










Material from Discussion Document			Material from arms legislation		Submission Comment
Types of firearms items	Current definitions	Characteristics and current requirements	Citation	Legal definition	
<p>“Exempt” firearms</p>  <p>PICTURED: Humane killer</p>	<p>Any firearm of the kind known as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a bolt gun or a stud gun • a humane killer • a tranquilliser gun • a stock marking pistol • an underwater spear gun • a flare pistol • a deer net gun • a pistol that is part of rocket or line throwing equipment • a miniature cannon • any antique firearm • any other make, type, or manufacture of firearm exempted by regulations made under the Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low risk of lethal harm. • Permit to import required. • Can be used by non-licensed individuals. • No security required. 	<p>Arms Act s 22(1)</p>	<p>22 Exemptions</p> <p>(1) Nothing in section 20 or section 21 makes it an offence for any person to be in possession of—</p> <p>(a) any firearm of the kind known as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a bolt gun or a stud gun: (ii) a humane killer: (iii) a tranquilliser gun: (iv) a stock marking pistol: (v) an underwater spear gun: (vi) a flare pistol: (vii) a deer net gun: (viii) a pistol that is part of rocket or line throwing equipment: (ix) a miniature cannon; or <p>(b) any antique firearm; or</p> <p>(c) any other make, type, or manufacture of firearm exempted from the provisions of section 20 or section 21 by regulations made under this Act.</p> <p>[...]</p>	
<p>Standard firearms such as rifles and shotguns</p>  <p>PICTURED: Lever action rifle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything by which any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile can be discharged by force of explosive and includes anything that has been adapted. • May be dismantled or require replacement parts for it to function. • Not included in another category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can cause lethal harm. • Commonly used for hunting, pest control, euthanasia of farm animals. • Some standard firearms may be illegally converted into pistols (alfa carbines and cutdown shotguns). • Used by most firearms licence holders. • Must be registered following an activating circumstance.¹¹² • Most common firearm type and often seized by, or surrendered, to Police. • Firearms licence required and must be kept in approved security. 	<p>Arms Act s 2(1)</p>	<p>firearm—</p> <p>(a) means anything from which any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile can be discharged by force of explosive; and</p> <p>(b) includes—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) anything that has been adapted so that it can be used to discharge a shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile by force of explosive; and (ii) anything which is not for the time being capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile but which, by its completion or the replacement of any component part or parts or the correction or repair of any defect or defects, would be a firearm within the meaning of paragraph (a) or subparagraph (i); and (iii) anything (being a firearm within the meaning of paragraph (a) or subparagraph (i)) which is for the time being dismantled or partially dismantled; and (iv) any specially dangerous airgun 	



¹¹² If a person has a firearms licence, they are required to provide information to the Registry and keep it up to date. People must provide information for the first time when they have what is known as an activating circumstance. These are set out in the Regulations and include things like buying or selling a firearm; a change in licence holder information like a change of address; or if they report firearms lost or stolen.



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<p>Specially dangerous airgun</p>  <p>PICTURED: PCP air rifle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined in the Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984.²¹³ Includes Larc International Model 19A, Larc International Model M19 AMP and pre-charged pneumatic air rifles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can cause lethal harm. Must have a firearms licence (unlike other airguns if over 18 years of age). Must be kept in approved security. Must be registered following an activating circumstance. 	<p>Arms Act s 2(1)</p> <p>Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984, cl 3</p>	<p>specially dangerous airgun means any airgun declared by the Governor-General, by Order in Council made under section 4, to be a specially dangerous airgun</p> <p>3 Specially dangerous airguns</p> <p>(1) The airguns known as the Larc International Model 19A and the Larc International Model M19-AMP are hereby declared to be specially dangerous airguns.</p> <p>(2) Specified pre-charged pneumatic air rifles are declared to be specially dangerous airguns.</p>	
<p>Pistols</p> <p>Pistols</p>  <p>PICTURED: Glock 17 9mm</p>	<p>Means a firearm (other than a prohibited firearm or restricted weapon) that is designed or adapted to be held and fired with one hand and includes any firearm (other than a prohibited firearm or restricted weapon) that is less than 762 millimetres in length.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily concealable and can cause lethal harm. Some pistols have high-capacity magazines. Use of pistols is limited to active members of approved clubs and on certified ranges. May be held in collections, as heirlooms/mementos, displayed in a museum or used (with blank ammunition) for theatrical purposes. Holder must have an endorsement on their firearms licence and more rigorous security. 	<p>Arms Act s 2(1)</p>	<p>pistol means a firearm (other than a prohibited firearm or restricted weapon) that is designed or adapted to be held and fired with 1 hand, and includes any firearm (other than a prohibited firearm or restricted weapon) that is less than 762 millimetres in length</p>	
<p>Prohibited firearms</p>  <p>PICTURED: AK47 7.62x39 Prohibited</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2A sets out what firearms are prohibited, and these are primarily centrefire semi-automatic firearms (regardless of magazine type), centrefire pump-action rifles (with a detachable magazine, or with a non-detachable tubular magazine with a capacity of more than 10); and pump-action shotguns (with a detachable magazine, or with a non-detachable tubular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can cause significant lethal harm due to rapid fire. Possession and use limited to pest and wild animal control under specified conditions. Theatrical armourers may have prohibited firearms or large capacity magazines for use with blank cartridges under specified conditions. 	<p>Arms Act s 2A</p>	<p>2A Meaning of prohibited firearm</p> <p>(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, prohibited firearm—</p> <p>(a) means any of the following firearms:</p> <p>(i) a semi-automatic firearm, other than—</p> <p>(A) a specified semi-automatic firearm:</p> <p>(B) a semi-automatic shotgun with a non-detachable tubular magazine or magazines that are capable of holding no more than 5 cartridges commensurate with that firearm's chamber size:</p>	


