

Arms and Ammunitions Regulations*

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Definitions

Article 1

The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in these regulations, shall have the meanings given opposite to them unless the context requires otherwise:

Military Arms: The arms, ammunitions and accessories specially designed for military operations like machine guns, canons, missiles, etc. Military arms include weapons that use radiation, gases, toxins and any arms other than personal arms and those referred to in the clauses of this article.

Hunting Arms: These are arms of uncoiled tubes originally designed for hunting purposes.

Exercise Arms and Air Guns: These are arms for shooting without using gunpowder and the projectile of which is launched by the power of air pressure or a spring.

White Arms: Every cutting, penetrating, breaking or bruising tool like swords, daggers, knives, arrows, spears, sticks with spears and the like.

Ammunition: Projectiles fired by arms as a result of explosive, air pressure or spring propulsion.

Antique Arms: Old arms of a historical value which are proved unusable by way of inspection.

Implementing Rules: The rules that regulate the implementation of these regulations.

Minister: Minister of Interior

Pertinent Authority: Ministry of Interior.

General Provisions

Article 2

Military, personal and governmental arms and their ammunitions are permitted to be carried and used in accordance with the regulations and instructions related to their carriage and use by the following:

1. Military personnel serving with:
 - a. The National Guard,
 - b. Ministry of Defense and Aviation,
 - c. Ministry of Interior, and
 - d. General Intelligence Service.
2. Civil governmental employees who are permitted to carry governmental arms by the regulations of the agency with which they are serving.

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Article 3

Import, sale and purchase of personal arms, air guns and hunting arms, as defined herein, along with their accessories, spare parts and ammunitions shall be limited to Saudis holding necessary licenses in accordance with the procedures and conditions stated in the implementing rules.

Article 4

Agencies other than pertinent governmental institutions are prohibited to:

- a. Fabricate, import, possess, exchange, collect or repair military arms or related ammunitions, accessories or spare parts;
- b. Fabricate or modify personal arms or related accessories, spare parts or ammunitions;
- c. Import, sell, purchase, carry or collect personal or hunting arms and related spare parts and ammunitions unless licensed to do so by the minister;
- d. Fabricate or import exercise arms and air guns and related spare parts, ammunitions and accessories unless licensed to do so by the minister;
- e. Supply or bring arms and related ammunitions, spare parts and accessories without obtaining permission from the minister;
- f. Import or bring arms other than those mentioned in these regulations without obtaining permission from the minister.

Article 5

- a. Antique arms may not be imported or traded in unless licensed by the minister,
- b. Antique arms may be imported or brought for the purpose of collection,
- c. The implementing rules shall state the conditions and procedures for the above a and b clauses hereof.

Article 6

Any person who may own any arms or related spare parts or ammunitions by way of heritance, will or any other means shall inform pertinent authorities thereof within a period of three months from the date of ownership.

Article 7

Any person who may lose or damage his arms shall inform pertinent authorities within one month from the date of knowledge of loss or damage.

Article 8

The minister shall specify the places and times at which arms licensed to be carried are prohibited to be carried.

Licensing Provisions

Article 9

The minister may license importing, purchasing, carrying, collecting or repairing personal arms, hunting arms, exercise arms and air guns and related spare parts, accessories and ammunitions in accordance with the conditions stated in the implementing rules.

Article 10

The minister may license acquisition of personal arms and ammunitions by some Saudi establishments and companies whose nature of work require arming some of their employees in accordance with the rules and conditions stated in the implementing rules.

Article 11

For certain considerations, the minister may license purchasing and carrying personal arms by a person residing in the Kingdom.

Article 12

The minister may license opening shooting clubs in accordance with the rules and conditions stated in the implementing rules.

Article 13

The minister may permit the passage of hunting arms and personal arms through the Saudi territories in accordance with the international applicable laws and conventions as well as those of the destination country and as stipulated in the procedures and conditions of the implementing rules.

Article 14

The agency licensed to import, purchase and sell personal arms or hunting arms and related accessories, spare parts and ammunitions shall take all safety measures related to the transportation and storage thereof in accordance with the relevant stipulations.

