

**ACT of 7 February 1930 providing for the import in, the transit through, and the export from, as well as possession and transport of and trade in firearms and ammunition in Suriname (Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. 1930 No. 73), as it reads following the amendments made thereto by Bulletins of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. 1965 No. 48, G.B. 1971 No. 51, S.B. 1980 No. 116, S.B. 1981 No. 198, S.B. 1990 No. 1, S.B. 2001 No. 62 .**

## GENERAL PROVISION

### Article 1

For the purposes of this act:

- 1°. ‘firearms’ shall include bombs, hand grenades and other weapons meant for explosion or for the dissemination of poisonous, asphyxiating or incapacitating gases, flame throwers, including alarm guns and other similar devices suited for threatening or deterring, in accordance with the definition to be laid down by government regulation;
- 2°. ‘firearms’ shall include parts of firearms;
- 3°. ‘ammunition’ shall include parts of ammunition such as shell cases, percussion fuses, metal-jacketed bullets and bullet jackets;
- 4°. swords, sabres, klewangs, daggers, dagger knives, batons and similar objects, at the discretion of the Prosecutor General, shall be considered equivalent to firearms.

## IMPORT, TRANSIT AND EXPORT

### Article 2

1. The import in, transit through and export from Suriname of firearms and ammunition, other than for the government, is prohibited.
2. Insofar as not otherwise expressly provided, import or export within the meaning of this act shall be understood to have taken place when these goods are in the estuary or on one of the rivers referred to in Article 3 paragraph 2, or respectively are no longer on shore.
3. Transit does not include that which takes place directly, without transshipment, with warcraft from foreign powers or with vessels from steamship lines which have included Suriname in their regular sailing schedule.
4. The prohibitory provision of the first paragraph regarding the import or export does not apply to persons for whom possession of a firearm is prescribed – without it being provided to them by the government –; however, only insofar as it concerns the import or export of a firearm of the type and in the quantity as they are obligated to possess, as well as the number of cartridges set for this weapon under Article 15.

### Article 3

1. The Prosecutor General is authorized, insofar any reasonable interest so requires and there is no fear of abuse of the licence or of these goods to be imported, transited or exported – all this at his discretion – thereby lifting the relevant prohibition, to grant a licence for the import, transit and export of firearms and ammunition.
2. The import and export shall only be effected via the estuary of the Suriname, Nickerie and Marowijne Rivers, or via the estuary of such other rivers or along such other ways as subsequently shall be determined by government regulation.
3. Conditions may be set to the licence to be granted.

### Article 4

The Prosecutor General is authorized to grant to persons, who visit Suriname temporarily, written licence, subject to conditions to be therein incorporated, whether or not with elimination of or in derogation from the provisions of this act, to carry along firearms with the corresponding ammunition, if any, which the interested party have on them for their personal use.

### Article 5

1. A request to import, transit or export firearms and ammunition shall be made, in writing, addressed to the Prosecutor General.
2. A licence to import, transit or export shall be granted in writing.  
This licence shall be issued to the interested party either in person or sent by registered official letter.
3. Application and licence shall state the last name and given names of the interested party, the nationality, sex, age, place of residence, occupation, type and quantity of the goods to be imported, transited or exported, the reason therefor and the purpose thereof and the term within which the licence shall or must be used.
4. The licence shall also state in which manner and by which means the import, transit or export will be effected, as well as the special conditions under which it has been granted.
5. Every licence is strictly personal.
6. A licence to import firearms and ammunition may only be used by an applicant who is in this country.
7. When importing, transiting or exporting, the interested party shall show the licence to the Inspector of Import Duties and Excises, or when importing, transiting or exporting through

or from the District of Nickerie, or the District of Marowijne, the senior tax official or the civil servant designated thereto by special decision of the Prosecutor General.

8. The interested party shall be notified in writing of a decision to refuse an application for import, transit, or export, which notification generally shall state reasons. The notification shall be handed to the interested party either in person or sent by registered official letter.