²¹³ www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1984/0122/latest/whole.html


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	<p>magazine with a capacity of more than 5).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited firearms do not include semi-automatic pistols held in certain capacities and “small semi-automatic pistols” as defined, which are suitable for shooting on a certified pistol range, and must be no longer than 400 mm, a barrel length of 101mm or more, can fire at a muzzle velocity of more than 1,600 feet per second). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collectors, museums, and person holding a prohibited item as an heirloom or memento may have a prohibited firearm with the vital part removed and stored at a different premise. Holder must have an endorsement on their firearms licence and more rigorous security. Acquired and transferred by permit to possess. Import permit requires a special reason. Must be registered following an activating circumstance. 		<p>(C) a small semi-automatic pistol: (D) a semi-automatic pistol (not being a small semi-automatic pistol) in the possession or under the control of a person referred to in subsection (3):</p> <p>(ii) a pump-action shotgun that is capable of being used with a detachable magazine: (iii) a pump-action shotgun that has a non-detachable tubular magazine or magazines that are capable of holding more than 5 cartridges commensurate with that firearm’s chamber size: (iv) a centrefire pump-action rifle that is capable of being used with a detachable magazine: (v) a centrefire pump-action rifle that has 1 or more non-detachable magazines (tubular or otherwise) that are capable of holding more than 10 cartridges commensurate with that firearm’s chamber size; and</p> <p>(b) includes any other firearm declared by Order in Council made under section 74A to be a prohibited firearm for the purposes of this Act.</p> <p>(2) In subsection (1)(a)(i)(A), specified semi-automatic firearm means a semi-automatic firearm—</p> <p>(a) that is capable of firing only 0.22 calibre or lower rimfire cartridges; and (b) that has a magazine, whether or not detachable or otherwise externally fed, that is capable of holding no more than 10 cartridges commensurate with the firearm’s chamber size; and (c) that does not have a lower receiver that is able to be attached to a centrefire upper receiver so as to result in a firearm that is able to function.</p>	
Imitation firearms	Anything that has the appearance of being a firearm capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile, whether it is capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May intimidate people as they look like a real firearm. Available without a firearms licence or permit to import. 	Arms Act s 2(1)	imitation firearm means anything that has the appearance of being a firearm capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile, whether or not it is capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile	

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 <p>PICTURED: Imitation Glock</p>					
<p>Blank-firing guns</p>  <p>PICTURED: Blank firing 9mmK 380 pistol</p>	<p>Means anything that has the shape of a firearm or restricted weapon, or otherwise resembles a firearm or restricted weapon; and is capable of firing blank cartridges, but incapable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile; and includes a starting pistol that fires a blank cartridge or a cap.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some blank-firing guns may be illegally converted to a firearm. Available without a firearms licence. A permit to import is required. 	<p>Arms Act s 2(1)</p>	<p>blank-firing gun—</p> <p>(a) means anything that—</p> <p>(i) has the shape of a firearm or restricted weapon, or otherwise resembles a firearm or restricted weapon; and</p> <p>(ii) is capable of firing blank cartridges, but incapable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile; and</p> <p>(b) includes a starting pistol that fires a blank cartridge or a cap</p>	
<p>Airguns</p>  <p>PICTURED: Crossman .177 CO2 air pistol</p>  <p>PICTURED: Paintball gun</p>	<p>Includes any air rifle; any air pistol; and any weapon from which, using gas or compressed air (and not by force of explosive), any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile can be discharged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, is used recreationally but some evidence of serious and even lethal injuries when used inappropriately. Used by unlicensed individuals (a firearms licence is required if 16 or 17). Import permit required if restricted airgun. No security requirements required. 	<p>Arms Act s 2(1)</p>	<p>airgun includes—</p> <p>(a) any air rifle; and</p> <p>(b) any air pistol; and</p> <p>(c) any weapon from which, by the use of gas or compressed air (and not by force of explosive), any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile can be discharged</p>	
<p>Restricted weapons Restricted weapons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined in Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1986. Includes machine guns, pepper spray, grenades, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can cause a significant amount of harm if used illegally. Some restricted weapons used by military or law enforcement agencies. 	<p>Arms Act s 2(1)</p> <p>Arms (Restricted Weapons</p>	<p>restricted weapon means any weapon, whether a firearm or not, declared by the Governor-General, by Order in Council made under section 4, to be a restricted weapon</p> <p>Schedule - Weapons declared restricted weapons</p> <p>1 Anti-tank projectors, and ammunition therefor.</p>	