Article 15

The agency licensed to import, purchase and sell all types of arms and related accessories, spare parts and ammunitions shall keep special records for them in accordance with the forms and procedures stated in the implementing rules.

Article 16

Pursuant to public interest requirements, the minister may not approve any application for a licence or reduce or cancel an existing licence.

Article 17

All licences issued under the provisions of these regulations shall be for the sole use of the licensee only.

Article 18

The licence to carry or acquire arms shall be cancelled in the following cases:

- a. If it is decided to confiscate the arms and their ammunitions,
- b. If the licensee violates one of the licence conditions,
- c. If the licensee dies or loses capacity, or
- d. If the resident is decided to leave the Kingdom permanently.

If the cancellation is under clauses a, b and c hereof, the arms and ammunitions will be disposed of by the owner of the arms, the heir of the deceased person or their legal representative or the guardian of the minors as stated in the implementing rules.

Article 19

The licence to import, sell, purchase and repair personal arms shall be cancelled in the following cases:

- a. If the holder of the licence dies or loses capacity, or
- b. If the licensee violates one of the licence conditions.

The implementing rules shall state the conditions and procedures that should be followed in this respect.

Article 20

The implementing rules shall state the procedures and conditions that should be observed if the agency licensed to import, sell or purchase personal arms and ammunitions wishes to change his activity or assign the licence to others.

Article 21

The person whose licence is cancelled may not be given a new licence for any other arms except in the cases specified in the implementing rules.

Article 22

The implementing rules shall state the procedures to be followed in case the licence is lost or damaged.

Article 23

A licence to acquire more than one piece of personal arms may be given in accordance with the conditions stated in the implementing rules.

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Article 24

No more than one licence to carry more than one piece of personal arms may be given. The implementing rules shall specify the type of arms. In special cases, the minister may give licences to carry more than one piece of arms.

Article 25

The implementing rules shall specify the validity period of licences of all types.

Article 26

The minister may permit a person who carries a licensed piece of arms to carry this piece of arms when travelling outside the Kingdom if the country to which he is travelling and the other countries en-route permit him to carry the said piece of arms.

Article 27

Compensation may be paid for the licensed piece of arms and related ammunition if it is decided to hand it over to the government in the cases that require the same as stated in the implementing rules.

Arm Repair and Maintenance

Article 28

Repair of all types of arms is prohibited unless a license is issued for the same by the minister. The implementing rules shall state the conditions for giving such a licence and the duties of the licensee.

Article 29

It is prohibited to repair any unlicensed piece of arms in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and relevant implementing rules.

Article 30

No modification may be made to the mechanism of arms or the way of loading which makes them more lethal.

Provisions on Diplomats, Residents and Official Delegations

Article 31

- a. Member of the diplomatic and consular missions to the Kingdom may bring, acquire and carry personal pieces of arms after obtaining a licence or acquire the same from shops licensed to sell the same in the Kingdom, provided that equal treatment is provided.

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- b. The licence referred to under a above shall be issued by the pertinent authority upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- c. Members of diplomatic and consular missions may not transfer the ownership of the licensed piece of arms except to other members of the same diplomatic or consular mission to the Kingdom. In any other case, it should be proved that the piece of arms has been taken outside the Kingdom at the end of residence of the licensed person in the Kingdom or at the time he loses his diplomatic or consular capacity except if the said piece of arms has been acquired from inside the Kingdom as stated under clause a hereof, in which case he may dispose of it in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and relevant implementing rules.

Article 32

Members of Saudi diplomatic and consular missions abroad may bring their personal arms into the Kingdom after leaving their duties abroad in accordance with the instructions and procedures stated in the implementing rules.

Article 33

Members of official and military delegations or persons assigned to official missions may carry their official personal arms in accordance with international conventions, provided that an equal treatment is provided as conditions may require and provided that the ministry is informed of the same.