#### Article 6

1. As long as and insofar as the transit or export has not yet been effected, the licence may be withdrawn by the Prosecutor General.
2. The withdrawal is done in writing and – in general – stating the reasons, an extract is issued to the interested party either in person or by registered official letter.
3. The interested party shall then be obligated to return the licence involved by registered mail to the Prosecutor General, within one month of the receipt of the extract referred to.

#### Article 7

1. The import or transit licence shall lapse within the applicable duration, in the event of the death of the interested party.
2. If an import or transit licence has lapsed through expiry of the term, the interested party shall return it within the next fourteen days.
3. In the event of the death of the interested party, it will be returned within no more than one month from his death by the executor of the last will and testament, if any, and otherwise by the heirs or one of the heirs.
4. The licence shall be returned by registered mail addressed to the Prosecutor General.

#### Article 8

1. Firearms or ammunition for which an import or transit licence has been requested, meanwhile, if the Prosecutor General gives permission thereto, may be stored temporarily in Paramaribo with the District Commissioner of the City District and in the Districts with the District Commissioner concerned, unless the Prosecutor General shall designate another person for that purpose.
2. If said licence is not granted or is withdrawn in the relevant instances as referred to in Article 6 paragraph 1, the interested party is given a period of three months from the date of the order to remove the temporarily stored goods concerned or to dispose thereof or in regard thereto in any other manner, with due observance of the provisions of this act.

3. If the above has not been effected within the period set, the goods concerned will revert, without any form of compensation, to the State and the Prosecutor General may order their destruction.

## KEEPING FIREARMS

### Article 9

It is prohibited to keep firearms without having a licence for that purpose.

### Article 10

The authority to keep firearms is reserved solely:

- 1°. to public officials and officers who by order of the President may keep the firearm involved;
- 2°. to a public body;
- 3°. to persons holding the firearm by virtue of a legal provision or instruction regarding a public body;
- 4°. to those persons being members of the Armed Forces or the Police, insofar as the firearm kept by them pertains to their outfit in terms of type and quantity.
- 5°. to those persons, referred to in the fourth paragraph of Article 2, insofar as it concerns a firearm, possession of which shall be compulsory for them in terms of type and quantity;
- 6°. to persons who do not transport any firearms than those packaged in such a manner that they cannot be put to immediate use, provided that such transport is covered by a movement certificate issued by the District Commissioner of the City District or by the District Commissioner of the place where the transport commences;
- 7°. to the person who is provided with a general or a specific written authorization of the civil servant authorized to the issuance thereof under the provisions and conditions therein incorporated.

### Article 11

1. Where in this act reference is made to a written authorization without further indication, this shall be understood to mean the two types, as intended in the preceding article under 7, while the special written authorization shall be referred to as firearms licence in continuation.
2. A general written authorization may only be issued to weapons dealers as such.

### Article 12

1. Conditions may be attached to the written authorization.

2. It can only be granted insofar as any reasonable interest so dictates and abuse of the authorization or of the firearms or firearms is not to be feared, all this at the discretion of the civil servant who is authorized to issue such authorization.
3. It may be restricted to certain times and places and is strictly personal.

