

## Temporary Firearm Import Permits

Visitors bringing firearms into South Africa for hunting purposes will be asked to fill in a SAP 520 – Temporary Import Application which is available from your outfitter, or which can be downloaded off the SAPS website at [www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za).

### Instructions for Filling in SAP 520 Form

1. **Black ink** must be used to fill in the form.
2. The form must be left **unsigned** until the document is finalized in front of the police official issuing the actual permit at the airport.
3. Please note that not all sections of the form apply. Visitors bringing their own firearms in for hunting purposes should concentrate on filling in the following:

Section D – (temporary import or export permit)

Section E – 1 – 25.4

Section G

Section I – (Must fill in all details requested)

Section J – (Remember do not sign until in front of police officer at firearm office)

**Please note:** The date format is: year/month/day

**Page 6:** Date – when signing the form. Place - where signing

4. Notarized copy of **passport** (photo & signature page)
5. Notarized copy of **Proof of ownership** of your firearm(s) in the form of:
  - US Custom Form 4457 (contact your nearest customs office/airport for this), or
  - Copy of your firearm License or Certificate, or
  - Firearms Possession Licence (Waffenbesitzkarte), or
  - European Firearms Pass (Eoropaeischer Feuerwaffenpass), or
  - A letter from your local sheriff in the form of an affidavit confirming ownership, or
  - Invoice from a gun shop where you have purchased the firearm

{Please use whichever is applicable to your country}

6. **Proof of export** from country of origin in the form of:
  - US Custom Form 4457, or
  - Copy of firearm certificates (for UK hunters), or
  - Waffenbesitzkarte, or
  - Eoropaeischer Feuerwaffenpass

{Please note that some of the above forms are used for proof of ownership and export where the country of origin do not have an export form}

### 7. Copy of itinerary or airline tickets

### 8. Invitation letter from your Hunting Outfitter (with the following detail):

- Letter to be on Outfitter's official letterhead
- Name of person being invited
- Duration of the hunter's stay
- Registered Outfitter Number
- Registered PH Number
- The physical address(s) and telephone number(s) of the farm(s) where the hunt(s) will take place
- Type of animals being hunted e.g. big game, bird shooting etc.
- The recommended calibers required for hunt(s)
- State that firearms will only be used for hunting purposes on mentioned properties
- Date and signature of Outfitter

## 9. Motivation Letter from Client

This is a letter from the client stating that he is temporarily importing the referred to firearm/s for the purpose of hunting, to include that the firearm/s are required as he will be hunting (list the species to be hunted), etc.

### **Basic Regulations and Restrictions for the issuing of a Temporary Import Permits**

- Maximum of four (4) firearms or shotguns, not more than one of the same caliber or gauge.
- Only 200 rounds for each permitted firearm or shotgun will be allowed.
- No ammunition for other firearms (not accompanying you) is permitted.
- Firearms must bear the manufacturer's serial number or any other mark by which the firearm can be identified. The identification number must be stamped and the mark affixed in the prescribed manner on the barrel, the frame or the receiver of the firearm.

**Prohibited** firearms which may **NOT** be imported into South Africa include:

Any fully automatic weapon  
Any semi-automatic weapon  
Handgun/s for self-defence  
Weapons which fall under military categories

### **Special applications:**

- Handguns will be allowed into the country, but only for hunting purposes. You will need:
  - A letter of invitation from the outfitter stating the handgun will be used for hunting purposes only;
  - A motivational letter from you stating that you will be using the handgun for hunting purposes and any other relevant motivation.
- For Semi-Automatic shotguns, you must supply a letter of motivation stating the reason for wanting to bring it into the country.
- Any person under the age of 21 that wishes to apply for a temporary import permit, has to include a motivational letter with the application proving that he/she is a capable hunter. Any additional motivational letters from 3rd parties will help with the application.

### **Important:**

- Ensure that your firearms arrive on the same flight as you do. This must be done with the airline company on departure.
- Contact your airline company for their regulations on the number of firearms allowed and packing of ammunition. Certain airlines require the ammo to be packed in a separate locked container.
- Your firearm/s may only be signed for by you and will not be released to your outfitter or professional hunter should it arrive on a separate flight. In this case, the firearm/s will be held by the SAPS until such time as you claim ownership in person.
- The temporary import permit serves as your firearm license in South Africa and enables you to buy ammunition in South Africa for the calibers noted on the permit.
- At all times while you are in possession of your firearms, you must have the temporary import permit on your person.

- When you are not using your firearm, it must be locked in a safe.
- In-Transit Permits are required for any person spending the night in South Africa while in-transit to a third country. The same pre-requisites apply as to obtain the normal Temporary Import permit.
- Check with your airline company on departure that your luggage and firearm(s) will be checked through to your final destination, when you are connecting to a third country on the same day.
- Should a firearm not be declared on arrival and a temporary import permit not issued, you will face severe penalties and possible arrest if detected.

### **Arriving at OR Tambo (Johannesburg) Airport:**

- Go through passport control
- Go to the Import/Export Office. Next to it is an area marked: "Firearms and Security Items".
- Go there to identify your rifle case and sign for it, if required.
- Collect your normal luggage at the appropriate conveyer belt.
- Proceed on the GREEN line through customs.
- For passengers arriving in Terminal a1 or A2, please exit the arrivals hall and turn right. Look out for the SAP office. **You will be met inside this office.**
- Your firearm(s) and ammo will be checked against your pre-issued temporary import permit after which you will be free to leave.
- Please note that the procedure regarding your firearm at customs depends on the airline used. The speed in which your permit will be handled, depends upon the speed in which the rifle case is handled before arriving at the SA Police Office. Please be patient when waiting for your rifle case.
- **We recommend that there is at least 3 hours between landing and your connecting flight.**

NOTE. Please do not pay for any service regarding the handling of firearms at Johannesburg International Airport, or any port of entry. The issuing of the SAP 520 is a **free service** and the South African Police Service asks clients not to pay anybody involved in handling firearms from the time of arrival in South Africa right through until you receive your firearm/s and the permit from the SAPS. Clients that are paying the various airline staff, security staff, or porters involved are actually creating a problem. Please note however there is a handling fee charged by airlines and/or security companies for the handling of handguns, and some airlines have started charging a handling fee for all firearms. We suggest checking with your airline with regard to any "official" fees that may be required.

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

### **Obtaining South African Permits Ahead of Time:**

If you want to obtain your firearms permit for South Africa ahead of time, you can go to [www.riflepermits.com](http://www.riflepermits.com) and follow their instructions. Many of our clients have worked with this company and their service is recommended.

We recommend that this process for obtaining a firearms permit begin at least 30 days prior to your arrival if you wish to obtain the permit prior to your flight to South Africa.

**We wish you an unforgettable and very successful hunting safari to South Africa.**