Penalties

Article 34

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than thirty years and a fine of not more than three hundred thousand Saudi Riyals shall be imposed on any person who is proved to have committed any of the following:

- a. Trafficking any military or personal piece of arms or parts or ammunitions thereof into the Kingdom with the purpose of disturbing internal security; or
- b. Using, fabricating, purchasing or acquiring military or personal arms, ammunitions or parts thereof with the purpose of disturbing internal security.

Article 35

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than twenty years and a fine of not more than two hundred thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proved to have committed any of the following:

- a. Trafficking any military piece of arms or parts or ammunitions thereof into the Kingdom with the purpose of trading; or
- b. Fabricating military arms, ammunitions or parts thereof with the purpose of trading.

Article 36

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than fifteen years and a fine of not more than one hundred and fifty thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proved to have carried, acquired, sold or purchased any military arms and ammunitions.

Article 37

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than ten years and a fine of not more than one hundred thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proved to have fabricated or trafficked any personal pieces of arms or their parts and ammunitions with the purpose of trading.

Article 38

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than five years and a fine of not more than thirty thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proven to have committed any of the following:

- a. Trafficking any piece of hunting arms or parts or ammunitions thereof into the Kingdom for the purpose of trading;
- b. Trafficking personal pieces of arms or parts or ammunitions thereof into the Kingdom for personal use;
- c. Fabricating hunting arms or their spare parts; or
- d. Modifying the mechanisms of hunting, exercise or antique pieces of arms with the purpose of making them more lethal.

Article 39

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than two years and a fine of not more than seven thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proven to have purchased or sold any personal piece of arms or its ammunition without obtaining a licence.

Article 40

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than eighteen months and a fine of not more than six thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proven to have acquired a personal piece of arms or its ammunition without obtaining a licence.

Article 41

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than one year and a fine of not more than five thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proven to have committed any of the following:

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- a. Using a piece of arms licensed to be carried or acquired by him for a purpose other than the one for which it is licensed;
- b. Using a piece of arms for hunting even if it is licensed;
- c. Acquiring a hunting piece of arms or its ammunition without obtaining a licence;
- d. Permitting others to use the piece of arms licensed for him or others using his piece of arms as a result of his negligence;
- e. Transporting or helping others in transporting unlicensed arms or ammunitions;
- f. opening a club for training on hunting or exercise arms without obtaining a licence;
- g. Practising repair of arms without obtaining a licence;
- h. Repairing unlicensed arms;
- i. Fabricating ammunitions for hunting arms;
- j. Trafficking quantities of exercise arms into the Kingdom;
- k. Trafficking hunting arms or their ammunitions into the Kingdom for personal use;
- l. Trafficking antique arms into the Kingdom for the purpose of trading; or
- m. Violating any condition of import, sale, acquisition or repair licences.

Article 42

A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than six months and a fine of not more than three thousand Saudi Riyals or either penalty shall be imposed on any person who is proven to have received information on unlicensed arms trading or trafficking operations and failed to inform the pertinent authorities of the same.

Article 43

A fine of two thousand Saudi Riyals shall be imposed in any of the following cases:

- a. If the validity period of the import, sale, purchase, repair or training licence expires but the holder of the licence continues exercising the licensed activity without submitting an application for the renewal of the licence within a period of three months from the date of expiration;
- b. If the licence to carry or acquire a piece of arms is cancelled but the holder of the licence fails to dispose of or hand over the piece of arms within three months from the date of cancellation;
- c. If a person traffics exercise pieces of arms for personal use;
- d. If a person knows that his piece of arms has been lost, stolen or damaged but fails to report the case to pertinent authorities; or
- e. If a person violates any condition contained herein or in the implementing rules which is not penalized under the penalties mentioned above.

Article 44

A fine of not more than one thousand Saudi Riyals shall be imposed on any person who carries his licensed piece of arms at the times and places it is prohibited to carry arms. The implementing rules shall state the places and times where and when carrying pieces of arms is prohibited.

Article 45

A fine of not more than one thousand Saudi Riyals shall be imposed on any person who is proven to have lost his piece of arms by way of theft or loss as a result of negligence along with depriving him from the right to obtain a new licence for any piece of arms for a period of two years from the effective date of the penalty.

