

Translation from Finnish

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of the Interior, Finland

Firearms Act

(1/1998; amendments up to 1249/2020 included)

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

Chapter 1

Scope of application and definitions (724/2019)

Section 1 (724/2019)

Scope of application

This Act applies to firearms, firearm components and cartridges, with the exception of blanks, and to particularly dangerous projectiles.

The provisions of this Act concerning firearms also apply to missile and rocket launcher systems, gas sprays and high-powered air guns. However, sections 2, 2a, 3–6, 6a, 7, 7a, 8–10, 12, 15, 31–33, 35, 35a, 36, 42, 42a–42d, 43, 44, 44a, 44b, 45, 45a–45c, 45e, 47–49, 53a, 54, 55, 56–59 and 61–63; section 66, subsection 1, paragraphs 1 and 3; sections 67b, 68, 70–72, 74–77, 80–82, 89, 90 and 106; section 106a, subsections 2 and 3; and sections 106b, 110, 110a–110c, 112, 112a and 112b do not apply to gas sprays. Sections 3–6, 6a, 7, 7a, 8–12, 31–33, 35, 35a, 36, 45e, 53a, 55a–55c, 61–63, 67b, 72, 106b, 110 and 110a–110c do not apply to high-powered air guns. Provisions on other exemptions concerning the scope of application are laid down in section 17.

Section 2 (724/2019)

Firearm

A *firearm* is defined as a device that expels bullets, shots or other projectiles or incapacitating substances by the action of powder gas pressure, primer compound explosion pressure or other explosion pressure.

An object designed to expel blank cartridges is also considered to be a firearm, unless its modification to comply with subsection 1 is technically prevented. Provisions on the technical requirements to prevent modification are issued by decree of the Ministry of the Interior. An object that has the appearance of a firearm and that, as a result of its construction or the material from which it is made, can be converted into such is also considered to be a firearm.

The following devices are not deemed firearms unless they comply with subsection 1 or can be converted into such:

- 1) nail guns designed and manufactured for use in construction work;
- 2) devices designed and manufactured for use in life-saving or for technical or industrial purposes of use;
- 3) devices designed and manufactured for animal slaughter.

A firearm or firearm component is destroyed by handing it over to the police for destruction. Further provisions on the destruction of firearms and firearm components are issued by government decree.

Section 2a (764/2015)

High-powered air gun

A *high-powered air gun* is defined as an object which has been manufactured in 1950 or later with a minimum inside diameter of the barrel of more than 6.35 millimetres and which functions by the action of air pressure or the pressure of other compressed gas and which is designed and intended to expel metal bullets.

Section 3 (724/2019)

Firearm component

A *firearm component* is defined as the receiver, the upper and lower receiver, the bolt frame, the barrel, the slide, the cartridge cylinder and the cartridge chamber, the bolt and other breech blocking device and the receiver of the bolt or other breech blocking device, breech block, silencer, and components that are of corresponding function.

A loading device is also considered to be a firearm component if its capacity exceeds:

1) 20 rounds and is part of a short centre-fire semi-automatic firearm or a detachable loading device that can be attached to it;

2) 10 rounds and is part of a long centre-fire semi-automatic firearm or a detachable loading device that can be attached to it.

A loading device is also considered to be a firearm component if it is part of an automatic firearm or a detachable loading device that can be attached to it. However, a loading device is not considered to be the firearm component referred to in subsection 2 above and in this subsection if it has been manufactured for an automatic firearm model the manufacture of which began before 1946 and which is not suitable for installation in a centre-fire semi-automatic firearm or a repeating firearm.

A loading device is defined as the magazine, the feeder and the feeder system attached or fixed to the firearm, and a device by which the cartridges are fed into the firearm.

In addition to the components referred to in subsection 1, a trigger, part of a trigger and other object designed for an automatic firearm which, alone or in combination with other parts, enables automatic firing, and an object designed for a firearm that enables a functionality resembling automatic firing, are considered to be components of an automatic firearm.

A firearm component is considered to be part of the firearm for which it is manufactured or intended. However, an object manufactured to be a loading device which has been rendered permanently inoperable or whose capacity is permanently limited to less than the capacity referred to in subsection 2 above, is not considered to be a firearm component. Further provisions on the conditions under which a loading device shall be considered to be rendered permanently inoperable or its capacity permanently limited may be issued by decree of the Ministry of the Interior.

Section 4

Projectile

A *projectile* is defined as a bullet, shot or other ammunition expelled by the action of powder gas pressure, primer compound explosion pressure or other explosion pressure which may cause danger to people.

Section 5

Cartridge

A *cartridge* is defined as a ready-to-fire combination of a case, primer, propellant powder and projectile and a combination of a primer, propellant powder and projectile, and a corresponding construct suitable for use with a firearm.

In this Act:

1) *shotgun shell* means a ready-to-fire rimmed cartridge consisting of a case, base, bullet or shots, wadding, powder and a primer placed in the centre of the base of the cartridge, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;

2) *centre-fire cartridge* means a ready-to-fire cartridge consisting of a case, bullet or shots, powder and a primer placed in the centre of the base of the cartridge, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;

3) *rimfire cartridge* means a ready-to-fire cartridge consisting of a case, bullet or shots, powder and primer compound placed inside the rim cavity causing the powder to ignite, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;

4) *gas cartridge* means a ready-to-fire cartridge spreading tear gas or an incapacitating substance with a comparable purpose of use and effect consisting of a case, powder, primer and a part turning into a gas when fired, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;

5) *signalling round* means a ready-to-fire rimmed or centre-fire cartridge manufactured to be used for signalling and illumination consisting of a case, powder, primer and a part producing light, smoke or sound when fired, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure;

6) *blank cartridge* means a ready-to-fire rimmed or centre-fire cartridge manufactured for acoustic signalling consisting of a case, powder and primer, and a cartridge of a corresponding structure.

(724/2019)

The provisions of the Act on the Safety of Handling Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives (390/2005) and the provisions issued under it apply to cartridge components which are or which contain explosive substances. (764/2015)

Section 6 (724/2019)

Types of firearms

The types of firearms referred to in this Act are a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle, pistol, small-calibre pistol, revolver, small-calibre revolver, combination firearm, gas cartridge weapon, signalling pistol, black-powder weapon and other firearm.

In this Act:

- 1) *shotgun* means a long firearm with a smooth-bore or rifled barrel manufactured to be supported against the shoulder with both hands and which is chambered for a shotgun shell;
- 2) *rifle* means a long firearm with a rifled barrel manufactured to be supported against the shoulder with both hands and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rimfire cartridge;
- 3) *small-calibre rifle* means a rifle chambered for a maximum .22 rimfire cartridge;
- 4) *pistol* means a short firearm designed and manufactured to be fired with the grip of one hand and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rimfire cartridge;
- 5) *small-calibre pistol* means a pistol chambered for a maximum .22 rimfire cartridge;
- 6) *revolver* means a short firearm designed and manufactured to be fired with the grip of one hand and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rimfire cartridge loaded into a revolving cartridge cylinder;
- 7) *small-calibre revolver* means a revolver chambered for a maximum .22 rimfire cartridge loaded into a revolving cartridge cylinder;

8) *combination firearm* means a long firearm with at least two barrels manufactured to be supported against the shoulder with both hands and which is chambered for a centre-fire or rimfire cartridge and for a shotgun shell;

9) *gas cartridge weapon* means a firearm chambered for a gas cartridge and which cannot expel other cartridges;

10) *signalling pistol* means a firearm chambered for a signalling cartridge and which cannot expel other cartridges;

11) *black-powder weapon* means a firearm designed and manufactured and suitable for use only with black powder;

12) *other firearms* mean firearms which differ in their construction, method of firing, dimensions or other characteristics from firearms referred to in subsections 1–11;

13) *deactivated firearm* means a firearm approved by the police to have been deactivated under the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable, hereinafter referred to as the *Deactivation Regulation*.

Section 6a (724/2019)

Short and long firearm

A *short firearm* is a firearm with a total length not exceeding 600 millimetres or a barrel not exceeding 300 millimetres in length.

A *long firearm* is defined as any firearm other than a short firearm.

Section 7

Firearm modes of operation

The modes of operation of firearms referred to in this Act are single-shot, repeating, semi-automatic and automatic.

In this Act:

1) *single-shot* means a mode of operation in which each barrel of a firearm with no magazine is reloaded with a new cartridge after each shot and in which the trigger for each barrel is cocked using outside force after the shot;

2) *repeating* means a mode of operation in which each barrel of a firearm with a magazine is reloaded with a new cartridge and in which the trigger for each barrel is cocked using outside force after the shot;

3) *semi-automatic* means a mode of operation in which a firearm reloads and cocks automatically each time a round is fired using the energy generated in the weapon or an energy source attached to the weapon and can fire only one round from each chamber with one pull on the trigger;

4) *automatic* means a mode of operation in which a firearm reloads and cocks automatically each time a round is fired using the energy generated in the weapon or an energy source attached to the weapon and can fire more than one round with one pull on the trigger or by other method.

(724/2019)

Section 7a (724/2019)

Effects of modifying a firearm

Even if a firearm is modified to fire only blank cartridges, gas cartridges or pyrotechnic cartridges, its mode of operation and type shall continue to be considered to correspond to the original type of firearm referred to in section 6, the mode of operation referred to in section 7 and the particularly dangerous firearm referred to in section 9.

Section 8

Pocket gun

A pocket gun is defined as a firearm, other than a gas cartridge weapon, which fits into a rectangular box of internal dimensions of 130 x 180 millimetres, so that the barrel and the buttstock are aligned with the bottom level of the box. (724/2019)

When placing the firearm in the box, the magazine shall be detached and the firearm shall be equipped with its ordinary sight and grip or with the side plates of the buttstock, and with no components increasing the external dimensions of the weapon.

Section 9 (724/2019)

Particularly dangerous firearm

A particularly dangerous firearm means:

- 1) a grenade launcher, mortar, breech-loading cannon, and a firearm of a corresponding structure and purpose of use, and a missile and rocket-launcher system;
- 2) an automatic firearm;
- 3) a firearm disguised as an object other than a firearm;
- 4) a firearm originally manufactured to operate with an automatic mechanism but converted to operate with a single-shot, repeating or semi-automatic mechanism;
- 5) the following centre-fire semi-automatic firearms:
 - a) short centre-fire semi-automatic firearms which allow the firing of more than 21 rounds without reloading, if a loading device with a capacity exceeding 20 rounds is part of that firearm or a detachable loading device with a capacity exceeding 20 rounds is inserted into it;
 - b) long centre-fire semi-automatic firearms which allow the firing of more than 11 rounds without reloading, if a loading device with a capacity exceeding 10 rounds is part of that firearm or a detachable loading device with a capacity exceeding 10 rounds is inserted into it;
- 6) short semi-automatic firearm designed and manufactured to be supported with both hands against the shoulder or otherwise to be fired with the grip of both hands.

Section 10

Particularly dangerous cartridges and projectiles

Particularly dangerous cartridges mean:

- 1) cartridges designed and manufactured to penetrate armour;
- 2) cartridges equipped with an explosive or incendiary projectile;
- 3) centre-fire cartridges with a hollow-point projectile or a projectile which expands on impact which have been designed and manufactured to be used with a pistol or revolver;
- 4) cartridges designed and manufactured to fragment on impact;
- 5) cartridges with a flechette projectile;
- 6) cartridges with more than one bullet.

Particularly dangerous projectiles mean projectiles of the cartridges referred to in subsection 1, paragraphs 1–3.

Particularly dangerous projectiles are also defined to include projectiles, missiles and warheads intended for use in a firearm referred to in section 9, subsection 1. (724/2019)

Section 11

Gas spray

Gas spray is defined as a device which spreads in the air tear gas or an incapacitating substance with a comparable purpose of use and effect.

The contents of a gas spray imported or transferred to Finland or marketed in Finland must be such that its use does not cause permanent injury to the intended target. Further provisions on the substances contained in the gas spray and their maximum concentrations and on the demonstration of operational safety may be issued by government decree. (764/2015)

Section 12 (724/2019)

Conversion and commercial modification of a firearm and firearm component

Conversion of a firearm means a measure which changes the type, mode of operation or calibre of a firearm, changes a long firearm to a short firearm or a short firearm to a long firearm or changes a firearm other than a pocket gun to a pocket gun.

Conversion of a firearm component means a measure carried out on a firearm component which leads to a change referred to in subsection 1 in the type of the firearm if the component in question is attached to the firearm.

Temporary conversion of a firearm means a measure which leads to a temporary change in the type, mode of operation or calibre of the firearm when the barrel or breech blocking device or both are replaced. However, any measure which changes a firearm to a particularly dangerous firearm or a firearm other than a pocket gun to a pocket gun is considered to be a temporary conversion.

Commercial modification of a firearm or firearm component means any structural machining of a firearm or firearm component or replacement of a firearm component which does not lead to a change in the type, mode of operation or calibre of the firearm or firearm component.

Section 13

Carrying, transport, storage and possession

In this Act, with regard to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles:

- 1) *carrying* means their use for the approved purposes of use specified in this Act; (601/2001)
- 2) *transport* means their transfer from one place to another;
- 3) *storage* means their possession when they are not carried or transported;
- 4) *possession* means their carrying, transport or storage.

Section 14 (724/2019)

Firearms trade

Firearms trade refers to the following activities carried out for commercial purposes:

- 1) trade, exchange, storage and hiring out of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 2) repair, commercial modification, conversion and manufacture of firearms and firearm components;
- 3) brokering of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 4) arrangement of the transfer of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles within Finland and the transfer, export and import referred to in section 16, subsection 2, paragraphs 1–3;
- 5) commercial manufacture of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles.

Section 15 (724/2019)

Weapons collector

In this Act, a *weapons collector* means a natural person or organisation or foundation registered or performing a public function in Finland which collects and stores firearms, firearm components or particularly dangerous projectiles for historical, scientific, technical, educational or cultural heritage purposes and which the National Police Board upon application has approved as a collector.

If the organisation or foundation referred to in subsection 1, paragraph 2 above is a museum, it shall meet the requirements for receiving central government transfers to local government under section 2 of the Museums Act (729/1992) and be open to the public. In addition, the museum shall be engaged in the acquisition, preservation, examination and display of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles for cultural, scientific, technical, educational, cultural heritage or recreational purposes.

