

AS TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A BILL

entitled

FIREARMS AMENDMENT ACT 2013

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Firearms Act 1973

Be it enacted by The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Citation

1 This Act, which amends the Firearms Act 1973 (the "principal Act") may be cited as the Firearms Amendment Act 2013.

Amends section 1

2 Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, next after the definition "regulations", the following definition—

“ “sanctioned shooting competition” means a shooting competition, approved by the Commissioner, of which notice is made by general notice in the Gazette;”.

Amends section 5

3 Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, next after subsection (2), the following—

“(2A) In the case of a firearm for use at a sanctioned shooting competition, by a person possessing Bermuda status or is ordinarily resident in Bermuda, a firearm licence shall authorise the licensee to import and possess, for a period not exceeding 12 months a firearm, in accordance with the terms thereof.”.

Amends section 6

4 Section 6 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by inserting before the words “An ammunition licence” the words “Subject to subsections (3),(4), and (5),”; and

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(b) by inserting next after subsection (2) the following—

“(3) An ammunition licence shall authorise the licensee of an air rifle, in connection with a sanctioned shooting competition, to possess and purchase, in accordance with the terms thereof, the ammunition specified in the licence.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section shall authorise a licensee of an air rifle to import ammunition.

(5) For the further avoidance of doubt, an ammunition licence, to be used in connection with a sanctioned shooting competition, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to an ammunition licence authorised and issued under this section.”.

Amends section 10

5 Section 10 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following—

“(2) A firearm dealer’s licence shall be—

(a) an annual licence; or

(b) in the case of a volunteer or a staff member employed at a sanctioned shooting competition, for the duration of the sanctioned shooting competition.”.

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Firearms Act 1973 (the “principal Act”), to allow persons taking part in sanctioned shooting competitions to import firearms and to use ammunition in connection with such shooting competitions.

Clause 1 is the citation.

Clause 2 amends section 1 of the principal Act by adding the definition “sanctioned shooting competition”.

Clause 3 amends section 5 of the principal Act, to allow a temporary licence to be granted in connection with a sanctioned shooting competition.

Clause 4 amends section 6 of the principal Act, to allow an air rifle licensee, in connection with a sanctioned shooting competition, to possess, purchase, or acquire ammunition specified in an ammunition licence. These amendments also make it clear that: (1) no ammunition shall be imported by an air rifle licensee; and (2) ammunition licences can also be used in connection with sanctioned shooting competitions but with the necessary variations (i.e. *mutatis mutandis*).

Clause 5 amends section 10 of the principal Act, to allow a firearms dealer’s licence to be granted annually or, in the case of a volunteer or staff member employed by a dealer at a sanctioned shooting competition, for the duration of the sanctioned shooting competition.