

CUSTOMER ADVICE UPDATE

REGARDING THE POSTING AND RECEIPT OF FIREARMS AND WEAPONRY TO/FROM AUSTRALIA POST

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Australia Post will no longer accept international postings containing firearms, including all firearm components, or items of weaponry.

Items of weaponry include grenades, mortar shells, canisters, or items which resemble these articles (including replicas) for carriage to or from Australia.

Australia Post defines Firearm and Firearm Parts to mean the contents of an article where:

1. the description of such contents appearing on the face of the article includes those words or other words which could reasonably be construed as meaning a firearm or a part thereof; or
2. it is otherwise detected during the course of post that the article contains a matter or thing which in Australia Post's opinion is a firearm or firearm part not including a firearm part which in Australia Post's opinion would not impact:
 - a) Australia Post's operations; or
 - b) The safety or security of persons or property.

For the purpose of this definition Australia Post advises that the following items, are deemed to be firearm parts and are therefore prohibited from International carriage by Australia Post:

- A gas piston, friction assembly, action bar, breech bolt or breech block
- A firearm barrel
- An assembled trigger mechanism
- A receiver
- Something, other than a complete firearm, that includes 1 or more of these items
- Any other matter or thing the carriage of which would contravene a law of a State or Territory or which is prohibited by Australia Post pursuant to the Australia Post Terms and Conditions including those items excluded from carriage in the Australia Post Dangerous and Prohibited Goods and Packaging Post Guide.

PERMITS

Customers with import or export permits should be advised that their permits are still valid but that Australia Post will no longer carry these items.

EXCLUSIONS FROM THE DEFINITION OF “ITEMS OF WEAPONRY”

Australia Post will continue to carry items such as knives, daggers, swords, and axes, which have a valid import or export permit where required and are legally permissible to carry into Australia (if inbound) or into the country of destination (if outbound).

PLEASE NOTE: Australian Customs regulations prohibit or restrict many of these items. It is the responsibility of customers importing or exporting these items to make their own enquiries to ensure the goods are acceptable, and to obtain any relevant permits.

Information regarding Customs regulations on knives, firearms and warfare items can be found at 1300 363 263, information@customs.gov.au or www.customs.gov.au.

OTHER CARRIERS

Private carriers may accept these items. Australia Post is unable to recommend which carriers may/may not carry firearms/weaponry to international destinations.

ARTICLES CURRENTLY IN TRANSIT

Articles that may have already been sent from an international destination to Australia will be assessed on a case-by-case basis until the end of January 2006. A longer discretionary period will apply to articles sent by sea mail.

With regard to air-conveyed mail, from 1 February any firearms or items of weaponry detected from an international destination will be returned to sender. With regard to sea-conveyed mail, from 1 April any firearms or items of weaponry detected from an international destination will be returned to sender.

DOMESTIC CARRIAGE

The domestic carriage of firearms and weaponry conditions remains unchanged.

POLICY DECISION

100% of imported mail carried by Australia Post is subject to X-ray, metal detector or sniffer dog screening. Suspect articles detected in Australia or en route by X-ray or metal detectors can cause substantial delay to entire despatches of mail pending security clearance.

Although some countries may accept the delivery of firearms and weapons, it may be necessary for these items (en route) to pass through the postal service of countries where they are prohibited and may be confiscated by customs and reported to police or other authorities. Again, this may cause serious delay to entire despatches of mail.

There is an increasing propensity around the globe for goods to be security screened in transit through airports and other (non-postal) handling points.

With an unacceptable increase in the number of incidents causing serious delays to mail and potentially creating security issues, we have chosen no longer to accept or carry the items which cause these effects.

ADVICE PROVIDED TO INTERNATIONAL POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS

The following advice has been provided to international postal administration via the Universal Postal Union (UPU):

“The postal administration of AUSTRALIA asks partner administrations to be aware of the following prohibitions effective from January 2006 relating to any article in the international post.

The following goods are prohibited as imports (or in transit) from carriage by post:

- (i) articles containing or suspected of containing firearms, weapons or items of weaponry including grenades, mortar shells or canisters, or parts thereof – even if rendered inert;
- (ii) articles that resemble or may reasonably be taken for any item in (i) above, including replicas or stage props; and
- (iii) any article, whether deleterious or not, that may reasonably be construed by its appearance or make up to constitute a potential security risk to persons or property.

Australia Post would appreciate the co-operation of partner administrations in informing postal users that the items described above are not admitted in the international mail stream to Australia. Should such articles be lodged or posted inadvertently, please do not despatch the postal article concerned to Australia.”

Australia’s entry in the UPU *List of Prohibited Articles* is being amended to reflect the above-mentioned prohibitions.