Section 16

Definitions relating to transport

In this Act:

- 1) *country of departure* means the country from where the State-to-State transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles begins;
- 2) *country of destination* means the country where the State-to-State transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles ends;
- 3) *country of transit* means the country through which firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles are transported from one state to another;
- 4) *prior consent* means a document to be presented to the authorities in a Member State of the European Union (EU) showing that there are no obstacles to the transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles to another EU Member State;
- 5) *end-user certificate* means a certificate issued by the authorities in the country of destination or other reliable certificate on the end user of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 6) *transfer licence* means an authorisation issued for the transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles from one EU Member State to another;
- 7) *European firearms pass* means the document issued by the authorities in an EU Member State referred to in Article 1(3) of Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, hereinafter referred to as the *Firearms Directive*, showing that the person named in the certificate has in that State the right to possess the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles entered in the pass. (724/2019)

In this Act, with regard to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles:

- 1) *import* means their transport to Finland from a country other than an EU Member State;
- 2) *export* means their transport from Finland to a country other than an EU Member State;
- 3) *transfer* means their transport from one EU Member State to another;

4) *transit* means their transport from a country other than an EU Member State, via Finland, to a country other than an EU Member State.

Section 17

Exceptions to the scope of application

This Act does not apply to:

1) transfer to or from Finland, import, export, acquisition or handing over of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles by the State for State purposes;

2) possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles owned by the State if the reason for the possession is carrying out the tasks of persons employed by the State, persons studying in state educational institutions or of those completing their military service based on conscription or their voluntary military service;

Paragraph 3 was repealed by Act 724/2019.

4) exercises and competitions relating to voluntary national defence work organised by the Defence Forces using the Forces' firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles under the leadership of a person employed by the Forces; (724/2019)

4a) training referred to in section 20 of the Act on Voluntary National Defence (556/2007) using firearms and firearm components owned by the Defence Forces, when the handling of the firearms takes place under the supervision of the Defence Forces and on the Defence Forces' site or vessel and the firearms are not discharged; (869/2019)

4b) training referred to in section 20 of the Act on Voluntary National Defence using firearms and firearm components owned by the Border Guard, when the handling of the firearms takes place under the supervision of the Border Guard and on the Border Guard's site or vessel and the firearms are not discharged; (869/2019)

5) transport or storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles owned by the State;

6) manufacture of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles in state establishments, excluding the obligation laid down in section 110b, subsection 1 to apply a marking; (124/2011)

7) repair or conversion of firearms and firearm components in state establishments;

7a) repair and conversion of state-owned firearms and firearm components in the case of notices to the firearms database referred to in sections 25 or 42c; (724/2019)

8) handing over of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles removed from use by the State, excluding the obligation laid down in section 110b, subsection 1 to apply a marking; (124/2011)

9) firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles which have come into the possession of state authorities on the basis of tasks within their competence;

10) transfer to or from Finland, import, export, manufacture, repair, conversion or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to the armed forces of a foreign State, if the activity is based on the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the status of their forces (Finnish Treaty Series 65/1997) or on another international peacekeeping assignment, or if the activity has been granted permission under the Territorial Surveillance Act (755/2000); (601/2001)

11) transfer to or from Finland, import, export or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to the competent officers of States applying the Schengen acquis referred to in Article 40 or 41 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at common borders, hereinafter referred to as the Schengen Convention, if the activity is based on the surveillance or pursuit referred to in those articles of the Schengen Convention; (428/2004)

12) transfer to or from Finland, import, export or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to officers of another Member State of the European Union operating in Finland, referred to in Articles 20, 21 and 23 of the Convention

on mutual assistance and cooperation between customs administrations, if the activities are based on pursuit, surveillance or covert investigations referred to in those articles; (485/2010)

13) transfer to or from Finland and possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to members of the teams of the standing corps operating in the territory of Finland referred to in Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624; (1249/2020)

14) export of the objects covered by Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing Article 10 of the United Nations' Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UN Firearms Protocol), and establishing export authorisation, and import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, hereinafter referred to as the *Arms Export Regulation*, and the transit referred to in that Regulation. (689/2013)

This Act also does not apply to:

1) transfer to and from Finland and possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to officers of another Member State operating in the territory of Finland under section 3 of the Act on the Implementation of the Provisions of a Legislative Nature in the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union and on the Convention's application (148/2004);

2) transfer to and from Finland and possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to in-flight security personnel operating in the territory of Finland under Articles 17 and 18 or to the competent officers of another State operating in the territory of Finland under Articles 25 and 28 of the Treaty between the Kingdom of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Austria on the stepping up of cross border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, cross border crime and illegal migration (Finnish Treaty Series 53/2007 and 54/2007);

3) transfer to and from Finland or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to the competent officers of another Member State operating in the territory of Finland under Articles 17 and 19 of Council Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime; (423/2017)

4) transfer to and from Finland or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to the competent officers of another Member State operating in the territory of Finland under Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/617/JHA on the improvement of cooperation between the special intervention units of the Member States of the European Union in crisis situations; (423/2017)

5) transfer to and from Finland or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to the officers of another Member State operating in the territory of Finland as a result of co-operation initiated on the basis of Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; (423/2017)

6) transfer to and from Finland or possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to foreign officers operating in the territory of Finland as a result of international co-operation initiated under section 9b of the Police Act (872/2011). (423/2017)

(1209/2011)

The National Police Board acts as the authorising and supervisory body in matters falling within the scope of the Arms Export Regulation. The licence application may also be submitted to a police department. (689/2013)

The authorising body shall, if the handling of the licence matter so requires, ascertain from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that there are no foreign or security policy obstacles to the issuing of the licence. (689/2013)

Chapter 2

Activities subject to authorisation

Section 18

Activities subject to authorisation

Unless otherwise provided in this Act, the following are subject to authorisation:

- 1) transfer and import to Finland, transfer and export from Finland, transit and brokering for commercial purposes, trade, commercial storage, acquisition, possession, exchange, hiring out and manufacture of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 2) repair for commercial purposes, commercial modification, and conversion of firearms and firearm components, with the exception of the temporary conversion of a firearm by a private person using firearm components held on the basis of a licence to possess such firearm components.

(724/2019)

A licence for the activities referred to in subsection 1 may be issued if there is an acceptable reason for issuing the licence, and if there is no reason to suspect misuse of the licence or the objects acquired or possessed under it.

The National Police Board decides on the licence document templates and other matters related to their preparation. (623/2017)

Section 19 (724/2019)

Exemptions from authorisation

The following activities are not subject to authorisation:

- 1) export of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles for a private purpose;
- 2) acquisition and possession of a firearm component intended as a spare part for a firearm for which the acquirer or possessor has a licence entitling the holder to possession, but not to the extent that the firearm components acquired as spare parts could be used to assemble another firearm;

- 3) acquisition, possession and transfer of a silencer if the person has a licence to possess a firearm;
- 4) acquisition of a loading device with a capacity of more than 20 rounds to be added or attached to a short centre-fire semi-automatic firearm, if the person has a licence to possess a particularly dangerous firearm for that firearm;
- 5) acquisition of a loading device with a capacity of more than 10 rounds to be added or attached to a long centre-fire semi-automatic firearm, if the person has a licence to possess a particularly dangerous firearm for the firearm in question;
- 6) transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles for commercial purposes and storage necessary for the performance of the transport, if the transporter is engaged in professional transport of goods;
- 7) manufacture of cartridges, other than particularly dangerous cartridges, for a private purpose, if the manufacturer has a licence to possess the cartridges in question;
- 8) repair for a private purpose of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a relevant authorisation;
- 9) possession of a signalling pistol on a foreign commercial or recreational vessel, if the vessel is only temporarily in Finnish territorial waters;
- 10) export, transfer from Finland, transit for commercial purposes and acquisition and possession of a high-powered air gun if the acquirer or possessor has the right to possess a firearm;
- 11) acquisition and possession of a deactivated firearm, if a report has been made to the police department in accordance with section 70.

The transport and storage of black-powder weapons manufactured before 1890 and suitable for only firing with black powder are not subject to authorisation. Keeping such black-powder weapons in a museum or collection is not subject to authorisation either, unless the weapons are used for firing. Provisions on the exemption from authorisation regarding other old firearms of weapon-historical value may, subject to the requirements laid down in this section, be issued by decree of the Ministry of the Interior.

Provisions on the firearm components to be regarded as spare parts within the meaning of subsection 1, paragraph 2 may be issued by decree of the Ministry of the Interior.

Section 19a (724/2019)

Prohibition of the manufacture of a firearm, firearm component or cartridge in certain situations

A firearm, firearm component or cartridge must not be manufactured:

- 1) from firearm components or cartridge components that have been illegally imported or transferred to Finland or traded illegally in Finland;
- 2) without a licence issued for that purpose; or
- 3) without the firearm or firearm component being marked in accordance with section 110b and entered in the firearms database in accordance with section 25 or 42c.

A cartridge must not be manufactured without permission other than for personal use in a firearm which the manufacturer has been authorised to possess.

Chapter 3

Carrying on the firearms trade

Section 20 (724/2019)

Firearms business licence

The National Police Board issues and revokes the authorisation to carry on the firearms trade (*firearms business licence*).

A firearms business licence may be issued to a natural or legal person who meets the requirements laid down in section 20a, if their business activities consist wholly or partly of one or more of the firearms trades referred to in section 14.

In addition, where firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles are to be handled or stored in the course of business, a firearms business licence shall be approved by the police of the location where the storage takes place, taking into account the nature and scale of the applicant's firearms trade.

Section 20a (724/2019)

Requirements for issuing a firearms business licence

A firearms business licence may be issued to a natural person who:

- 1) has reached the age of 18;
- 2) is entitled to carry on a trade;
- 3) notifies the person in charge referred to in section 26 approved by the National Police Board;
- 4) is suitable for carrying on the firearms trade on the basis of their state of health and behaviour;
- 5) has sufficient expertise for carrying on the firearms trade;
- 6) is not bankrupt and whose functional capacity has not been restricted; and
- 7) can appropriately carry on the firearms trade on the basis of their financial status.

A firearms business licence may be issued to a legal person if:

- 1) it can appropriately carry out its activities in terms of its financial status; and
- 2) the persons belonging to its administrative bodies and the managing director, as well as the partners in a general partnership and the general partners in a limited partnership, meet the conditions laid down in subsection 1, paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Section 21 (724/2019)

Content, conditions, restrictions and period of validity of a firearms business licence

A firearms business licence shall state the place of business or main place of business of the firearms trader, the firearms trades referred to in section 14 to which the business licence applies, and the types of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles that the holder of the business licence may acquire and possess for the purpose of their trade. The business licence shall also specify the number and areas of responsibility of the persons in charge referred to in section 26. Activities carried out under a firearms business licence may not be commenced until the conditions for the persons in charge specified in the firearms business licence have been met. The business licence entitles the holder to carry on the firearms trade only at the place of business stated in the licence. The trade may, however, be carried on elsewhere on a temporary basis.

A firearms business licence entitles a trader carrying on the trade activities to acquire and possess firearms, firearm components and cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles specified in the business licence for the purpose of their firearms trade without the firearms licence referred to in section 42. If the firearms business licence only permits the trades referred to in section 14, subsections 3 and 4, the business licence does not entitle the holder to acquire or possess a firearm or firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles. The right to acquire and possess particularly dangerous firearms or their components for carrying on a trade may also be included in the firearms business licence for justified reasons. This right shall be explicitly mentioned and the types of firearms and firearm components identified in the firearms business licence.

The National Police Board may attach to the firearms business licence temporal and regional conditions and restrictions related to the nature and extent of the activities, to the number, safety and location of the licence holder's places of business and places of storage, and to other similar factors, as well as conditions and restrictions related to the firearms trade.

The National Police Board may change or add to the conditions and restrictions referred to in subsection 3 due to non-temporary changes in operations.

The business licence is issued indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be issued for a fixed term. The National Police Board issues a document of the firearms business licence, which is valid for a maximum of five years at a time.

Section 22 (724/2019)

Notice of change in the firearms trade

The holder of a firearms business licence shall submit a notice of change to the National Police Board in writing or using the e-services referred to in section 119a:

- 1) on a change in the name or company name or the type of company, the establishment and termination of a place of business, a change in the conditions or location of the storage facilities, the introduction of a new storage facility and the decommissioning of a storage facility, and a change in the address of the place of business;
- 2) on a change of a person belonging to the administrative bodies and the managing director, and a partner in a general partnership and a general partner in a limited partnership;
- 3) termination or suspension of operations for a period longer than one month;
- 4) resumption of operations after the suspension referred to in paragraph 3.

The notice of the change must be made, if possible, before the change, but no later than on the seventh day thereafter. When notifying the change referred to in subsection 1, paragraph 2 above, the notice of change shall be accompanied by documents demonstrating that the replacement meets the requirements laid down in section 20a, subsection 2, paragraph 2.

Section 23

Expiry and revocation of a firearms business licence

The firearms business licence expires:

- 1) if the activities referred to in the business licence have not been commenced within one year from the date on which the licence was issued;
- 2) one year after the commencement of the licence holder's bankruptcy or date of death.

(724/2019)

The business licence shall be revoked if the holder:

1) requests it; or

2) no longer meets the requirements for issuing a licence laid down in section 20, subsection 3 and section 20a.

(724/2019)

The business licence may be revoked for a fixed term, or entirely, if:

1) the activities referred to in the business licence have been suspended for a period of at least three months; or if

2) the licence holder or the person in charge referred to in section 26 has violated this Act, the provisions issued under it or the licence conditions, or if they have otherwise proved unsuitable for carrying on the activities referred to in the licence.

Section 23a (724/2019)

Temporary revocation of the validity of a firearms business licence

Upon the initiation of a revocation matter referred to in section 23, the National Police Board may temporarily revoke the validity of a firearms business licence.

The temporary revocation is valid for a maximum period of three months. The National Police Board may extend the temporary revocation for a special reason for a maximum of six months at a time if a revocation matter is pending.

Section 24 (724/2019)

Bankruptcy or death of a holder of a firearms business licence

The bankruptcy estate and deceased's estate of the holder of a firearms business licence has the right to continue the firearms trade under the licence issued to the firearms trader for one year from the beginning of the bankruptcy or the date of death, if the requirements laid down in sections 20 and 20a for issuing the licence continue to be met.

A trustee of the bankruptcy estate, a party of the estate and other administrator shall notify the National Police Board of the bankruptcy and death of the licence holder and of any changes to the

person in charge referred to in section 26 within 7 days of the beginning of the bankruptcy or being informed of the death.

The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 concerning the bankruptcy and death of the holder of a firearms business licence also apply when the organisation or foundation, under the provisions concerning it, ceases to function.

Section 25 (724/2019)

Notice to the firearms database and storage of data

During their business activities, the holder of a firearms business licence shall enter in the firearms database the identification data of the firearm, high-powered air gun, gas spray and firearm component, the name, address and date of birth of the person handing over or lending the object and the person receiving or borrowing the object, and the name and address of the person being commissioned to repair or convert the object.

