

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Firearms Acts (Amendment) Regulations 2010

From 28th July 2010 the above regulations make a key change to the age at which a person can purchase or hire firearms, shot guns and ammunition. A person who is under 18 years of age will no longer be able to purchase or hire any firearms, shot guns or ammunition.

This change has been brought about by EEC Directive 2008/51/EC which regularises the ages for purchase of firearms (which includes shot guns) and ammunition throughout the whole of the EEC.

Some young shot gun and firearm certificate holders have a notice on their certificates stating that they cannot purchase shot guns until they attain the age of 17 years. As this has now been increased to 18 years of age and all such certificate holders have received a letter from the Firearms Shot Guns and Explosive Licensing (FSEL) Section explaining the change in the law and how it affects them.

If there are any queries then please contact the FSEL Section either by telephone or email, details below:

	Under 18	Under 15	Under 14
Purchase any firearm or ammunition	No	No	No
Possess a Section 1 firearm	Yes	Yes	No (see exemptions 1, 2 & 3 below)
Receive a Section 1 firearm as a gift	Yes	Yes	No
Possess assembled shot gun	Yes	No (see exemptions 4 & 5 below)	No (see exemptions 4 & 5 below)
Receive a shot gun as a gift	Yes	No	No
Possess an air weapon	No (see exemptions 2,3, 4 & 6 below)	No (see exemptions 2,3, 4 & 6 below)	No (see exemptions 2, 3 & 4 below)
Receive an air weapon as a gift	No	No	No
Possess an air weapon in a public place	No (see exemptions 2,3 & 4 below)	No (see exemptions 2,3 & 4 below)	No (see exemptions 2,3 & 4 below)

Exemptions:

- (1) If carrying on behalf of a certificate holder, over 18 years of age, for a sporting purpose.
- (2) When part of an approved club or cadet corps.
- (3) On a Miniature Rifle Range.
- (4) Under the supervision of someone over 21 years old.
- (5) When the firearm is in a secure gun cover.
- (6) Unless on private property with permission of the land owner. It is an offence for someone under this exemption to fire any missile beyond the boundary of the premises unless with permission of the adjacent land owner.

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