



## Explosives Precursors

Certain chemicals can be used in the illicit manufacture of explosives or to cause harm. Members of the public who want to acquire, import, possess or use these chemicals must have a valid explosives precursors and poisons (EPP) licence issued by the Home Office and an associated photographic identity document.

The Poisons Act 1972 lists all regulated and reportable substances, including details of concentration thresholds. A list can also be found [here](#).

### Checks

There is no requirement for regulated substances or EPP licences to be presented to Border Force at the border.

### Requirements

The licence application process will include a series of questions to check whether a licence is required. It will provide prompts for the necessary documents.

On receipt of application and payment, the Home Office will conduct checks into suitability, including criminal record and health checks.

Offences that might be considered relevant to these checks are listed in due diligence checks.

Once a decision on an application has been reached, the Home Office will write to the applicant. If accepted, a licence will be posted to the applicant separately.

There is specific advice for home users on the Poisons Act 1972 and the Control of Poisons and Explosives Precursors Regulations 2015, and for retailers on how to check licences at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplying-explosives-precursors/supplying-explosives-precursors-and-poison](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplying-explosives-precursors/supplying-explosives-precursors-and-poison).

## Firearms

Import licences, issued by the Department for International Trade's (DIT) Import Licensing Branch, are required to commercially import firearms. This includes firearms' component parts, ammunition, noise or flash suppressors and bump stocks.

For permanent non-commercial imports of firearms – people importing their own firearm – an import licence is not required. The importer must ensure that there is space on their domestic possession authority to allow possession of the imported firearm. This authority will need to be presented at the border for checking.

For temporary imports of non-commercial firearms – people importing their own firearms into GB on a temporary basis, e.g. for a shooting competition – a British Visitor's Passport (BVP) will be needed, issued by UK police.

Commercial imports of firearms: the licence check is done electronically by the HMRC National Clearing Hub through the information declared in the customs declaration on CHIEF/CDS. If the goods don't have a valid UK import licence, Border Force will seize the goods at the border. An importer (commercial or personal) of firearms must present a valid UK import licence or UK firearms certificate/UK shotgun certificate if asked by a Border Force officer.

### Application requirements

For commercial imports of firearms, importers will need to register on [DIT's Import Case Management System \(ICMS\)](#). Further information on the application process for a licence can be found on this website.

Applications for more than one type of firearm can be made at the same time. Since 22 March 2021, an import licence for an antique firearm can be requested if the firearm meets the requirements of Section 58 of the Firearms Act 1968 and of the Antique Firearms Regulations 2021. Full details of the requirements can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-0012021-antique-firearms>.

The outcome of the application for a licence – whether it has been granted, refused, or if further information is required – will be communicated through a notification on the ICMS.