Article 46

A fine of not less than one hundred or more than five hundred Saudi Riyals for each year of delay in the following cases:

- a. If the licence to carry or acquire a piece of arms expires but the holder of the licence fails to apply for a renewal within three months from the date of expiration; or
- b. If the inherited piece of arms is not reported to pertinent authorities within three months from the date of ownership;

Article 47

Any person who has been proven to have disposed of any pieces of arms or ammunitions authorized to pass through the territories of the Kingdom by way of sale or gift inside the Kingdom shall receive the penalties applicable to traffickers of arms as per their types.

Article 48

Any person who has been proven to have shared in any of the violations contained in these regulations shall receive the same penalty prescribed for the same violation.

Article 49

The penalties stated herein, except imprisonment, shall be imposed on establishments, companies or other agencies which violate the provisions of these regulations.

Article 50

In addition to the penalties under articles 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 hereof, all pieces of arms, ammunitions and related equipment shall be confiscated upon a judicial judgment. However, if the violation is related to trafficking, the transportation means used in trafficking shall also be confiscated.

Article 51

The penalties stated under articles 34, 35 and 36 hereof may be increased if the violator is a servant with any agency concerned with the implementation of these regulations.

Article 52

The General Prosecutor shall investigate the violations of the provisions of these regulations.

Article 53

Upon a decision issued by the minister, a committee consisting of three members including a member specialized in *Sharee'ah* or law to consider application of penalties stated under articles 43, 44, 45 and 46 hereof. The decisions of the said committee shall be approved by the minister or his designee. A person against whom a penalizing decision is issued may appeal before the Board of Grievances within sixty days from the date of notification.

Article 54

Without prejudice to the provisions of article 53 hereof, the Board of Grievances shall have jurisdiction to consider cases of violations to the provisions of these regulations and apply penalties contained herein.

Article 55

The application of the penalties provided for herein shall not prejudice any severer penalty under any other regulations.

Article 56

The minister may suspend procedures related to questioning any person who voluntarily reports any unlicensed arms and ammunitions he may have and willingly hands them over before they are caught with him.

Article 57

- a. If justifiable reasons arise or if the sentenced person's morals, record, age, personal conditions, the conditions under which the violation has taken place or otherwise makes the Board of Grievances believe that the culprit will not repeat any violation of the provisions of these regulations, it may suspend implementation of the imprisonment penalty under these regulations unless he had been sentenced for repeating the same violation. In all cases, the reasons on which the judgment is based shall be explained.
- b. If the sentenced person repeats a violation penalized under these regulations within a period of three years from the date of suspending implementation of

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the penalty, the Board of Grievances may cancel such suspension and order application of the penalty without prejudice to the penalty prescribed for the new violation.

- c. If the period of suspension lapses and the sentenced person does not repeat the violation penalized hereunder, the suspended judgment would be considered as if not issued and all effects related thereto shall lapse.

Article 58

The minister may permit re-exporting the arms or ammunitions imported into the Kingdom through custom ports without obtaining a prior permission if they are reported before being caught within a period not exceeding six months. Failing so, the said arms and ammunitions will be confiscated by a legal judgment.

Transitional Provisions

Article 59

The minister may grant an honorarium not exceeding the amount of the penalty to those who report cases of violations of trading in or trafficking of arms if such a report leads to controlling such arms and convicting violators.

Article 60

The minister shall specify the departments and branches assigned to implement the provisions of these regulations, their jurisdiction and powers as the public interest may dictate.

Article 61

The minister may delegate some of the powers given to him under these regulations to any person he may deem fit.

Article 62

These regulations shall supersede the previous Arms and Ammunitions Regulations issued by Royal Decree No. M/8 dated 19.2.1402 H. and shall cancel all contradicting provisions.

Article 63

These regulations and related implementing rules shall come into force one hundred and eighty days after publication in the official gazette. The minister shall issue the implementing rules of these regulations within this period.