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 <p>PICTURED: Mortars, rockets, and grenade</p>	and fully automatic firearms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holder must have an endorsement on their firearms licence and store them in more rigorous security. • Acquisition and transfer are managed by permit to possess. • Import permit requires a special reason. • Must be registered following an activating circumstance. • Must be rendered inoperable by removal of vital part and not fired with live ammunition. 	and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984	<p>2 Grenade dischargers, grenade launchers, and grenades containing explosives.</p> <p>3 Incendiary grenades; including the type commonly known as a Molotov cocktail and consisting of—</p> <p>(a) a container or containers, the only or principal contents of which is an inflammable liquid or mixture; and</p> <p>(b) a means of ignition of the inflammable substance or mixture, whether that means is a wick, an explosive or other device, a fuse, or a chemical.</p> <p>4 Machine carbines or guns, submachine carbines or guns, and machine pistols of any kind, including those operated by gas or compressed air.</p> <p>4A Firearms and airguns that are capable of full automatic fire, excluding airguns that are designed for use in airsoft or paintball sports and are in the same configuration as when they were manufactured.</p> <p>5 Mines of an explosive nature, of any kind whatsoever.</p> <p>6 Mortars of military kinds, and ammunition therefor.</p> <p>7 Rocket launchers and ammunition therefor.</p> <p>8 Every firearm, weapon, and device designed for the purpose of discharging any lachrymatory, deleterious, or toxic gas, smoke, or other stupefying or overpowering thing capable of rendering any person either wholly or partially incapable of resistance (other than any device designed and intended solely for any medical, surgical, veterinary, scientific, agricultural, industrial, or other similar lawful purpose).</p> <p>9 Any gas, substance, material, or thing specially intended or adapted for use in conjunction with any firearm, weapon, or device specified in clause 8.</p>
<p>Magazine</p> 	No definition of a magazine (as opposed to a prohibited magazine).	Must hold a firearm licence to possess lawfully.	N/A	<p>Magazine is not defined in arms legislation.</p> <p>The Firearms Safety Code defines magazine as follows (p35)</p> <p>A spring-operated container holding cartridges for a repeating firearm; often removable.</p> <p>This definition has no direct legal effect.</p>

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<p>Prohibited magazine</p> 	<p>Prohibited magazines defined in section 2B of the Arms Act and Arms (Prohibited Magazine) Order 2019. For example, magazines with more than 10 cartridges to be used with a rifle or pistol drum magazines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used for culling large herds of wild animals and pest control. • Holder must have an endorsement on their firearms licence. • Acquisition and transfer managed by permit to possess. • Must be registered following an activating circumstance. 	Arms Act s 2B	<p>2B Meaning of prohibited magazine In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, prohibited magazine,—</p> <p>(a) in relation to a shotgun, means a magazine, whether or not detachable, that is capable of holding more than 5 cartridges commensurate with that shotgun’s chamber size:</p> <p>(b) in relation to any other firearm (except a pistol described in section 2A(1)(a)(i)(C) or (D)),—</p> <p>(i) means any detachable magazine—</p> <p>(A) that is capable of holding 0.22 calibre or lower rimfire cartridges and that is capable of holding more than 10 of those cartridges:</p> <p>(B) that is capable of holding more than 10 cartridges and being used with a semi-automatic or fully automatic firearm:</p> <p>(ii) means any other magazine, whether or not detachable, that is capable of holding more than 10 cartridges:</p> <p>(c) includes any other magazine declared by Order in Council made under section 74A to be a prohibited magazine for the purposes of this Act.</p>
			Arms (Prohibited Magazine) Order 2019 cl 3	<p>3 Prohibited magazine Any drum magazine that can be attached to a pistol is declared to be a prohibited magazine for the purposes of the Arms Act 1983.</p>
<p>Ammunition</p>  <p>PICTURED – ammunition various.</p>	Not currently defined.	Must hold a firearms licence to possess lawfully.	N/A	There is no definition of ‘ammunition’ in arms legislation, as noted in the discussion document.