The holder of a firearms business licence shall also submit a notice on the conversion of a firearm in their possession and on the deactivation and destruction of a firearm. The notice shall indicate the identification data of the firearm and firearm component and any changes to it, as well as the date of changes.

The holder of a firearms business licence shall also provide identification data on cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles or store the data in the file referred to in subsection 5.

The notice referred to in subsections 1–3 above shall be made using the e-services referred to in section 119a within 10 days after the holder of the firearms business licence has received or handed over the object to be notified. Provisions on stating the identification data of a firearm and its component when the object is handed over are laid down in section 42a. A notice of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles that are being handed over is made at the time of handover.

The name of the person handing over and the person receiving the object shall be entered in the file on cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles. The personal data contained in the file may be disclosed only to the supervisory authority referred to in section 115 for a supervisory task. On request, the holder of a firearms business licence shall present the file to the police and hand it over to the authorising body when the firearms business licence expires or is revoked. The file

must be kept for at least 30 years after the last entry and must be deleted 50 years after the last entry.

Further provisions on the notice of the identification data of a firearm, high-powered air gun, gas spray, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles, and on the storage of such data in a file referred to in subsection 5 and the presentation and disclosure of such data are issued by government decree.

The holder of a firearms business licence may deviate from the notification obligation referred to in subsection 1 if the person possessing the firearm or firearm component has left the firearm or firearm component with the firearms trader and the object is in the possession of the holder of the firearms business licence for no more than 10 days.

Section 26 (724/2019)

Person in charge

The holder of a firearms business licence shall employ one or more persons in charge approved in accordance with section 26c.

The holder of a firearms business licence shall notify the police within seven days when:

- 1) the person in charge resigns;
- 2) the person in charge no longer performs the duties referred to in section 26b; or
- 3) the approval of the person in charge expires.

An application for the approval of a new person in charge shall be made within 30 days of the event referred to in subsection 2. The application is a precondition for the deputy of the person in charge, referred to in section 26a, to perform the duties of the person in charge. The deputy may perform the duties until the approval of the new person in charge, however for a maximum of one year.

Section 26a (724/2019)

Deputy person in charge

The National Police Board may, upon the application of the holder of a firearms business licence, approve a deputy to the person in charge when that person is temporarily prevented from performing their duties or in the situation referred to in section 26, subsection 2. The person to be accepted as a deputy shall meet the requirements referred to in section 26c, with the exception of passing the test of the person in charge. If necessary, conditions and restrictions may be attached to the approval.

Section 26b (724/2019)

Duties of the person in charge

The person in charge is responsible for ensuring that the business conducted under the firearms business licence is conducted in accordance with this Act and the terms of the licence.

Section 26c (724/2019)

Approval of the person in charge

The National Police Board may, upon the application of an applicant for or holder of a firearms business licence, approve as a person in charge a person:

- 1) who has given their consent to the position of the person in charge;
- 2) who has reached the age of 18;
- 3) has the necessary knowledge of firearms, firearm parts, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles required for the duties;
- 4) who has passed the test of a person in charge organised by the National Police Board; and
- 5) who has a valid firearms handling licence referred to in section 27, subsection 1.

The approval of the person in charge is valid indefinitely.

Section 26d (724/2019)

Expiry and revocation of the approval of a person in charge

Approval of a person in charge expires when the business activity on which the approval is based ceases or the person in charge is no longer employed by the holder of the firearms business licence who applied for the approval.

The National Police Board shall revoke the approval of the person in charge, if the holder of the firearms business licence or the person in charge so requests.

The National Police Board shall revoke the approval as a person in charge in full or for a specified period if the person in charge:

- 1) no longer meets the requirements for approval as a person in charge;
- 2) has been sentenced by a final judgment for an offence which shows that the person is unsuitable to be a person in charge, or may be deemed to have acted essentially incorrectly by intent as a person in charge.

The National Police Board shall notify the holder of the firearms business licence of the pendency of a matter concerning the revocation of the approval of the person in charge.

Section 26e (724/2019)

Temporary revocation of the approval of a person in charge

Upon the pendency of the revocation matter referred to in section 26d, the National Police Board may temporarily revoke the approval of the person in charge.

The temporary revocation is valid for a maximum period of three months. The National Police Board may extend the temporary revocation for a special reason for a maximum of six months at a time if a revocation matter is pending.

Section 27 (724/2019)

Firearms handling licence

A person employed by the holder of a firearms business licence who transports, stores or otherwise handles firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles

shall have an authorisation to do so (*firearms handling licence*). The licence also entitles the holder to discharge firearms for demonstration, trial or training purposes, if this is necessary for the firearms trade for which the firearms handling licence has been issued.

A firearms handling licence may also be issued for temporary handling of firearms at work referred to in subsection 1.

A firearms handling licence may be issued to a person who has reached the age of 18 and who, on the basis of their state of health and behaviour, is to be deemed suitable for the handling of firearms referred to in subsection 1 and whose duties require it. A firearms handling licence issued to a person under the age of 20 includes a condition that the licence does not entitle the holder to handle the firearms referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 or the particularly dangerous firearms or their components referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph a before the holder has reached the age of 20 years.

A police department may issue and revoke a firearms handling licence upon application. The applicant must appear in person at the police department if this is necessary for a special reason.

If a firearms handling licence is issued in accordance with the application, no separate decision or appeal instructions will be issued to the applicant.

Section 28 (601/2001)

Period of validity and conditions of a firearms handling licence

A firearms handling licence is issued for a maximum of five years at a time.

The authorising body may include in the licence a condition that the firearm may not be discharged or that the licence entitles the holder to handle only the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles specified in the licence.

A firearms handling licence is valid only when the licence holder is employed by the employer named in the licence application. The holder of a firearms business licence shall notify the police when the employment of the holder of the firearms handling licence ends. (724/2019)

Section 28a (724/2019)

Firearms handling licence card

A police department issues a firearms handling licence card to the holder of a firearms handling licence. The firearms handling licence card shall be carried for tasks requiring a firearms handling licence and shall be presented on request. Before handing over the firearms handling licence card, the police department provides the holder of the firearms handling licence with a fixed-term document of having issued the firearms handling licence. The document shows the validity of the firearms handling licence before the firearms handling licence card is handed over to the holder of the firearms handling licence.

The firearms handling licence card shall be handed over to the police immediately, if the firearms handling licence has been revoked or a new firearms handling licence is handed over to the holder of the firearms handling licence.

Section 29 (724/2019)

Expiry of a firearm licence

A firearm licence expires when the firearms trade on the basis of which the licence is issued ends or the licence holder is no longer employed by the employer named in the licence.

Section 29a (724/2019)

Temporary revocation of a firearms handling licence

Upon the pendency of a revocation matter concerning a firearms handling licence referred to in section 67, the police may temporarily revoke the validity of a firearms handling licence.

The temporary revocation is valid for a maximum period of three months. The police may extend the temporary revocation for a special reason for a maximum of six months at a time if a revocation matter is pending.

Section 30

Warning and nomination of a new person in charge

The authorising body may, in the cases referred to in section 23, subsection 3, paragraph 2, instead of revoking the licence, issue a warning to the holder of a firearms business licence, if the

licence holder has rectified the deficiencies found in the business and the revocation of the licence would be unreasonable in the circumstances. If the person in charge nominated by the holder of the firearms business licence has acted in the manner referred to in the said paragraph, the authorising body may order the holder of the firearms business licence to nominate a new person in charge. (724/2019)

The authorising body may, instead of revoking the licence, issue the holder of a firearms handling licence a warning, if the revocation of the licence would be unreasonable in the circumstances.

Section 31

Other provisions on commercial manufacture of cartridges

In addition to the provisions laid down in this chapter, the provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the provisions issued under it shall be observed in the manufacture of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles containing explosive substances for a commercial purpose.

Chapter 4

Commercial transfer, import, export and transit

Section 32

Commercial prior consent

The National Police Board issues and revokes a prior consent for the transfer of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial prior consent*). (508/2009)

The prior consent may be granted to a firearms trader who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to be transferred. Granting a prior consent also requires that the transfer does not endanger the maintenance of public order or security.

The authority granting a prior consent may require that an end-user certificate be presented. An end-user certificate shall always be presented for a particularly dangerous firearm.

Section 33

Commercial import licence

The National Police Board issues and revokes an authorisation for the import of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial import licence*). (508/2009)

The provisions of section 32, subsections 2 and 3 apply to the issuing of the licence.

The holder of a commercial import licence shall provide the Customs Administration with evidence stating whether the firearms and cartridges to be imported have been examined to ensure their safety in use as referred to in section 110, subsection 1.

Section 34 (764/2015)

Commercial import licence for gas sprays and high-powered air guns

The National Police Board issues and revokes an authorisation for the transfer and import of a gas spray and a high-powered air gun to Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial import licence for gas sprays and high-powered air guns*).

The provisions of section 32, subsection 2 apply to the issuing of the licence.

Section 35

Commercial transfer licence

The National Police Board issues and revokes an authorisation for the transfer of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles from Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial transfer licence*). (508/2009)

The licence may be issued to a firearms trader who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to be transferred. A requirement for issuing the licence is that, on the basis of a notice issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are no obstacles to the transfer and that the transfer conditions are safe.

The licence document for a commercial transfer licence shall be carried when transferring the objects.

Section 35a (508/2009)

Fixed-term commercial transfer licence

The National Police Board may issue a fixed-term commercial transfer licence that is valid for several different transfers (*fixed-term commercial transfer licence*). In addition to the provisions in section 35, subsection 2, a requirement for issuing the licence is that the firearms trader in another EU Member State receiving the objects is the same for each transfer.

Transfers shall be notified in writing to the National Police Board before the transfer, as specified by government decree.

Section 36 (689/2013)

Commercial transit licence

The National Police Board issues and revokes an authorisation for the transit of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles for commercial purposes (*commercial transit licence*).

A commercial transit licence may be issued to an applicant who presents an end-user certificate or other reliable evidence stating that there are no obstacles to the issuing of the licence.

The authorising body shall, if the processing of the licence matter so requires, ascertain from the ministry handling foreign affairs that there are no foreign or security policy obstacles to the issuing of the licence.

Section 37

Commercial export licence for gas sprays and commercial transit licence for gas sprays

The National Police Board issues and revokes an authorisation for the transfer and export of a gas spray from Finland for a commercial purpose (*commercial export licence for gas sprays*) and for transit for a commercial purpose (*commercial transit licence for gas sprays*). A commercial transit licence for gas sprays may also be issued for transit where both the country of departure and the country of destination, or either of them, are EU Member States. (508/2009)

A commercial export licence for gas sprays may be issued to a firearms trader who has the right to carry on the firearms trade with the gas sprays to be exported. The authority issuing a commercial export licence for gas sprays may require that the applicant present an end-user certificate or other reliable evidence stating that there are no obstacles to the issuing of the licence.

A commercial transit licence for gas sprays may be issued to an applicant who presents an end-user certificate or other reliable evidence stating that there are no obstacles to the issuing of the licence.

The authorising body shall, if the processing of the licence matter so requires, ascertain from the ministry handling foreign affairs that there are no foreign or security policy obstacles to the issuing of the licence.

Section 38

Period of validity of commercial prior consent and licences

A commercial prior consent and the licences referred to in this chapter, other than a commercial transfer licence, are granted for the period of validity of the firearms business licence. They are, however, granted for a maximum period of three years.

Section 39

Expiry and revocation of a commercial prior consent and licences

A commercial prior consent, commercial import licence, commercial import licence for gas sprays, commercial transfer licence, fixed-term commercial transfer licence and commercial export licence for gas sprays expires, if the firearms business licence expires or is revoked. (689/2013)

The authorising body shall revoke the commercial transfer licence, fixed-term commercial transfer licence, commercial transit licence, commercial export licence for gas sprays and commercial transit licence for gas sprays, if the authorities of the country of destination notify of obstacles to the transfer, export or transit or if there is a foreign or security policy obstacle to it. A commercial transfer licence and fixed-term commercial transfer licence shall also be revoked if the transfer conditions are no longer safe. (689/2013)

The authorising body and the authority granting a commercial prior consent may revoke a commercial prior consent, commercial import licence and commercial import licence for gas sprays they have issued, if the transfer or import may cause danger to the maintenance of public order and security.

Section 40 (764/2015)

Customs notification obligation

Customs shall notify the National Police Board every three months of the importation into Finland of the items specified in the commercial import licence and in the commercial import licence for gas sprays and high-powered air guns. Further provisions on the content of the notification are issued by government decree.

Section 41 (284/2012)

Export, transfer from Finland, brokerage and transit of defence materiel

Provisions on the export, transfer from Finland, brokering and transit of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles that are considered to be defence materiel are laid down in the Act on the Export of Defence Materiel (282/2012).

Chapter 5

Acquisition, private manufacture, conversion and possession

Section 42 (724/2019)

Firearms licence

A firearms licence is a licence entitling the holder to possess a firearm, a high-powered air gun or a firearm component, which may be accompanied by the right to acquire a firearm or firearm component (*right of acquisition*) or to manufacture or convert it for a private purpose (*right of private manufacture*). A police department issues and revokes the firearms licence. However, a firearms licence for the acquisition or manufacture or conversion for private use of a particularly dangerous firearm and its component is issued and revoked by the National Police Board or a police unit designated by it.

The licence application is submitted to the police department. The application can be submitted electronically. However, the applicant or the firearms officer of an organisation or foundation shall appear in person at the police department on request. For a special reason, the application may also be submitted to a Finnish mission abroad.

An applicant who does not have a municipality of residence in Finland shall present a consent issued by the authority of their country of residence for the acquisition of the firearm, high-powered air gun and firearm component referred to in the application. The applicant shall also provide a written account of why they wish to possess a firearm and firearm component in Finland.

Section 42a (623/2017)

Right of acquisition and right of private manufacture

The right of acquisition or right of private manufacture attached to the firearms licence is granted for a maximum period of one year. For a special reason, the right of acquisition or private manufacture is granted for a maximum period of two years.

The right of private manufacture may be granted subject to the requirements laid down in section 45 or 45a, observing the provisions of section 43, with the exception of section 43, subsection 1, paragraph 8 and subsection 2; and section 44.

A firearms licence expires if the firearm, high-powered air gun or firearm component has not been acquired during the term of the right of acquisition or manufactured or converted during the term of the right of private manufacture.

A person who has not acquired a firearm under the right of acquisition, or manufactured or converted a firearm, a high-powered air gun or a firearm component under the right of private manufacture shall, within 30 days of the expiry of the firearms licence, submit the licence document to the police department if the licence is not electronic.

Section 42b (623/2017)

Decision, validity of the licence and licence conditions

When a firearms licence is issued in accordance with the application, no separate administrative decision or appeal instructions are issued to the applicant.