### Article 13

1. The written authorization is applied for in writing to and granted by the Prosecutor General. This application, in regard to the authorization intended here, implies that which the application intended in Article 5 paragraph 3 needs to mention in respect of import, transit or export, with the exception of that which has been stated in regard to the term; he who has no address in Suriname, needs to choose an address here when applying. The applicant shall furthermore furnish as much information and documents requested of him by or on behalf of the Prosecutor General.  
The decision on this application shall be taken within one month.  
If the application is not granted in full or at all, the decision shall in general state the reasons.
2. Every application for a written authorization, in particular a firearms licence, and a general written authorization shall be accompanied by the payment of a fee of Sf 5,000 (FIVE THOUSAND GULDERS), which payment shall not be reimbursed in case of refusal of the application.
3. The applicant may file an appeal against the last-mentioned decision, within one month from the date thereof, with the President who shall issue a written decision within one month from the date on which he received the appeal.
4. The Prosecutor General shall be authorized at all times, through a decision stating the reasons, to withdraw with immediate effect or with effect on a later date to be set therein, every written authorization granted by him, or in case of appeal against his decision, by the President.  
The preceding paragraph shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
5. An extract from the decisions intended at the end of the first paragraph, in the second paragraph and in the third paragraph shall be either handed to the interested party in person or sent by registered official letter.
6. Within one month from the time of the coming into effect of the revocation referred to in the third paragraph, the interested party shall surrender to the Prosecutor General who ordered the revocation, the written authorization issued to him, unless the relevant decision had been reversed prior thereto.
7. In the event of revocation of a written authorization, the goods to which it applied shall be surrendered immediately upon the entry into force of the relevant revocation, by the interested party to the Prosecutor General who shall therefor issue a dated proof of receipt.

8. In the event of the death of the interested party intended in the fifth and sixth paragraphs, the surrender prescribed in another paragraph will be effected by the executor of the last will and testament, if any, and otherwise by the heirs or one of the heirs.
9. During the time that is still to lapse between the entry into force of the revocation and the expiry of the period for which the authorization had been granted, the goods to be surrendered under paragraphs six and seven shall remain at the disposal of the person entitled who can dispose of the same, subject to the provisions of this act.
10. After the time referred to in the preceding paragraph, the goods surrendered, without any form of compensation, will revert to the State and the Prosecutor General may order their destruction.

#### Article 14

1. The written authorization is valid for one year at the most, but also as a rule, starting from the date of issue.
2. A written authorization shall not be granted until after payment of an amount of:
  - a. insofar as it concerns a firearms licence:  
one hundred sixty thousand guilders when it concerns a handgun;  
forty thousand guilders when it concerns a firearm that is fired from the shoulder with a maximum calibre of 12.
  - b. insofar as it concerns a general written authorization: one hundred sixty thousand guilders.
3. The amounts mentioned in paragraph 2 are calculated per year; payment thereof must be made on filing the application referred to in Article 13 paragraph 1.  
If the authorization is granted for a period shorter than one year, the amount shall be reduced proportionally.
4. On revocation, referred to in Article 13 paragraph 13, a proportionate reimbursement of funds deposited shall take place.
5. A firearm licence is valid for only one firearm, which is therein indicated by name and described as accurately as possible.
6. The provisions under paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5, as regards paragraph 5 only the provision of the first part of the phrase, shall not apply to firearms which, at the discretion of the Prosecutor General, have the character of antiquity.
7. An amount shall be due upon every renewal of a written authorization as referred to in paragraph 1 of this article of:

- a. insofar it concerns a firearms licence: eighty thousand guilders if it concerns a handgun; twenty thousand guilders if it concerns a firearm that is fired from the shoulder with a maximum calibre of 12.
- b. insofar as it concerns a general written authorization, eighty thousand guilders.

## KEEPING AMMUNITION

### Article 15

1. It is prohibited, otherwise than by the government for the benefit of the public service, to keep ammunition without having a written authorization from the civil servant authorized to the granting thereof.  
The provisions of Articles 12 and 13 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
2. The preceding paragraph does not apply with respect to:
  - 1o. ammunition which, up to quantities to be mentioned below, is held by persons who are authorized to keep one or more firearms.  
This quantity is: when it concerns one or more small firearms - rifle, musket, carbine - for every different caliber thereof no more than one hundred cartridges, and when it concerns one or more handguns - pistol, revolver - for every different caliber thereof no more than twenty-five cartridges.
  - 2o. ammunition being transported, transport of which is covered by a movement certificate issued by or on behalf of the Prosecutor General.
3. It is prohibited to keep ammunition other than which is suited to the firearms for the keeping of which a written authorization has been issued.