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<p>Prohibited Ammunition</p>  <p>PICTURED: Armour piercing AP 7.62x51</p>	<p>Some ammunition is prohibited in the Arms (Prohibited Ammunition Order) 2019. For example, armour piercing and tracer ammunition.</p>	<p>Person needs to have applied to possess the prohibited ammunition as a collector, museum, or researcher for NZDF or the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (Regulation 9J).</p>	<p>Arms Act, s 2D</p> <p>Arms (Prohibited Ammunition) Order 2019</p>	<p>2D Meaning of prohibited ammunition In this Act, prohibited ammunition means any ammunition declared by the Governor-General by Order in Council made under section 74A to be prohibited ammunition for the purposes of this Act.</p> <p>Schedule - Ammunition declared prohibited ammunition</p> <p>Tracer ammunition: Projectiles containing an element that enables the trajectory of the projectiles to be observed</p> <p>Enhanced-penetration ammunition: Projectiles that have a steel or tungsten carbide penetrator intended to achieve better penetration.</p> <p>Armour-piercing ammunition: Projectiles intended to penetrate or perforate armour plate and ceramic armours, typically achieved through the use of hardened or specialised core materials.</p> <p>Incendiary ammunition (excluding flares for flare guns): Projectiles designed to provide an incendiary effect on impact with the target.</p> <p>Explosive ammunition: Projectiles containing a high-explosive charge that detonates on impact with or in close proximity to the target.</p> <p>Multi-purpose ammunition: Armour-piercing incendiary ammunition in which the incendiary compound is replaced by a high-explosive charge to provide a blast, fragmentation, and incendiary effect as well as an armour-piercing effect</p> <p>Discarding-sabot ammunition (excluding shotgun cartridges): Small-diameter projectiles designed to pierce armour that are placed into a supporting plug (a sabot) and then pushed down the bore as an assembly; the sabot is stripped off when the assembly leaves the barrel.</p> <p>Multi-projectile ammunition (excluding shotgun cartridges and rimfire cartridges loaded with shot): Ammunition that has the ability to fire multiple projectiles in a single shot (for example, duplex ammunition).</p> <p>Chemical or biological carrier ammunition (excluding projectiles for any device designed and intended solely for any medical, surgical, veterinary, scientific, agricultural, industrial, or other similar lawful</p>	

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				<p>purpose): Projectiles that have the ability to carry a chemical or biological agent.</p> <p>Flechettes (excluding projectiles designed and intended solely for any bolt gun, stud gun, humane killer, deer net gun, nail gun, or a pistol that is part of rocket-throwing or line-throwing equipment): Lightweight, fin-stabilised projectiles, fired from a sabot, with an aerodynamic shape and small frontal area to minimise air resistance</p>	
<p>Major firearm parts³¹⁴</p> 	Includes the action (frame, receiver, or upper receiver and lower receiver) of a firearm, the frame of a pistol and a calibre conversion component or kit of a pistol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These items may be used to assemble a firearm. • Must hold a firearms licence to possess lawfully. • Must be registered following an activating circumstance. • Need a permit to import to bring into New Zealand. 	Arms Regulations, reg 2	<p>major firearm part means—</p> <p>(a) the action (frame, receiver, or upper receiver and lower receiver) of a firearm:</p> <p>(b) the frame of a pistol:</p> <p>(c) a calibre conversion component or kit of a pistol.</p>	
Firearm parts	Includes grips, frames, chassis systems, magazine adapters, magazine couplers, magazine loaders, flash suppressors, silencers, folding or telescoping stocks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items may need to be replaced for maintenance purposes, to improve the usability of the firearm or assemble a firearm. • Must hold a firearms licence to possess lawfully. • Need a permit to import to bring into New Zealand. 	Arms Act s 2(1)	<p>part, in relation to any firearm or restricted weapon,—</p> <p>(a) means—</p> <p>(i) any component that, of itself, is essential to the discharge of any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile from the firearm or restricted weapon; and</p> <p>(ii) any component that is exclusively designed to be, or is intended to be, an integral part of the firearm or restricted weapon (for example, a butt, stock, magazine, or other component that feeds or contributes to feeding ammunition to the firearm or restricted weapon); and</p> <p>(b) includes the following components or accessories that can be fitted to, or adapted to fit, a firearm or restricted weapon:</p> <p>(i) grips:</p> <p>(ii) frames:</p> <p>(iii) chassis systems:</p> <p>(iv) magazine adapters:</p> <p>(v) magazine couplers:</p> <p>(vi) magazine loaders:</p> <p>(vii) flash suppressors:</p> <p>(viii) silencers:</p>	

³¹⁴ Major firearm parts are defined in the Arms Regulations rather than the Act.

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				(ix) folding or telescoping stocks; but (c) does not include the following: (i) pistol carbine conversion kits; (ii) air pistol carbine conversion kits