The firearms licence is issued indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be issued for a fixed term. The first firearms licence for a purpose of use referred to in section 43, subsection 1, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 is issued to a natural person for a firearm belonging to a group of firearm types referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 or a firearm referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph a for a period not exceeding five years. All firearms licences issued to the licence holder for firearms belonging to the same category during the period of validity of this fixed-term licence are issued for a period ending no later than the expiry date of the first fixed-term licence. A licence for work where a firearm is necessary is, however, granted for a maximum of five years at a time. In that case, the licence shall include a condition that the licence is valid only as long as the licence holder is engaged in the work in question. A firearms licence for the storage and transport of a shotgun, combination firearm, rifle or small-calibre rifle intended for the possession of a person who is a dependant of the firearms licence holder and who is 15 but not 18 years of age is issued for a fixed term ending no later than when the youngest parallel licence holder referred to in section 54 reaches 19 years of age. (724/2019)

If a firearms licence has been issued based on a person's approval as a weapons collector, the authorising body may include in the licence a condition that the firearm may not be discharged. A firearms licence for the storage and transport of a shotgun, combination firearm, rifle or small-calibre rifle intended for the possession of a person who is a dependant of the licence holder and who is 15 but not 18 years of age includes the condition that the licence holder may not discharge the firearm. (724/2019)

Section 42c (89/2020)

Notifying the police of the identification data of a firearm and its component

The firearms licence holder shall notify the police within 30 days of the acquisition, lending, manufacture or conversion of the firearm or its component. The notice shall be made in writing or using the e-services referred to in section 119a.

The notice shall include:

- 1) the identification data of the firearm, high-powered air gun and firearm component;

2) the name, address and date of birth of the person handing over the object and the person receiving it;

3) the name of the person commissioning the repair or conversion;

4) the name, address and date of birth of the lender and the borrower of the firearm, high-powered air gun and firearm component;

5) the information necessary to identify the custodian and the place of storage if the firearm, high-powered air gun or firearm components enabling the assembly of a firearm are stored other than temporarily in the manner referred to in section 106, subsection 1, paragraph 2 with a licence holder other than the one authorised to possess the firearm;

6) information on the conversion of the firearm if the type, mode of operation or calibre of the firearm changes or the firearm is deactivated or destroyed;

7) the time of acquisition, lending, manufacture or conversion.

The information referred to in subsection 2 above shall also be provided in connection with the handing over, lending or return of the loan by the person handing over the object or the lender, if the person handing over the object or the lender is the holder of a firearms business licence referred to in section 20.

Subsection 3 enters into force on 1 March 2024.

The lender of a firearm, high-powered air gun or firearm component is not required to submit the notice referred to in subsection 1 if the firearm or its component is in the possession of the borrower for a maximum period of 30 days from the start of the loan.

Further provisions on the notification procedures and content of the notices on the identification data of firearms, high-powered air guns and firearm components are issued by government decree.

Section 42d (623/2017)

Presenting a firearm and firearm component and a licence document to the police

When the holder of a firearms licence provides the identification data referred to in section 42c and the licence entitling the person handing over the object to possess the firearm or firearm component has been issued before 2000, the firearm and firearm component shall be presented to the police within 30 days of acquisition. A firearm, high powered air gun and firearm component acquired from abroad or privately manufactured or converted shall be presented to the police within 30 days of acquisition, manufacture or conversion.

The firearm, high-powered air gun and firearm component shall be presented to the police on request within the period specified by the police. The licence document for a firearms licence shall be presented and handed over to the police on request within a period specified by the police.

Section 43 (724/2019)

Approved purposes of use

A firearms licence may be issued for the following purposes of use:

- 1) shooting of animals permitted by hunting legislation;
- 2) shooting sports or recreational shooting;
- 3) work where a weapon is necessary;
- 4) show, filming or a corresponding presentation;
- 5) collection and storage of a weapon collector's firearms or firearm components in accordance with the collection plan;
- 6) keeping as a souvenir;
- 7) signalling;
- 8) storage and transport of a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle or combination firearm intended for the possession of a person who is a dependant of the licence holder and who is 15 but not 18 years of age;

9) organisation of or participation in firearms training provided as training contributing to military capability referred to in section 2, subsection 2 of the Act on Voluntary National Defence (556/2007) using firearms or firearm components referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph b of this Act.

For keeping as a souvenir, a licence may, in an individual case, be granted for the acquisition of a firearm other than a particularly dangerous firearm or its component if the applicant proves that the firearm or firearm component is of a special historic or other souvenir value to them. In this case, a condition may be included in the firearms licence that the firearm may not be discharged.

Section 44 (724/2019)

General requirements for the firearm and firearm component to be acquired

A firearms licence may only be issued for a firearm or firearm component which, based on the number of cartridges in the magazine, calibre or other properties, is not unnecessarily powerful or efficient with regard to the purpose of use notified by the applicant, and which is suitable for the purpose of use notified by the applicant. If the purpose of use notified by the applicant is the shooting of animals permitted by hunting legislation, the Hunting Act (615/1993) shall also be observed when assessing the suitability of a firearm. A firearms licence for the shooting of animals permitted under hunting legislation may not be issued for a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 of this Act, with the exception of a single-shot small-calibre pistol and small-calibre revolver.

Section 44a (724/2019)

Restrictions on the firearm and firearm component to be acquired for a pocket gun or its component

If the general requirements referred to in section 44 concerning the firearm or firearm component to be acquired are met, a firearms licence for a pocket gun and its component may only be issued to a weapons collector to keep firearms or firearm components in a museum or collection, keep them as a souvenir and use them at work where a weapon is necessary.

Section 44b (724/2019)

Restrictions on the acquisition of a particularly dangerous firearm or its component

In addition to the provisions of section 44, a firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, subsection 1, paragraphs 2 and 4–6 may be issued only:

- 1) to a weapons collector for the collection or storage of firearms or firearm components;
- 2) for a special reason for work where a firearm is necessary; or
- 3) for a limited period for a show, filming or a corresponding purpose.

In addition, a firearms licence may be issued for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph b for the organisation of or participation in the National Defence Training Association's firearms training contributing to military capability referred to in section 2, subsection 2 of the Act on Voluntary National Defence.

In addition, a firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraphs a and b may be issued to a natural person for shooting sports if the applicant is and has been for the 12 months prior to applying for the licence a member of an authorised association referred to in section 4 of the Associations Act (503/1989).

In addition, a firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraphs a and b may be issued to an organisation or foundation for shooting sports training.

A firearms licence for a firearm or its component disguised as an object other than a firearm under section 9, subsection 3 may be issued only for a special reason.

Section 45 (724/2019)

Requirements for a firearms licence applicant who is a natural person

A firearms licence may be issued to a person who has reached the age of 18 and who, on the basis of their state of health and behaviour, is deemed suitable for possessing firearms and firearm components.

The authorising body has the right to obtain a medical assessment of the applicant if, based on the information received or the interview, the authorising body has reason to doubt the applicant's personal suitability to possess a firearm. Notwithstanding the secrecy obligation, the authorising body has the right to obtain from the applicant, in a medical assessment, such health information as is necessary for the authorising body to assess the applicant's suitability to possess a firearm.

On request, a conscript shall present evidence of a completed military or non-military service. If the service has not been completed, the conscript shall, upon request, present the order to enter into service, or the decision on being exempted, changing the date of entry into service or suspending the service with the grounds for the decision.

A firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and firearm component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph a, and for a pistol, small-calibre pistol, revolver and small-calibre revolver and their component, may be issued only to a person who has reached the age of 20.

A firearms licence for a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 for use in shooting sports or recreational shooting and a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph a for use in shooting sports may be issued to a natural person only if they present a certificate issued by a firearms instructor of an authorised association referred to in section 4 of the Associations Act for their shooting sport or recreational shooting, which must have continued actively for at least the two years preceding the application for a firearms licence. Half of a completed military service based on conscription or half of a completed voluntary military service for women count towards the two-year period of an actively continued recreational activity. A firearms licence for a firearm and its component referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 for use in shooting sports or recreational shooting may also be issued if the person presents reliable evidence of their shooting sport or recreational shooting, and a certificate issued by the state authority which employs them that they carry a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 in their official duties.

A firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph b may be issued to a natural person only if they present a certificate issued by a firearms instructor of an authorised association referred to in section 4 of the Associations Act for their shooting sport or recreational shooting, which must have continued actively for at least the 12 months preceding the application for a firearms licence.

A firearms licence for a purpose of use referred to in section 43, subsection 1, paragraph 9 for a firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph b may be issued to a natural person only if they present a certificate issued by the National Defence Training Association for participating in firearms training contributing to military capability referred to in the Act on Voluntary National Defence, using a type of firearm for which the firearms licence is sought, actively at least for the 12 months preceding the application for a firearms licence, and a certificate for passing the shooting test referred to in the Act on Voluntary National Defence. The certificate issued by the National Defence Training Association for participation in firearms training contributing to military capability may be partially replaced by other reliable evidence of the reservist's active shooting practice. Half of a completed military service based on conscription or half of a completed voluntary military service for women count towards the one-year period of active training.

When applying for a licence:

- 1) for the shooting of animals permitted under hunting legislation, the applicant shall present reliable evidence of their recreational activity and, in addition, if the application concerns a licence for a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraph 5 or 7, certificate of active recreational activity issued by a game management association;
- 2) for shooting sports and recreational shooting, the applicant shall present reliable evidence of their recreational activity;
- 3) for a particularly dangerous firearm or firearm component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraphs a and b for use in shooting sports, the applicant shall present a valid membership of an authorised association referred to in section 4 of the Associations Act for at least the 12 months prior to applying for the licence and reliable evidence of actively training or participating in firearms competitions with the type of firearm for which the licence is sought;
- 4) for the purpose of work, the applicant shall present evidence that they have gained sufficient familiarity with the safe handling of the firearm in their training or otherwise and that they have an acceptable reason for carrying the firearm in their work;

5) for the purpose of use referred to in section 43, subsection 1, paragraph 9, for a firearm and firearm component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraph b, the authorising body requests a reasoned opinion from the Defence Forces; the Defence Forces give a favourable opinion concerning an applicant who is eligible for a placement and who the Defence Forces considers to have a need for training with that firearm and firearm component in order to maintain firearms skills in the reserve; a licence for the firearm referred to in this paragraph may not be issued unless the Defence Forces give a favourable opinion.

A licence for the collection and storage of a firearm and a firearm component may only be issued to a weapons collector whose storage facilities for the firearms and firearm components have been approved by the police department for the area in which the storage facilities are located. A licence under section 43, subsection 1, paragraph 8 may be issued when the dependant person has submitted their application for a parallel licence referred to in section 54 and the authorising body has examined that the requirements laid down in that section for issuing a parallel licence have been met.

The recreational activity referred to in subsection 8, paragraph 1 may be considered active if the shooting of animals using a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraph 5 or 7 refers to regularly continued hunting during the hunting seasons for which a firearm other than that referred to in the said subsection is not well suited. The *shooting of animals* means the killing of an animal that is underground, in a trap or in other similar conditions during the hunt. A shooting sport or recreational shooting is considered to be actively pursued in the case of practising a shooting discipline, competing, acting as a competition officer, coaching or training in the use of a firearm, or participating in firearms training contributing to military capability referred to in the Voluntary National Defence Act using a type of firearm for which the licence is sought.

Section 45a (724/2019)

Requirements for a firearms licence applicant that is an organisation or foundation

A firearms licence may be issued to an organisation or foundation registered in Finland or performing a public function, which, on the basis of the purpose of its activities and other circumstances, shall be deemed suitable for the possession of firearms and firearm components. The licence may only be issued to an applicant whose storage facilities for firearms and firearm components have been approved by the police department for the area in which the storage facilities are located and who has a firearms officer referred to in section 45b.

A firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, subsection 5, paragraph b may be issued to the National Defence Training Association under subsection 1 for the organisation of firearms training contributing to military capability referred to in section 2, subsection 2 of the Act on Voluntary National Defence, and a firearms licence for a particularly dangerous firearm and its component referred to in section 9, paragraph 5, subparagraphs a and b of this Act may be issued to an organisation or foundation for shooting sports training.

Section 45b (601/2001)

Firearms officer in an organisation or foundation

The organisation or foundation referred to in section 45a shall have a person in charge of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles (firearms officer), who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the obligations and licence conditions laid down in this Act and in the provisions issued under it. The firearms officer shall be employed by the organisation or foundation or otherwise participate in its activities.

The police approves the firearms officer and revokes the approval. The police may require that there be more than one firearms officer if this is necessary in light of the activities of the organisation or the foundation. Approval as a firearms officer may be granted to a person who has reached the age of 18 and who, on the basis of their state of health, behaviour and knowledge, is to be deemed suitable for possessing firearms and firearm components. If the firearm officer takes care of firearms referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 that belong to the organisation, only a person who has reached the age of 20 may be accepted as a firearms officer. (724/2019)

The approval entitles the person to acquire, possess and hand over the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles referred to in the licence issued to the organisation or foundation.

Section 45c (724/2019)

Firearms training leader of the National Defence Training Association

The firearms training leader of the National Defence Training Association referred to in section 20b, subsection 1 of the Act on Voluntary National Defence shall be suitable to possess and store firearms, firearm components and cartridges on the basis of their state of health and behaviour. At the request of the Defence Forces, the police will issue an opinion on the above-mentioned suitability of the person to be considered as the firearms training leader of the National Defence Training Association.

In organising firearms training contributing to military capability under section 20a of the Act on Voluntary National Defence, the firearms training leader may possess and store firearms, firearm components and cartridges owned and possessed by the National Defence Training Association and issue the said firearms for use under the leader's immediate supervision in accordance with section 88 of this Act.

Section 45d (724/2019)

Monitoring of the requirements for firearms authorisations

The suitability referred to in section 45 in the consideration of firearms licence, firearms business licence and firearms handling licence and in the monitoring of the validity of the licence requirements is continuously assessed and monitored on the basis of information obtained from the information systems used by the police and other information coming to the attention of the police. Provisions on the processing of personal data are laid down in the Act on the Processing of Personal Data by the Police (616/2019).

The provisions of subsection 1 concerning the assessment and monitoring of suitability also apply to the consideration of the approval of a person in charge required of the holder of a firearms business licence, a weapons collector and a firearms officer, and to the assessment and monitoring of the validity of the approval requirements.

The authority issuing a licence or granting an approval is responsible for assessing and monitoring suitability.

