marking if necessary.

8 (b) of
30/55.

12. All forfeitures under this Law may be sold or otherwise disposed of as the Governor may direct.

Disposal of
forfeitures.

13. (1) Any person—

(a) to whom the Chief Constable of Police has refused a certificate of registration ; or

Payment of
value of
firearm in
certain cases.

(b) whose certificate of registration has been cancelled ;

9 of 30/55.

may within ten days from the date of the refusal or the cancellation of a certificate of registration, or in the case of an appeal under section 18 within ten days from the date of the decision of the Governor in Council upon such refusal or cancellation, or upon the expiration of the firearms licence, as the case may be, deliver such firearm to the Commissioner who thereupon shall pay to such person the value thereof at a rate to be assessed by the Comptroller, and if such person fails to deliver such firearm as aforesaid such firearm shall be forfeited.

(2) The value assessed by the Comptroller shall be binding and conclusive and shall be defrayed by the revenue of the Colony. In assessing the value of any such firearm the Comptroller shall not take into account any import duty paid in respect thereof.

14. Subject to the provisions of this Law, no person shall, save under a special permit from the Governor and subject to such terms and conditions as he may think fit, have in his possession, custody or control or shall carry or use a firearm who has been convicted of any of the following offences, that is to say—

Persons
incapaci-
tated from
possessing,
etc.,
firearms.

- (a) abduction ;
- (b) arson ;
- (c) manslaughter ;
- (d) membership of an unlawful association ;
- (e) murder or attempt to murder ;
- (f) riot ;
- (g) robbery ;

- (h) sedition ;
- (i) treason ;
- (j) an offence under section 3 (2) or 4 (2) or 5 (4) ;
- (k) any other offence declared by the Governor in Council to be an offence for the purposes of this section,

and any firearm the property of any person convicted of any such offence shall be forfeited.

Manufacture and trading in firearms prohibited.

15. (1) No person shall manufacture or trade in firearms in Cyprus :

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of subsection (1) hereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine and any firearm in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

Manufacture of weapons discharging noxious liquid, etc., prohibited.

16. (1) No person shall import, manufacture, sell, purchase, carry or have in his possession, custody, or control any weapon or article of whatever description designed for the discharge of any noxious liquid, gas, or other thing, or any ammunition containing or designed or adapted to contain any such noxious thing.

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of subsection (1) hereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Permit for repairs to firearms.
10 of 30/55.
Schedule.

17. (1) The Chief Constable of Police may in his discretion and subject to any conditions as he may think fit to impose grant a permit in the form D in the Schedule hereto to any person to execute repairs to any firearm or any part thereof.

(2) Any person who executes repairs to any firearm contrary to the provisions of subsection (1) hereof or to any condition specified in the permit shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

(3) The Chief Constable of Police may in his discretion at any time cancel any permit granted to any person under the provisions of subsection (1) hereof.

18. Any person aggrieved by—

- (a) the refusal to grant a licence, permit or certificate of registration by the Comptroller, the Chief Constable of Police or the Commissioner, as the case may be ;
- (b) the cancellation by the Chief Constable of Police or Commissioner, as the case may be, of any permit or certificate of registration,

Appeal to
the Governor
in Council.
10 of 30/55.

may within ten days from the date of such refusal or cancellation, appeal to the Governor-in-Council whose decision thereon shall be final and conclusive.

19. The occupier of any house or premises in which any firearm shall be found shall for the purposes of this Law be deemed and taken to be the person in possession, custody, or control of such firearm until the contrary is proved by him.

Liability of
occupier.

20. (1) Any police officer may, at any time, call upon the holder of a firearms licence to produce to such officer for his inspection such firearms licence and the firearm in respect of which such licence is held and if such person fails or refuses to do so any such officer may without warrant enter any premises wherein such person resides and search for and seize any such firearm.

Power of
police to
request pro-
duction of
firearms.
9 of 5/34.
11 of 30/55.

(2) Any person who—

- (a) fails or refuses to produce for inspection any firearm when requested to do so under the provisions of subsection (1) hereof ;
- (b) resists search or obstructs a police officer acting under the provisions of subsection (1) hereof,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

21. Any police officer may without warrant—

- (a) enter and search any premises wherein he has reasonable ground to believe that a revolver or pistol is kept in contravention of this Law ;
- (b) inspect and search any means of conveyance or person reasonably suspected of carrying or possessing a revolver or pistol in contravention of this Law.