Section 45e (724/2019)

Approval as a firearms instructor

A person may be approved as a firearms instructor if they:

- 1) have reached the age of 20 and agree to the position;
- 2) hold a licence permit entitling the holder to possess a firearm;
- 3) are a member of an association or employed by an association referred to in section 4 of the Associations Act; and
- 4) have successfully completed training organised by the police that meets the requirements specified by the National Police Board (*firearms instructor training*), which includes at least the subjects related to the legislation on firearms, their safe handling and storage, the rights and obligations of a firearms instructor and acting as an instructor.

Approval as a firearms instructor is valid for a maximum period of 10 years.

A firearms instructor is approved by the police upon application by an association. Approval may be subject to conditions and restrictions. The police may change the conditions and restrictions set for approval or revoke the approval if the requirements for approval referred to in subsection 1 are not met.

Section 46 (623/2017)

Section 46 was repealed by Act 623/2017.

Section 47 (724/2019)

Acquisition licence for a person residing abroad

The authority which issues licences for the export or transfer from Finland of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles issues and revokes a licence for a person residing abroad to acquire such objects (*acquisition licence for a person residing abroad*). The licence entitles the holder to acquire the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles specified in the licence. The licence does not entitle the holder to possess the objects, and they may not, in Finland, be handed over to the licence holder but they shall, without delay, be delivered to the address in the licence holder's country of residence stated in the licence.

Section 48

Requirements for issuing an acquisition licence for a person residing abroad

An acquisition licence for a person residing abroad may be issued to an applicant who presents a consent issued by the authorities in their country of residence for the acquisition of the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles referred to in the application, or other evidence stating that there are no obstacles to the issuing of the licence.

A person residing in another EU Member State and applying for a licence for a weapon other than a gas spray shall also have a private transfer licence issued in Finland for the transfer of the object to their country of residence.

Section 49

Period of validity of an acquisition licence issued to a person residing abroad

An acquisition licence for a person residing abroad is issued for a maximum period of 30 days.

Sections 50–53

Sections 50–53 were repealed by Act 623/2017.

Section 53a (724/2019)

Demonstrating the continuation of an recreational activity

A natural person who holds a licence which is valid indefinitely and which authorises the possession of a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7, a particularly dangerous firearm or a semi-automatic firearm shall, five years after the issue of the licence and every five years thereafter, present evidence to the authorising body of the validity of the licence requirements referred to in section 45, subsections 5–10. The evidence presented shall demonstrate that the licence holder is still actively pursuing the activity for which the licence was issued or other activity for which the licence for the firearm in question could have been issued.

If necessary, the authorising body may require the licence holder to submit other evidence of their recreational activity.

However, the holder of a licence entitling the holder to possess a firearm issued on the basis of the approval as a weapons collector shall present the evidence referred to in subsections 1 and 2 only at the separate request of the authorising body.

Section 54 (623/2017)

Parallel licence

A parallel right of possession may be granted, with the consent of the firearms licence holder, to a firearm or firearm component for which a firearms licence has been granted (parallel licence). With the consent of the State, a parallel licence may also be issued for a firearm or firearm component owned by the State. A parallel licence for a firearm or firearm component belonging to a collection may only be issued to a weapons collector. The licence is issued and revoked by the authority referred to in section 42, subsection 1.

The licence may be issued subject the requirements laid down in section 45 observing the provisions of section 42, subsections 2 and 3; and sections 43 and 44. However, a licence for a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle or combination firearm may be issued, with the consent of the guardians, for the shooting of animals permitted under hunting legislation or for shooting sports and recreational shooting to a person who is 15 but not 18 years of age and who otherwise meets the requirements for a licence holder. For a particularly weighty reason, a parallel licence may be issued for the purpose of shooting sports and recreational shooting to a person who is 18 but not 20 years of age for a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7.

When applying for the licence, the consent of the licence holder or the State to the granting of a parallel licence shall be presented. The authorising body may also demand that the firearm or firearm component be presented to the police.

Section 55 (623/2017)

Period of validity and conditions of a parallel licence

The parallel licence is issued for the validity of the firearms licence, unless, for a special reason, it should be issued for a shorter period. However, a licence for firearms referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 is issued for a maximum of period of five years and for other firearms for a maximum period of ten years. If a person has a firearms licence issued for a period of five years referred to in section 42b, subsection 2, a parallel licence for a firearm referred to in

section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 is issued for a period ending no later than the expiry date of the firearms licence.

The authorising body may include in the licence a condition that a firearm belonging to a collection may not be discharged.

Section 55a (623/2017)

Gas spray licence

A police department issues and revokes a licence for the acquisition and possession of a gas spray (*gas spray licence*) observing the provisions of section 42, subsections 2 and 3. The licence is granted for a maximum of five years at a time. A licence for keeping gas sprays in a museum or collection may also be issued indefinitely.

During the period of validity of the licence, the licence entitles the holder to acquire, possess and replace the gas sprays specified in the licence. A licence issued to an organisation entitles a person employed by the licence holder who has reached the age of 18 and who has sufficient knowledge of the safe handling of gas sprays, to carry the gas spray referred to in the licence in their if this is necessary in order to protect their personal integrity or property or that of others.

Section 55b (601/2001)

Requirements for granting a gas spray licence

A gas spray licence may be issued for the following approved purposes of use:

- 1) training or a show, filming or a corresponding presentation;
- 2) keeping in a museum or collection;
- 3) protection of personal integrity or property or that of others; (764/2015)
- 4) animal scaring for a special reason. (764/2015)

The licence may be granted to a natural person who meets the requirements laid down in section 45, subsection 1. The licence may also be granted to an organisation or foundation that meets the

requirements laid down in section 45a, subsection 1. As regards the firearms officer of an organisation or foundation, the provisions of section 45b shall be observed.

A licence applicant that is a natural person as well as a firearms officer shall prove that they have sufficient knowledge, obtained through training or otherwise, of the safe handling of gas sprays.

Section 55c (601/2001)

Conditions of a gas spray licence

The authorising body may include in the licence a condition that the licence does not entitle the holder to acquire or exchange a spray, or a licence issued to an organisation does not entitle persons employed by the licence holder to carry a gas spray in their work.

The authorising body may also include in the licence a condition that the licence entitles the holder to carry a gas spray only on the assignment or location entered in the licence.

Section 56

Carrying a firearm at work

A licence issued for the possession of a firearm for work entitles the holder to carry, on the assignment in question, only a firearm for the possession of which the licence has been issued or a weapon with corresponding properties.

Section 57 (724/2019)

Approval as a weapons collector

The National Police Board grants and revokes the approval as a weapons collector.

A natural person who meets the requirements laid down in section 45, subsection 1 may be approved as a weapons collector. An organisation or foundation, registered or performing a public function in Finland, which meets the requirements laid down in section 45a and has a firearms officer referred to in section 45b, may also be accepted as a weapons collector. Approval may be granted to an applicant who submits an acceptable plan for the systematic collection and keeping of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles for historical, scientific, technical, educational or cultural heritage purposes. The plan shall also include evidence

of the safe storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles. A requirement for the approval is that an applicant who is a natural person and the firearms officer have the necessary expertise in weapons history and technology to carry out the activity.

The application is submitted in writing to the police.

Section 58 (724/2019)

Content and period of validity of an approval as a weapons collector

The approval granted to a weapons collector shall specify the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles covered by the approval. The authority granting the approval may place restrictions on the approval on the basis of the expertise in weapons history and technology of the weapons collector, the field of collecting and the overall assessment made of the recreational activity.

The approval is issued indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be issued for a fixed term.

A person who has been approved as a weapons collector shall apply for a firearms licence for the possession of firearms and firearm components in accordance with section 42, to which a right of acquisition or a right of private manufacture may be attached.

A person who has been approved as a weapons collector shall apply for an ammunition licence for the acquisition of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles in accordance with section 62.

A person who has been approved as a weapons collector shall record in a file information on the cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles acquired and possessed under the ammunition licence. The file shall be presented to the police upon request.

The authorising body may impose the necessary conditions and restrictions on the approval as a weapons collector and amend or add to them as necessary.

Section 59 (724/2019)

Changes in storage facilities for the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles of a weapons collector

A weapons collector shall notify the police of changes in the storage facilities concerning the security or location of the storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles. Approval by the police shall be sought for the changed storage facilities.

Sections 59a–60

Sections 59a–60 were repealed by Act 623/2017.

Section 61 (724/2019)

Acquiring and possessing cartridges

A firearms licence and a parallel licence entitle the holder to acquire and possess cartridges, other than particularly dangerous cartridges, that are suitable for use with the licence holder's firearm or in a firearm that the licence holder is entitled to borrow in accordance with section 87, subsection 1. A holder of a European firearms pass or a private import licence issued for the possession of a firearm or an authorisation issued by a Norwegian, Swedish, Icelandic or Danish authority for the possession of a firearm is entitled, while staying in Finland, to acquire and possess cartridges, other than particularly dangerous cartridges, suitable for use with a firearm. However, the authorising body may include in the authorisation a condition that the authorisation does not authorise the acquisition and possession of cartridges suitable for a weapon belonging to a collection in the possession of a weapons collector or for a firearm kept as a souvenir.

Section 62 (724/2019)

Ammunition licence

A police department issues and revokes the authorisation to acquire, manufacture and possess cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles (*ammunition licence*).

The licence may be issued subject to the requirements laid down in section 45, subsections 1–8 or section 45a, subsection 1, observing the provisions of section 42, subsections 2 and 3 on the firearms licence.

A licence to acquire, manufacture and possess particularly dangerous cartridges and projectiles may be issued only if there is a special reason for doing so and public order and security are not endangered. The licence may include a condition prohibiting the use of particularly dangerous

cartridges and projectiles in particularly dangerous firearms. In addition, the licence may include a condition limiting, by quantity or otherwise, the acquisition, manufacture and possession of particularly dangerous cartridges and projectiles.

An ammunition licence for the acquisition, manufacture and possession of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles may be issued to a weapons collector.

Section 63

Period of validity of an ammunition licence

An ammunition licence is issued indefinitely unless, for a special reason, it should be issued for a fixed term.

Section 64

Licence for security duties during international state visits

The National Police Board issues and revokes an authorisation to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles for the purpose of organising security duties for international state visits. (508/2009)

The licence may be issued if this is necessary in order to protect the personal integrity or property of persons enjoying special protection.

The licence is issued for a fixed term.

Section 65 (623/2017)

Consent

A person who has a municipality of residence in Finland is, at their request, issued a consent to be presented to a foreign authority (consent), showing that they may be granted abroad an authorisation for the acquisition of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles. A police department issues the consent.

The consent is issued to a natural person who holds a firearms licence for the firearm or firearm component in question, or a gas spray licence, or the right to acquire and possess the cartridges

or particularly dangerous projectiles in question. The consent is also issued to the firearms officer referred to in section 45b who has the right to acquire and possess the object under the licence issued to an organisation or foundation. A firearms licence document or a gas spray licence document or a licence document issued for the acquisition and possession of cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles shall be presented to the police when applying for the consent.

The consent shall be issued for the period of validity of the licences referred to in subsection 2. It is, however, issued for a maximum period of two years.

Section 66

Expiry of licences and consent

A licence entitling the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles expires:

- 1) if the licence holder permanently hands over a firearm or firearm component to someone else;
- 2) if the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles are, by a court decision, ordered forfeit to the State;
- 3) if the firearm is rendered permanently inoperable or the firearm component is rendered permanently unfit for use;
- 4) upon the death of the licence holder or when the organisation or foundation, under the provisions concerning it, ceases to function. (601/2001)

The parallel licence expires when the firearms licence expires or is revoked. A firearms licence issued for the storage and transport of a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle or combination firearm intended for the possession of a dependant person who is 15 but not 18 years of age expires when the validity of the parallel licences ceases. (623/2017)

A consent expires when the firearms licence or the gas spray licence or the licence issued for the acquisition and possession of cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles expires or if it is revoked. (623/2017)

Section 66a (724/2019)

Pendency of the revocation of an authorisation

The revocation of a licence issued for the acquisition or possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles becomes pending if:

- 1) the requirements for the revocation of a licence laid down in section 67, subsection 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 are met; or
- 2) there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the requirements for revoking a permit laid down in section 67, subsection 1, paragraphs 4–8 and subsection 2; and section 67b are met.

Section 67 (724/2019)

Revocation of licences

A licence to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles and a firearms handling licence shall be revoked if:

- 1) the licence holder so requests;
- 2) the guardians revoke the consent to the licence issued for the possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 3) the holder of the firearms licence or the State revokes the consent referred to in section 54, subsection 1;
- 4) the licence holder has committed an offence showing aggravated violent behaviour, an offence referred to in chapter 50, section 2 or 4a of the Criminal Code or any other offence which renders them unsuitable to acquire or possess firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 5) the licence holder is, due to their state of health, or their way of life or behaviour endangering their own safety or that of others, to be deemed unsuitable for acquiring or possessing firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;

6) the licence holder has committed a serious firearms offence;

7) the organisation or foundation no longer meets the requirements laid down in section 45a, subsection 1; or

8) the firearm or firearm component is lost or stolen.

A licence to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles and a firearms handling licence may be revoked if:

1) the licence holder has committed an offence referred to in chapter 50, sections 1, 2a or 4 of the Criminal Code or a firearms offence, a firearms violation or any other punishable act committed by using a firearm;

2) the licence holder has violated the licence conditions or otherwise shown disregard for compliance with the provisions on firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;

3) the organisation or foundation or its firearms officer referred to in section 45b has violated this Act, the provisions or licence conditions issued under it or otherwise shown disregard for compliance with the provisions on firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;

4) the licence holder has, other than temporarily, ceased to carry the firearm or pursue the recreational activity on the basis of which the licence was issued;

5) the possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles other than in the manner referred to in paragraphs 1–4 of this subsection for a particularly weighty reason endangers public order or security; or

6) the possession of a firearm is no longer necessary for work.

The authority revoking the parallel licence shall notify the holder of the firearms licence of the revocation of the parallel licence.

Section 67a (601/2001)

Expiry and revocation of approval as a firearms officer

Approval as a firearms officer expires upon the death of the firearms officer or when the organisation or foundation, under the provisions concerning it, ceases to function.

Approval as a firearms officer shall be revoked if the organisation or foundation or the firearms officer so requests.

Approval as a firearms officer may be revoked in the cases referred to in section 67, subsection 2, paragraphs 1–4, or if the licences issued to an organisation or foundation entitling the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles expire or are revoked.

Section 67b (724/2019)

Revocation of licences in certain situations

The licences, the approvals and the firearms handling licence issued for the acquisition or possession of a firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraphs 4–7 and paragraph 12 and a semiautomatic firearm referred to in section 7, subsection 2, paragraph 3 shall be revoked if the person is in possession of a charging device referred to in section 3, subsection 2 without a licence authorising its possession.

Section 67c (724/2019)

Expiry and revocation of approval as a firearms instructor

Approval granted to a firearms instructor expires upon the death of the firearms instructor or when the association which applied for the approval ceases to function.

Approval of a firearms instructor shall be revoked if so requested by the association or the firearms instructor.

Approval granted to a firearms instructor may be revoked on the grounds referred to in section 67, subsection 2, paragraphs 1–4. Approval may also be revoked if the firearms instructor essentially violates the conditions and restrictions attached to the approval decision or they are no longer a

member of or employed by an association referred to in section 4 of the Associations Act. The police department shall notify the association applying for approval as an instructor of the revocation of approval as a firearms instructor.

Section 68 (601/2001)

Expiry and revocation of approval as a weapons collector

Approval granted to a weapons collector expires upon the death of the collector or when the organisation, foundation or museum, under the provisions concerning it, ceases to function.
(724/2019)

Approval as a weapons collector shall be revoked if the weapons collector so requests.

Approval as a weapons collector may be revoked in the cases referred to in section 67, subsection 2, paragraphs 1–4, 4a and 4b.

Section 68a (724/2019)

Exception to revocation of licences and approval

If a licence holder, a firearms officer referred to in section 45b or a weapons collector informs the police, at their own initiative, of an unauthorised firearm or firearm component, unauthorised cartridges, loading device or particularly dangerous projectiles or unauthorised explosives, and surrenders them to the police, the unauthorised possession of the surrendered object does not cause their licence entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles or their approval as a firearms officer or weapons collector to be revoked.

Section 69 (124/2011)

Warning

The authorising body and the authority that granted approval to a firearms officer, weapons collector or firearms instructor may, instead of revoking a licence entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles or the approval, issue a warning if revoking the licence or approval would be unreasonable in the circumstances.

The police department shall notify the association applying for approval as an instructor of the warning issued to the firearms instructor.

Section 70 (724/2019)

Notifying and presenting to the police the acquisition of a firearm component, high-powered air gun and deactivated firearm

A person who has acquired a firearm component or a high-powered air gun shall, within 30 days of the acquisition, notify a police department of the acquisition if the right to:

1) the acquisition and possession of a firearm component is based on the fact that the acquirer has the right to possess a firearm assembled from corresponding firearm components referred to in section 19, subsection 1, paragraph 2; or

2) the acquisition and possession of a high-powered air gun is based on section 19, subsection 1, paragraph 10.

A person who has acquired a deactivated firearm shall, within 30 days of the acquisition, notify a police department of the acquisition, unless a notice has been submitted under section 42c.

The notice may be submitted using the e-services referred to in section 119a. A firearm component, a high-powered air gun, or a deactivated firearm shall be presented to the police upon request.

Subsection 3 enters into force on 1 March 2024

Further provisions on submitting the notice referred to in subsections 1 and 2 are issued by government decree.

Section 71

Notification obligation of a person residing in another Member State of the European Union

A person residing in another EU Member State who has been issued in Finland a licence entitling the holder to acquire or possess a firearm or firearm component shall, without delay, notify the competent authorities in their country of residence of the matter.

Section 72

Other provisions on private manufacture of cartridges

In addition to the provisions of this chapter, the provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the provisions issued under it shall be observed in the manufacture of cartridges for a private purpose.

Chapter 6

Private transfer and import

Section 73 (623/2017)

Transfer to Finland under licences issued for possession and transfer and import to Finland under licences issued for possession in the Nordic countries

The firearms licence, the parallel licence and the gas spray licence entitle the holder to transfer to Finland, for a private purpose, the firearm and firearm component specified in the licence and cartridges, other than particularly dangerous cartridges, suitable for use with the firearm specified in the licence.

The ammunition licence entitles the holder to transfer to Finland the cartridges and projectiles specified in the licence.

A licence issued in Norway, Sweden, Iceland or Denmark for the possession of a firearm or firearm component entitles the holder to transfer and import to Finland the firearm and firearm component specified in the licence, and a sufficient amount of cartridges suitable for use with the firearm specified in the licence, and to possess them for a maximum period of three months of their transfer or import to Finland. The requirement is that the purpose of the transfer or import is to participate in a shooting or hunting event organised in Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark or Finland. The licence also entitles the holder to transfer the objects back to Sweden or Denmark.

Section 74 (623/2017)

European firearms pass

A police department issues a European firearms pass to a natural person who is entitled to possess a firearm or firearm component under a firearms licence or a parallel licence. The licence document for a firearms licence or parallel licence shall be presented to the police when applying for the firearms pass.

The holder of a European firearms pass shall present and, on request, surrender the firearms pass to the police for the making of the necessary entries concerning:

- 1) a change in the personal data on the holder of the firearms pass;
- 2) a change in the term of validity or licence conditions of the firearms licence or parallel licence;
- 3) conversion of the firearm or firearm component;
- 4) handing over, loss and theft of the firearm or firearm component, and the rendering of the firearm permanently inoperable and the firearm component permanently unfit for use.

In the cases referred to in subsection 2 above, the European firearms pass shall be presented and, on request, surrendered within 30 days of the events referred to in paragraphs 1–4.

A European firearms pass is valid for the validity of the licences entitling the holder to possess the firearms or firearm components entered in the pass. It is, however, valid for a maximum period of five years of the date on which it was granted. The period of validity of the firearms pass may be extended.

Section 75 (601/2001)

Transfer and import to Finland and possession under a European firearms pass

The holder of a European firearms pass may transfer and import to Finland a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in shooting sports and classified in categories A6, A7, B or C of Annex I of the Firearms Directive, and a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in hunting and classified in category C of that Annex, and a sufficient amount of cartridges suitable for use with the firearm. It is also required that the pass holder in possession of a written invitation or other reliable evidence

that the transfer or import is necessary for participation in a shooting sports or hunting event. The holder of the firearms pass may also possess the firearm, firearm component and cartridges for as long as necessary in order to participate in the shooting sports or hunting event. (724/2019)

The European firearms pass shall be carried when the firearm, firearm component or cartridges are carried or transported.

Section 76

Private prior consent

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence, place of residence or registered office grants and revokes a prior consent for the transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to Finland for a private purpose (*private prior consent*). (601/2001)

A private prior consent may be granted to a person who has the right to possess the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles in question. Granting a prior consent also requires that the transfer does not endanger the maintenance of public order or security.

Section 77

Period of validity of prior private consent

A private prior consent is granted for the validity of the licence entitling the holder to possess the objects referred to in section 76, subsection 2. It is, however, issued for a maximum period of one year.

Section 78 (601/2001)

Private import licence

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence or place of residence issues and revokes a licence for the transfer and import to Finland of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles for a private purpose (*private import permit*). The licence entitles the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles.

The licence may be issued to a natural person subject to the requirements laid down in section 45, subsection 1, observing, as appropriate, the provisions of sections 43 and 44; section 55b, subsection 1; and section 62, subsection 3. A person with no municipality of residence in Finland shall also present a certificate issued by the authorities in their country of residence showing that they have the right to possess the firearm or firearm component in question in their country of residence.

Section 79 (623/2017)

Conditions and period of validity of a private import licence

A private import licence is issued for a maximum period of one year. For a special reason, the licence may be issued for a maximum period of two years. The licence may entitle the holder to possess objects imported under it for a maximum period of three months.

The private import licence and the objects imported under it shall be presented to Customs upon importation.

Section 80

Transfer from Finland subject to authorisation

Unless otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 3, the transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles from Finland for a private purpose requires that the transferor holds in Finland a private transfer licence for their transfer.

The holder of a European firearms pass may, however, transfer from Finland a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in shooting sports and classified in categories A6, A7, B or C of Annex I of the Firearms Directive, and a firearm and firearm component entered in the firearms pass that are suitable for use in hunting and classified in category C of the Firearms Directive, and a sufficient amount of cartridges suitable for use with the firearm. It is also required that the transferor is in possession of a written invitation or other reliable evidence that the transfer is necessary for participation in a shooting sports or hunting event. (724/2019)

The transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles from Finland for a private purpose does not require a specific licence, if the transferor holds a licence for their possession issued by the authorities in each country of transit and country of destination that belong to the European Union, or the transfer does not require a licence under the regulations of these countries. (601/2001)

Section 81

Private transfer licence

The police department for the applicant's municipality of residence, place of residence or registered office issues and revokes a licence for the transfer of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles from Finland for a private purpose (*private transfer licence*). (601/2001)

The licence may be issued if, on the basis of a notice issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are no obstacles to the transfer and if the transfer conditions are safe.

The licence document for a private transfer licence shall be carried when transferring the objects.

Section 82

Expiry of the period of validity of the European firearms pass and expiry of prior consent

The validity of a European firearms pass ceases upon the expiry of all the rights to possess the firearms and firearm components entered in the pass.

A private prior consent expires upon the expiry of all the rights to possess the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles entered in the consent.

Section 83

Revocation of prior private consent, import licence and transfer licence

A private prior consent may be revoked if the transfer may endanger the maintenance of public order and security.

The provisions of section 67 apply, as appropriate, to the revocation of a private import licence.

A private transfer licence shall be revoked if, according to a notice issued by the authorities in the country of destination, there are obstacles to the transfer or if the transfer conditions are no longer safe.

Section 83a (623/2017)

Customs notification obligation

Every three months, Customs shall notify the National Board of Police of the importation into Finland of the objects entered in the firearms licence, gas spray licence and private import licence as specified by government decree.

Chapter 7

Handing over, lending and supervised use

Section 84

Handing over of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles may not be handed over to anyone unless otherwise provided in this Act.

The objects referred to in subsection 1 may, however, be surrendered to the police and to another authority that is competent to handle firearm matters.

Section 84a (724/2019)

Verification of a firearms licence or equivalent right and of identity

A requirement for the permanent handing over of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles referred to in section 86 or the lending referred to in section 87 is that the person handing over or lending the object verifies the identity of the person receiving or borrowing the object and the right to acquire or possess the object.

In the situations referred to in subsection 1, the holder of a firearms business licence may verify the identity of the person receiving or borrowing the object using reliable electronic identification.

The holder of a firearms business licence has the right to verify from the police the validity of the licence issued for acquisition or possession also using the e-services referred to in section 119a.

Section 85 (623/2017)

Those entitled to permanent handing over

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles may be permanently handed over for commercial purposes only by a firearms trader who has the right to the handing over under a firearms business licence.

Unless otherwise provided in this Act, a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles may be permanently transferred for private use only by the holder of a firearm or gas spray licence and the cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles by the holder of a parallel licence or ammunition licence.

Section 86

Requirements for the person receiving an object

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles may be handed over:

- 1) permanently only to a person who has the right to acquire the object;
- 2) for transport only to a person who has the right to transport the object;
- 3) for storage only to a person who has the right to store the object.

A firearms trader who has the right to manufacture firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles may permanently hand over the manufactured objects only to a firearms trader entitled to carry on the trade in firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles.

Section 87

Lending of a firearm and firearm component

A firearm may be lent to someone else as follows:

- 1) a shotgun may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a shotgun, rifle or combination firearm;
- 2) a rifle or combination firearm may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a rifle or combination firearm;
- 3) a small-calibre rifle or black-powder weapon may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a shotgun, rifle, small-calibre rifle, pistol, revolver, combination firearm or black-powder weapon; (601/2001)
- 4) a pistol or revolver may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a pistol or revolver;
- 5) a small-calibre pistol or small-calibre revolver may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a pistol, small-calibre pistol, revolver or small-calibre revolver;
- 6) a gas cartridge weapon may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a gas cartridge weapon;
- 7) a signalling pistol may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a signalling pistol;
- 8) another firearm referred to in section 6, subsection 2, paragraph 12 may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a corresponding firearm;
- 9) a pocket gun may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a pocket gun;
- 10) a particularly dangerous firearm may be lent only to a person who has the right to possess a particularly dangerous firearm of a corresponding mode of operation and type; (724/2019)

11) a gas spray may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a gas spray;
(764/2015)

12) a high-powered air gun may only be lent to a person who has the right to possess a firearm or a high-powered air gun. (764/2015)

A person to whom a firearm is lent may, at the same time, also be handed over a sufficient amount of cartridges, other than particularly dangerous cartridges, suitable for use with the firearm.

If a licence entitling the holder to possess a firearm includes a condition that the firearm must not be discharged, the lender shall inform the borrower accordingly. The borrower shall comply with the condition.

A firearm component may be lent to someone else if the borrower, under subsection 1, could be lent a firearm with which the component to be lent has been designed and manufactured to be used. A firearm component may also be lent to a person who otherwise has the right to possess the firearm component in question.

Section 88

Supervised use of a firearm

A person who has reached the age of 18 and who has the right to possess a firearm may allow the use of the firearm under their immediate supervision, provided that the person is able to efficiently supervise and guide the user of the firearm so that the use is not likely to cause any danger.

Section 89 (89/2020)

Notice of handing over

A person who permanently hands over a firearm or firearm component to someone shall notify the police within 30 days of the handing over. The notice may be submitted using e-services.

A notice of a handing over between firearms traders shall be submitted, using the e-services, to the police firearms database within 10 days.

No notice is required for the handing over of a silencer unless the recipient's right to acquire the silencer is based on a firearms licence issued for the silencer or the right of possession of the person handing over the silencer is based on a firearms licence or parallel licence issued for the silencer.

The notice shall state the information on which further provisions are issued by government decree.

Section 90 (623/2017)

Obligation to present and hand over a licence document for a firearms licence

A holder of a firearms licence shall, within 30 days of the handing over of a firearm or firearm component permanently to someone, present and, on request, hand over the licence document for a firearms licence to the police department, if the licence is not electronic.

Chapter 8

Procedural provisions and preventive measures

Section 91

Taking possession

When a firearms business licence or a licence entitling the holder to possession issued for private use expires or is revoked, the police shall make a decision on taking of possession of the firearms, firearms components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles, unless they have already been handed over to a holder of a relevant licence.

The police shall also make a decision on taking of possession if a person in possession of an illegal firearm or firearm component or illegal cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles informs the police of the object at their own initiative and surrenders it to the police. The decision on taking of possession shall be revoked if the police seize the object under chapter 7 of the Coercive Measures Act (806/2011), or if the object is ordered forfeit to the State. (893/2011)

Upon the annulment of the seizure laid down in chapter 7 of the Coercive Measures Act, the police may take possession of the object, if it is an object falling within the scope of this Act for which the holder does not have a valid licence issued for possession. The taking of possession may be

continued until the object can be handed over to the person entitled to possess it. After the specified period, the object may be sold by the police on behalf of the owner in accordance with section 100 of this Act. (724/2019)

Section 92 (724/2019)

Taking temporary possession

If there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles are being misused, or if the revocation of a licence or approval for them has been initiated, the police shall immediately make a decision on temporarily taking possession of the object and the valid licence and approval document issued under this Act, if the licence or approval document is not electronic.