Power of
police to
search for
revolvers
and pistols.
10 of 5/34.
12 of 30/55.

Loss or
destruction
of firearm

22. If a firearm in the possession of any person is lost or destroyed such person shall forthwith notify in writing the police officer in charge of the nearest police station of such loss or destruction and any person who fails to do so or who gives any false information in respect of any loss or destruction of such firearm shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Change of
residence.

23. If a person holding a firearms licence changes his permanent place of residence from one district to another district he shall notify such change in writing to the police officer in charge of the nearest police station in the district to which such person has removed and if he fails to do so he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Duty to
keep a
firearm
safely.
13 of 30/55.

24. (1) Any person having in his possession any firearm shall keep the same at all times securely and in safe custody and in a safe condition and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that such firearm is not lost or stolen and is not at any time available to any person not lawfully entitled to possess the same.

(2) If any person fails to comply with any of the provisions of subsection (1) he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Restriction
on possession
of firearms
by young
persons.
13 of 30/55.

25. No person under the age of twenty-one years shall have in his possession any firearm or shall be entitled to be registered in respect of any firearm under this Law.

Onus of
proof.

26. In any proceedings against any person for an offence under this Law the burden of proving that a licence or permit has been granted shall lie upon such person.

Court may
prohibit
convicted
person from
possessing
firearms.

27. Any Court may, upon the conviction of any person for an offence, order that such convicted person, in addition to any further punishment, shall be prohibited from possessing or using any firearm for such period as the Court may determine.

28. (1) The Governor in Council may make Regulations ^{Regulations.} to be published in the Gazette—

- (a) declaring any type of air-gun, air-rifle or air-pistol to be specially dangerous ;
- (b) prohibiting the carrying or use of firearms or of any description of firearms by all or any persons, whether licensed so to do by this or any other Law, within any specified area ;
- (c) generally, for the better carrying into effect of the purposes of this Law.

(2) Such Regulations may provide for penalties for any breach thereof, not exceeding three months imprisonment or ten pounds fine or both such imprisonment and fine, and for the forfeiture of any firearm in respect of which such breach has been committed.

29. Nothing in this Law shall apply to or affect any ^{Exemptions.} person serving in Her Majesty's Forces or in the Police Force or any special constable in respect of any firearm entrusted to or used or to be used by such person in his capacity as a member of such forces or as a special constable.

SCHEDULE.

FORM A.

(Section 7.)

The Firearms Law.

FIREARMS LICENCE.

No. of is hereby licensed to possess one*

This licence is valid up to 31st July, 19 . Fee paid £1.

Dated . *Commissioner of* .

* Here insert full description of firearm including the number of the certificate of registration and any mark of identification.

FORM B.

(Section 7.)

The Firearms Law.

SPECIAL PERMIT.

No. of is hereby granted a special permit to use ^{11 of 5/34.} or carry between , 19 , and , 19 , a firearm, viz.* in respect of which certificate of registration No. and firearms Licence No. have been issued for the following purpose:

Dated. *Commissioner.*

* Here insert description of firearm.

FORM C.
(Section 9.)

The Firearms Law.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

No. _____ of _____ has this day registered one*

This certificate of registration is liable to be cancelled at any time. Fee paid 100 mils.

14 of 30/55.

Dated.

Chief Constable of Police.

* Here insert full description of firearm including any mark of identification.

FORM D.
(Section 17).

The Firearms Law.

PERMIT TO REPAIR FIREARMS.

No. _____ Permit is hereby granted to _____ of _____ to execute repairs to any firearm or any part thereof, subject to the following conditions:—

14 of 30/55.

Dated.

Chief Constable of Police.

FORM E.
(Section 10.)

The Firearms Law.

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER.

We the undersigned hereby apply to have certificate of registration No. _____ in the name of _____ cancelled and a new certificate of registration in respect of firearm No. _____ issued to _____ of _____

Dated

(Signed)

Transferor

(Signed)

Transferee.

14 of 30/55.

To the Chief Constable of Police.