The police officer shall remove from the holder the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles and the valid approval and licence documents issued under this Act if there is an apparent danger of misuse. The police officer shall, without delay, notify the police department for the place in whose territory the objects have been taken away from their holder or the police department for the licence holder's place of residence, of their taking away. The police shall, within 14 days of the removal of the objects and the approval and licence documents issued under this Act, take measures to make a decision on the temporary taking of possession of the objects or return to the holder the removed objects and the valid approval and licence documents issued under this Act.

Section 93 (724/2019)

Effect of taking temporary possession on the validity of a licence or approval

A firearms business licence issued for a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles, a licence and approval for private use entitling the holder to possession, and licence documents issued for firearms handling cease to be valid upon the temporary taking of possession of the said object.

However, if the police has temporarily taken possession of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a parallel licence, the firearms licence and other parallel licences for the firearm or firearm component shall remain valid.

Section 94 (724/2019)

Duration of taking temporary possession

A decision under which the police have taken temporary possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles or of a valid licence or approval document issued under this Act is valid for a maximum period of three months. The police may, for a special reason, extend the period of validity of the decision by a maximum of six months at a time. During the period of validity of the decision:

- 1) the licence and approval for a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles shall be revoked;
- 2) the police shall make a decision on the taking of possession of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate;
- 3) the licence holder shall be issued a warning and the objects of which the police have taken possession shall be returned to the holder; or
- 4) the objects of which the police have taken possession shall be returned to the licence holder, or to the person in possession of the deceased's estate.

If the objects of which the police have taken possession and the licence or approval document are returned, they remain valid under the previous conditions.

If the police has temporarily taken possession of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a parallel licence, it may be transferred to the person authorised to possess it, notwithstanding subsection 1, unless this endangers the maintenance of public order and security.

Section 95

Procedure relating to taking possession and temporary possession

The police shall, without delay, notify the licence holder or the person in possession of the deceased's estate of taking of possession, temporary taking of possession and a decision to extend the period of validity of temporary taking of possession. If the police have taken possession of a firearm or firearm component possessed under a parallel licence, the holder of the possession

licence shall also, without delay, be notified of the decision. The notice of taking of possession or temporary taking of possession shall state the reason for the taking of possession and, in case of temporary taking of possession, also its effect on the validity of the licence.

The police shall prepare a record of taking of possession, temporary taking of possession and the extension of temporary taking of possession, or enter them in another document.

Section 96 (724/2019)

Handing over, taking possession of by the police and returning a license document and consent

When the validity of a firearms business licence or a licence or approval for acquisition or possession for private use, a firearms handling licence or an approval ceases, the licence document or card and the approval or consent shall be handed over to the police without delay. The police have the right to take possession of the licence document or card and the approval or consent.

If the licence or consent referred to subsection 1 enters into force again, the licence document or card and the approval or consent shall be returned to the licence holder without delay .

Section 97 (893/2011)

Search of premises

The provisions on the right to enter domestic premises to take possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles because of a suspected offence, or to prevent a dangerous act or event are laid down in the Coercive Measures Act and the Police Act (872/2011).

Section 98 (893/2011)

Police investigation

The provisions of chapter 6 of the Police Act shall be observed in an investigation relating to the revocation of a licence issued under this Act.

Section 99 (804/2003)

Handing over objects in the possession of the police

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91, subsection 1, and a firearm which is in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91, subsection 2 may be handed over, within three months of the issue of the decision, to the holder of a relevant licence who is named or approved by the owner. The police may, for a special reason, extend the period by a maximum of three months.

A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision made under section 91, subsection 2 are handed over to their owner if the owner's identity is known to the police and they hold a licence for the possession of the objects. A firearm may also be handed over to its owner, even if the owner does not hold a licence to possess the firearm, including if the firearm is rendered permanently inoperable.

Section 100 (804/2003)

Sale on behalf of the owner and transfer to State ownership

The police sell at a public auction on behalf of the owner a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles referred to in section 99, subsection 1 which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession and which have not been handed over to the holder of a relevant licence. The police sells at a public auction a firearm referred to in section 99, subsection 2, if the owner of the firearm is not authorised to possess that firearm, or if the firearm is not rendered permanently inoperable. Any necessary costs that arise from handling the object and from holding the auction may be deducted from the selling price.

A firearm component, gas spray, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession made under section 91, subsection 2 and which have not been handed over to their lawful owner as provided in section 99, subsection 2, transfer to State ownership without redemption. A firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession made under section 91 shall also transfer to State ownership without redemption, if the owner of the object surrenders the object to the State without reimbursement. In addition, a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which have not been sold at an auction under subsection 1 or which are in the

possession of the police under a decision made under section 91, subsection 2, and whose owner is unknown transfer to State ownership without redemption.

Chapter 9

Sanctions

Section 101 (532/2007)

Section 101 was repealed by Act 532/2007.

Section 102 (532/2007)

Firearms offences

The punishment for a firearms offence, aggravated firearms offence and petty firearms offence is laid down in chapter 41, sections 1–3 of the Criminal Code, and the punishment for careless handling in chapter 44, section 12 of the Criminal Code.

Section 103 (89/2020)

Firearms violation

A person who, in violation of this Act, intentionally or through gross negligence:

1) neglects the notification obligation laid down in section 22, subsection 1; section 24, subsection 2; section 89 or section 111, subsection 1 or the obligation laid down in section 59 to notify of changes in storage facilities,

2) neglects the notification obligation laid down in section 42c, subsection 3,

Paragraph 2 enters into force on 1 March 2024.

3) neglects the notification obligation laid down in section 42c, subsection 1, the obligation laid down in section 42d, subsection 1 to present a firearm or firearm component or a firearm, a high-powered air gun or firearm component acquired from abroad or privately manufactured or converted, or the obligation laid down in section 42d, subsection 2 to present a firearm, high-powered air gun or firearm component to the police on request,

- 4) neglects the obligation laid down in section 42d subsection 2 or section 90 or section 112 to present or hand over a licence document to the police, the obligation laid down in section 74, subsection 3 to present or hand over a European firearms pass to the police, or the obligation laid down in section 96, subsection 1 to hand over a licence document, card and approval or consent to the police,
- 5) neglects the obligation laid down in section 70 to notify of the acquisition of a firearm component, a high-powered air gun or a deactivated weapon or to present a firearm component, a high-powered air gun or a deactivated weapon to the police,
- 6) neglects their supervision duty after allowing someone else to use a firearm under section 88,
- 7) stores a firearm or firearm component or carries or transports a firearm,
- 8) renders the firearm permanently inoperable or firearm component permanently unfit for use or neglects the obligation laid down in section 108, subsection 1, paragraph 3 or section 112 to present to the police the firearm rendered permanently inoperable or firearm component rendered permanently unfit for use,
- 9) neglects the obligation to have a firearm examined under a condition included in a private manufacturing licence under section 110, subsection 2, or
- 10) neglects the obligation laid down in section 117 to present a licence document or European firearms pass or firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles possessed on the basis of a licence document or authorisations entered in the European firearms pass,

shall be sentenced for a *firearms violation* to a fine.

Section 104 (532/2007)

Confiscation

Provisions on the confiscation of an instrumentality and an object or property produced, manufactured or brought about by way of an offence, or that has been the target of an offence, are laid down in chapter 10 of the Criminal Code.

If confiscation would be unreasonable in the circumstances, a request for confiscation may be waived.

Section 104a (532/2007)

Destruction

A public official entitled to make an arrest has the right to verifiably destroy firearm components, gas sprays, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles referred to in this Act which may be seized if they are of negligible value and if it is apparent that a court would order them forfeit to the State.

Chapter 10

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 105

Duty of care

The holder of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles has a duty to take such care of the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles that there is no danger of them falling into the hands of unauthorised people.

Careful storage of firearms, firearm components and cartridges in possession of a person under the age of 18 with a parallel licence is the responsibility of the holder of the main licence for that firearm and firearm component. (724/2019)

Section 106 (724/2019)

Storage

When a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles are stored other than temporarily, they must be stored:

- 1) in the permanent residence of the licence holder, in another place where they reside permanently, or in premises closely connected to these with a corresponding level of security and controllability;

2) with a person entitled to borrow the firearm in a place or premises referred to in subsection 1;

3) in the possession of a trader who has been issued a licence to carry on the firearms trade referred to in section 14, subsection 1 or 2; or

4) in storage facilities approved by a police department.

If a firearm is stored in a place referred to in subsection 1, subsection 1 or 2, it shall be stored in a burglar-proof and locked secure cabinet, in a locked place or otherwise locked in such a way that the firearm or firearm component cannot be easily stolen or put into unauthorised use. If cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles are not stored in the above-mentioned secure cabinet, they shall be stored separately from firearms in such a way that there is no risk of them falling into the hands of unauthorised people. The firearm may then also be stored in such a way that a firearm component, other than the silencer, is kept locked separately in the above-mentioned manner and the remaining firearm components in such a way that they cannot be easily stolen or put into unauthorised use.

If a particularly dangerous firearm, more than five firearms or the firearm components for the assembly of more than five firearms are stored, the firearms shall be stored in a burglar-proof and locked secure cabinet. However, a secure cabinet is not required if the storage facilities at the place where the firearms are stored have been approved by a police department.

The holder of a firearms business licence and a weapons collector shall store firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles, with the exception of temporary storage, in storage facilities approved by a police department.

Section 106a (764/2015)

Carrying and transport of a firearm and temporary storage

In a public place and in premises accessible to the public, a firearm may be carried only unloaded in a container, and carried and transported only when there are reasonable grounds for this. In a motor vehicle, a firearm may be carried only unloaded in a container or placed in a protected place, and carried only when there are reasonable grounds for this. The provisions of the Hunting Act and the provisions issued under it shall also be observed in the transport of a hunting weapon.

If a firearm is temporarily stored other than as required by section 106, the firearm or its component, other than a silencer, shall be stored in a locked place, otherwise locked or in such a way that the firearm or its component is under the immediate supervision of the licence holder or a person entitled to possess that firearm.

A firearm may only be stored temporarily in a vehicle in connection with the use or transport of the firearm. In this case, the firearm shall be in a locked place or otherwise locked and stored in such a way that the firearm is not visible from the outside of the vehicle.

Section 106b (724/2019)

Storage and transport of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles and temporary storage

The storage, transport and temporary storage of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles shall be arranged in such a way that they and the firearms are not directly accessible together and that there is no risk of them falling in the hands of unauthorised people.

Provisions on the storage and transport of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles containing an explosive or incendiary substance are also laid down in the Act on the Safety of Handling Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives and the Act on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (719/1994).

Section 107

Conditions for storage and transport, licences, prior consents and a consent

The police may impose conditions necessary for the maintenance of public order and security on the storage and transport of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles.

The authorising body and the authority granting a prior consent or consent may include in the licences, the prior consents and the consent issued under this Act conditions necessary for the maintenance of public order and security.

Section 108

Firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate

After the death of the holder of a licence entitling the holder to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles, the person in possession of the deceased's estate shall, without delay, take possession of the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles. The person has the right to store and, for an acceptable reason, also to transport the objects referred to above for six months after the death of the licence holder. During this period, the person shall:

- 1) acquire a licence entitling the holder to possess the firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 2) hand over the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to a person who is entitled to acquire them;
- 3) ensure that the firearm is rendered permanently inoperable and the firearm component permanently unfit for use, and to present them to the police; or
- 4) surrender the firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to the police.

Any firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles found in the deceased's estate after the period specified in subsection 1 shall be surrendered to the police without delay.

In the cases referred to in subsection 1, paragraph 4 and subsection 2, the police shall make a decision on taking of possession of the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles. The police shall prepare a record of the taking of possession or enter it in another document.

Section 109

Firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate and surrendered to the police

The provisions of sections 99 and 100 apply to firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles belonging to a deceased's estate which are in the possession of the police under a decision on taking of possession.

Section 110 (724/2019)

Examining firearms and cartridges

Firearms and cartridges manufactured, repaired, converted, transferred and imported to Finland for sale shall be examined before being placed on the market or otherwise handed over to ensure their safety in use. A firearm shall also be examined if its component is replaced for commercial purposes by the holder of a firearms business licence. The examination obligation does not apply to firearms or cartridges of value to collectors that are manufactured, repaired or transferred or imported to Finland for keeping in a museum or collection. Further provisions on the examination obligation are issued by government decree.

A firearms licence entitling to private manufacture or conversion may include a condition that the firearm manufactured or converted for personal use shall also be examined to determine its safety in use.

A firearm or cartridge not approved in the examination may not be marketed or otherwise handed over.

The National Police Board may grant the manufacturer or importer of cartridges the right to use a cartridge examination marking. Further provisions on the requirements for granting and revoking the right to use the examination marking are issued by government decree.

Section 110a (724/2019)

Serial and identification number and markings

In this Act:

1) *serial number* means a running identifier consisting of numbers or numbers and letters, indicating the belonging to a series, by which an object can be distinguished from other similar objects;

2) *identification number* means an identification consisting of numbers or numbers and letters, other than the identification number referred to in subsection 1, by which an object can be distinguished from other similar objects;

3) *manufacturing marking* means a unique marking permanently affixed to a firearm or firearm component in a visible place, consisting of at least the name or trademark of the manufacturer, the place or country of manufacture, the year of manufacture if it is not part of the serial number, and the serial number;

4) *supplementary marking* means a unique marking permanently affixed to a visible place on the firearm, consisting of the name of the importer, transferor or authority handing over the firearm, the Finnish country code and the identification number;

5) *import marking* means a marking affixed to a visible place on the firearm, consisting of the Finnish country code and the year of import;

6) *packaging marking* means the marking in the smallest sales package of cartridges consisting of the name of the manufacturer, the batch number, the calibre of the cartridges and the type of cartridge referred to in section 5, subsection 2.

Section 110b (724/2019)

Affixing markings

A manufacturer of a firearm shall, at the time of manufacture, affix a manufacturing marking to the firearm and to each firearm component, with the exception of the silencer and the loading device. A state authority which permanently hands over a firearm without a manufacturing marking for private use shall, prior to the handing over, affix a supplementary marking to the firearm and to each firearm component, with the exception of the silencer and the loading device.

A holder of a firearms business licence who permanently imports or transfers to Finland a firearm or firearm component, other than a loading device or a silencer, without a manufacturing marking shall, at the latest before the firearm or firearm component is placed on the market or handed over and immediately after the transfer or import, affix a manufacturing marking or equivalent information to it. A holder of a business licence, other than a firearms business licence, shall

deliver such a firearm or firearm component to the National Police Board for the purpose of affixing a manufacturing marking before applying for a licence to possess it.

A holder of a firearms business licence who permanently imports to Finland a firearm or a firearm component, other than a loading device or a silencer, shall affix an import marking to the firearm or firearm component before placing it on the market or handing it over. A holder of a business licence, other than a firearms business licence, shall deliver a firearm or a firearm component permanently imported to Finland, other than a loading device or a silencer, to the National Police Board for the purpose of affixing an import marking before applying for a licence to possess it.

A manufacturer of cartridges for commercial purposes shall affix a packaging marking at the time of packaging the cartridges.

The National Police Board may grant a derogation from the obligation to affix a marking if the firearm or firearm component, as it is, has special historical significance and the marking would reduce the historical value of the firearm or firearm component.

If a firearm component is too small for affixing the manufacturing marking, at least the serial number shall be affixed to it.

Section 110c (724/2019)

Removing or altering markings

The serial and identification numbers and the manufacturing, supplementary, import and packaging marking of a firearm and firearm component may not be removed or altered without the permission of the National Police Board issued for the purpose of clarifying or improving the marking.

Section 111

Lost or stolen firearm, firearm component, licence document or European firearms pass

A person who has lost a firearm or firearm component that they have had in their possession or had it stolen is obliged to notify the police of the matter without delay. When informing the police

of the matter, a licence document or other evidence of the right to possess the firearm or firearm component shall be presented.

A licence holder who has lost their licence document or European firearms pass, or had it stolen and who has obtained a new licence document or firearms pass as a replacement of the one lost or stolen shall, without delay, surrender the licence document or firearms pass found later on to the police.

Section 112 (724/2019)

Presentation and notification of a deactivated firearm

The holder of a licence issued for the possession of a firearm and a firearm component shall, within 30 days of the deactivation of the firearm, present the firearm to a police department or the National Police Board for examination. The licence document for the licence entitling the holder to possession shall, at the same time, be presented and, on request, surrendered to the police.

A person who has acquired a deactivated firearm shall, within 30 days of the acquisition, notify the police of the acquisition, unless a notice has been submitted under section 42c.

Section 112a (724/2019)

Transfer and import of a deactivated firearm to Finland

A person who transfers or imports a deactivated firearm to Finland shall present the firearm to a police department or the National Police Board for examination within 30 days of the transfer or import.

Section 112b (724/2019)

Deactivation of a firearm

A firearm may only be deactivated by a person who has a firearms business licence for carrying on a firearms trade referred to in section 14, subsection 2. A certificate of deactivation shall be issued specifying the deactivation measures.

Provisions on the persons and entities authorised to deactivate firearms, the technical specifications for the deactivation of a firearm, the marking, verification and certification of a

deactivated firearm, the request for assistance from a Member State to carry out deactivation, the additional deactivation measures and transfer of deactivated firearms in the European Union are laid down in the Deactivation Regulation.

Section 113 (724/2019)

Duty of the police to keep files

The police shall keep the necessary files on firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles for carrying out authorisation and supervision tasks and the tracing of the above-mentioned objects. The files shall contain the information necessary to carry out the authorisation and control tasks laid down in the Firearms Export Regulation. The files may also contain information on the acquisition, possession, transfer, import, export and transit of the above objects in order to submit the declarations to the authorities of other States referred to in the Firearms Directive and the Council Directive 93/15/EEC on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and control of explosives for civil uses.

The files referred to in subsection 1 above shall be kept secret. A licence application for a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles and an application for prior consent, consent and approval as a weapons collector, and the decision issued on such matter, and information on the location of the firearms shall also be kept secret. However, the police may confirm the validity or content of an individual licence if the identity of the person requesting the information is known to the police and the disclosure of the information does not endanger public order and security. In all other respects, the provisions of the Act on the Processing of Personal Data by the Police apply to the storage of information in the file referred to in subsection 1 and to its use, disclosure and deletion.

Council Directive 93/15/EEC on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses was repealed by Directive 2014/28/EU on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses. See also the Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

Section 114 (764/2015)

Reporting right and obligation of a healthcare professional

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, a doctor shall report to the police (*firearms report*) a person who is:

1) found to be dangerous to themselves or to others in a mental health examination, assessment of dangerousness or other forensic psychiatric examination; or

2) has been admitted to involuntary psychiatric treatment for suicide attempt on the basis of section 8, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the Mental Health Act (1116/1990) and an assessment made by a doctor during involuntary treatment considers the person to be unsuitable to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles.

Notwithstanding the secrecy provisions, a doctor and other healthcare professional has the right to submit a firearms report to the police if, for a justified reason on the basis of a person's medical records and meeting the person, they consider the person to be unsuitable to possess a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles on the basis of the person's state of health or behaviour.

The firearms report shall contain an opinion on the unsuitability and the reasons for it.

Further provisions on the notification procedure, the content of firearms reports and the police personnel authorised to process them are issued by government decree.

Section 114a (724/2019)

Obligation of the holder of a firearms business licence to report an attempt of a suspicious transaction

A holder of a firearms business licence shall report to the police any acquisition and attempted acquisition, deemed as suspicious due to its quality or nature, of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles.

Section 114b (724/2019)

Secrecy

A holder of a firearms business licence and a person in charge who is employed by them, a holder of a firearms handling licence and a firearms instructor shall not unlawfully disclose or make use to the benefit of themselves or another person or to the loss of another person what they have learned in the course of their activities or duties about the licences of a firearms licence holder, the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles in the possession of that firearms licence holder, the security arrangements for their storage and transport or the arrangements otherwise related to weapons security, trade secrets and matters relating to the privacy of the individual.

Disclosure of information to the police in connection with the administration of authorisations or with the prevention, detection or investigation of a criminal offence are not deemed to be unlawful disclosure.

The secrecy obligation referred to in this section continues in force after the assignment has ended.

Section 115 (190/2016)

Supervision of compliance with the Act

Compliance with this Act is supervised by the police. The Finnish Border Guard, Customs and Metsähallitus' game and fisheries wardens supervise compliance with this Act in their respective fields. (724/2019)

Customs ensures that deactivated firearms and firearm components transferred from another EU Member State to Finland are marked in accordance with the Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/2403/EU establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable and that the deactivated firearm or firearm component is accompanied by a certificate in accordance with the Regulation.

Section 116 (724/2019)

Supervision of the holders of firearms business licence and weapons collectors

The storage facilities for firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles of a holder of a firearms business licence shall be structurally secure and proportionate to the number of objects to be stored. To ensure this, the police shall examine the storage

facilities. The examination shall be repeated if changes are made to the storage facilities. In addition, the police shall, at least every two years, examine the files and accounts, warehouses and storage facilities referred to in section 25, subsection 5 of the holders of firearms business licence operating in their territory, as well as firearms, and firearm components subject to authorisation. During the examination, the police have the right to examine the accounts of the holder of a firearms business licence and to have access to the premises where the above-mentioned objects are stored.

The storage facilities for firearms and firearm components included in the collection shall be structurally secure and proportionate to the number of objects to be stored. To ensure this, the police shall examine the storage facilities before issuing a licence to acquire the first firearm or firearm component in the collection. The examination shall be repeated if changes are made to the storage facilities.

The police shall draw up a report for the firearms database on the examinations they have carried out.

Section 117 (623/2017)

Presenting documents and firearms

A licence document and the European firearms pass referred to in this Act or the Firearms Export Regulation, as well as firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles possessed under authorisations entered in the licence document or the European firearms pass shall be presented to the police, to border guard and customs authorities and to an official of Metsähallitus who monitors game and fisheries on state land managed by Metsähallitus.

Section 117a (508/2009)

Firearms Board

The Firearms Board operates in connection with the National Police Board and, on request, issues opinions on matters falling within the scope of this Act. Further provisions on the Firearms Board are issued by government decree.

Section 118

Request for review

Provisions on requesting a judicial review by an administrative court are laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (808/2019). (1361/2019)

The decision referred to in this Act on the revocation of a licence or approval or on the taking of possession, temporary taking of possession or the extension of the validity of temporary taking of possession is enforced irrespective of a request for a review, unless forbidden by the appellate authority. Notwithstanding a request for a review, the decision to annul, suspend, modify or revoke an export authorisation referred to in Article 11 of the Arms Export Regulation is also enforced, unless forbidden by the appellate authority. (689/2013)

When an appeal concerning the acquisition or possession of a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles is considered by an administrative court, the State is represented by the National Police Board. (508/2009)

Subsection 4 was repealed by Act 1361/2019.

Section 119 (724/2019)

Further provisions

Further provisions may be issued by government decree on:

- 1) the measurement of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles;
- 2) which objects are firearm components or particularly dangerous cartridges and projectiles;
- 3) the procedure to be observed in applying for licences, prior consents, a consent, an approval as a weapons collector and a European firearms pass, the content of the application, the evidence necessary for making decisions on matters and the active recreational activity referred to in section 45;
- 4) the content of licences, prior consents, consent, approval granted to a weapons collector and European firearms pass and the procedure for their renewal;

5) the procedure to be observed when firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles have been ordered forfeit to the State or when they have, under this Act, come into the ownership of the State;

6) the transport and storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles;

7) the marking of firearms, firearm components and cartridge packaging and the delivery of firearms to an authority for the purpose of affixing the marking;

8) the test of a person in charge referred to in section 26c, subsection 1, paragraph 4.

Further provisions may be issued by decree of the Ministry of the Interior on:

1) the forms to be used in the procedures referred to in this Act;

2) the destruction of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which, under this Act, have been ordered forfeit to the State or have come into the ownership of the State, on their use for the needs of the State, on their handing over for keeping in a museum or collection, or on their sale at a public auction or in another manner;

3) the technical safety structures required for the transport and storage of firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles, and on the procedure for evaluating the structures;

4) the approved purposes of use of firearms referred to in this Act, and on the firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles suitable for use for these purposes of use;

5) the procedure relating to the assessment of the requirements laid down for approval as a weapons collector;

6) the conditions to be issued under this Act necessary for the maintenance of public order and security.

Further provisions on the deactivation of firearms and firearm components are issued by government decree. Further provisions on the technical requirements related to the deactivation of a firearm, the marking and certificate to be issued for the approval of rendering an object inoperable or unfit for use, and the delivery of a deactivated firearm or firearm component for examination may be issued by decree of the Ministry of the Interior.

Section 119a (89/2020)

E-services

The e-services referred to in sections 22 and 25; section 42, subsection 2; section 42c, subsections 1 and 3; section 70, subsection 3; and section 89 above require the identification means referred to in the Act on Strong Electronic Identification and Electronic Trust Services (617/2009).

Chapter 11

Transitional provisions and entry into force

Section 120

Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 1 March 1998.

This Act repeals the Firearms and Ammunition Act of 27 January 1933 (33/1933), as amended. However, the Decree on the Examination of Firearms and Ammunition of 27 August 1982 (656/1982) issued under the Act remains in force.

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be undertaken before the Act's entry into force.

Section 121

Licences issued under the previous act

Licences relating to firearms, firearm components and cartridges issued under the previous act remain in force.

Section 122

Obtaining a firearms business licence for the commercial manufacture of cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles

A person who, upon the entry into force of this Act, manufactures cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles for commercial purposes shall, within six months of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a firearms business licence entitling the holder to carry on the activity.

Section 123

Obtaining a firearms handling licence

A person who, upon the entry into force of this Act, is employed by a firearms trader to transport, store or otherwise handle firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles in the possession of the firearms trader shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a firearms handling licence.

Section 124

Obtaining authorisation for firearms and firearm components

A person who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a firearm the possession of which does not require a licence under provisions in force upon the entry into force of the Act shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a licence for the possession of the firearm.

A person who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a component of the firearm referred to in subsection 1 shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a licence for the possession of the firearm component. Instead of acquiring a licence:

- 1) a weapons collector may draft a file as referred to in section 60 of the firearm components in his or her possession; and
- 2) a person who has the right to possess a firearm assembled of the corresponding components referred to in section 19, subsection 1, paragraph 2 may make the notice referred to in section 70 to the police department for their municipality of residence.

The firearm or firearm component shall be presented when applying for the licence unless this is considered unnecessary by the authorising body.

Section 125

Obtaining authorisation for particularly dangerous cartridges and projectiles

A person who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a particularly dangerous cartridge which they have the right to possess, or a particularly dangerous projectile, shall, within six months of the entry into force of this Act, obtain an ammunition licence entitling the holder to possess the cartridge or projectile.

The cartridge or projectile shall be presented when applying for the licence unless this is considered unnecessary by the authorising body.

Section 126

Firearms held in possession under a licence issued in the area of defence administration

A person who, under the Decree on the Firearms and Ammunition of Persons Employed by the Defence Forces or Belonging to the Civil Guards (128/1933), has been granted the right to acquire or possess a firearm shall, within one year of the entry into force of this Act, acquire a possession licence under this Act.

The firearm shall be presented when applying for the licence unless this is considered unnecessary by the authorising body.

Section 127

Handing over a firearm, firearm component, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles to someone else or to the State

A person who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a firearm, firearm component, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles for the possession of which they should, under sections 124–126, obtain a licence may, instead of obtaining the licence, within the period specified in the section concerned, hand over the object to a person who, under this Act, has the

right to acquire the object. The objects may also be handed over to the police, in which case they transfer to State ownership without redemption.

Section 128

Requirements for issuing a licence, and licence fees

A licence applied for:

1) under section 122 is issued to an applicant who is entitled to carry on a trade, who notifies the person in charge referred to in section 26, who, in the cases referred to in section 20, subsection 3, has a firearms handling licence, and whose storage facilities for cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles have been approved by the police department for the area in which the storage facilities are located;

2) under section 123 is issued without the assessment of the requirements for issuing the licence laid down in section 27;

3) under sections 124–126 is issued without the assessment of the requirements for issuing a licence laid down in section 45.

The licences referred to in subsection 1 are issued without a licence fee.

Section 129

Transitional provision relating to weapons collection

A licence for the acquisition and possession of a firearm or firearm component for keeping in a collection may be issued within six months of the entry into force of this Act even if the applicant does not have the approval referred to in section 57, subsection 1.

Section 130

Firearms, firearm components, cartridges and particularly dangerous projectiles which have come to a deceased's estate during the previous Act

If firearms, firearm components, cartridges or particularly dangerous projectiles belong to a deceased's estate which has not been distributed upon the entry into force of this Act, the

provisions of section 108 shall be observed. The period referred to in subsection 1 of this section starts to run on the date of the entry into force of the Act.

Section 131

Licence matter or appeal that has become pending during the previous act

The provisions in force upon the entry into force of this Act apply to a licence or appeal matter relating to firearms, firearm components or cartridges which has become pending before the entry into force of this Act.