## DELIVERY OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

### Article 16

It is prohibited to make a business or a habit of the delivery of firearms and ammunition without being provided with a general written authorization from the civil servant authorized to the granting thereof.

### Article 17

1. Everyone who makes a business or a habit of the delivery of firearms and ammunition shall be obligated to keep a continuing register, designed in accordance with a model determined by the President and foliated and initialled by or on behalf of the Prosecutor General or the District Commissioner of their place of residence, and to forthwith record all firearms and ammunition received or delivered by them under any title.
2. They shall be obligated to forthwith record therein the names and addresses of both the persons from whom the goods originate or for whom the goods are intended, and of the persons from whom they have received or to whom they delivered the goods, and

furthermore, the date and place of issue of the licences, written authorizations and movement certificates which may have been granted in accordance with this law to the persons intended.

3. They shall be obligated to show the register on demand for perusal, inspection and verification to any of the civil servants referred to in Article 30.

#### Article 18

1. It is prohibited, otherwise than by the government for the benefit of public service, to deliver a firearm or ammunition within Suriname.
2. The preceding paragraph does not apply with respect to the delivery of a firearm or ammunition for someone who is authorized to keep such firearm or ammunition.

#### APPLICATIONS, LICENCES, WRITTEN AUTHORIZATIONS AND MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES

#### Article 19

The Minister responsible for justice and the Prosecutor General shall be obligated to keep separate registers of the licences, written authorizations and movement certificates granted under this act and to therein also make manifest all that which in respect thereto may have been done by them.

#### Article 20

The model of the applications, licences, written authorizations and movement certificates referred to in this act shall be determined by the President.

#### Article 21

1. The licence, the written authorization or the movement certificate and the firearms and ammunition to which they relate must be shown on demand to any of the civil servants referred to in Article 30.
2. In the event of the loss of a licence, written authorization or movement certificate, a duplicate may be issued which on which the word 'duplicate' appears in a prominent position. To meet the costs of administration and supervision, a fee of two thousand guilders shall be imposed on application for any duplicates.

#### PENAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 22



Import, transit or export contrary to the provisions of or under this act shall be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding four years and a fine not exceeding three million guilders.

#### Article 23

Subject to the provisions under the preceding article, the person who violates a prohibition imposed by or under this act shall be liable to a prison sentence not exceeding four years and a fine of at most three million guilders.

#### Article 24

If, however, as the person concerned knows or may reasonably suspect, any object with regard to which the act punishable under the two preceding articles is committed, is a bomb, hand grenade or similar firearm meant for explosion or for the dissemination of asphyxiating or poisonous gases, a flame thrower, a canon, a machinegun or a part of such weapon, a prison sentence not exceeding six years and a fine of at most five million guilders shall be imposed.

#### Article 25

The person who, when asked by one of the civil servants referred to in Article 30, wilfully denies to hold or conceals any goods, firearms or ammunition for import, transit or export by him shall be liable to a prison sentence not exceeding six months and a fine of at most fifty-thousand guilders.

#### Article 26

In the case of breach of Article 5 paragraph 7, Article 6 paragraph 3, Article 7 paragraphs 2 or 3, Article 13 paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, Article 17 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, and Article 21 paragraph 1, a prison sentence not exceeding six months and a fine of at most fifty thousand guilders shall be imposed.

#### Article 27

Deleted.

#### Article 28

The act punishable under articles 22, 23 and 24 shall be considered criminal acts and the acts punishable under Articles 25 and 26 shall be considered offences.

#### Article 29

If an act which is punishable under this Act, is committed by or on behalf of a general partnership, a company limited by shares, a corporate body or a foundation, the prosecution proceedings shall be brought against and the punishment shall be imposed on the general partners or the members of the board of directors.

No punishment shall be imposed on the general partner or the member of the board of directors if it appears that the act was committed through no fault of his.

#### Article 30

1. Apart from the persons designated under Article 134 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the civil servants on active duty with the tax authorities shall be charged with monitoring the dissemination of firearms and ammunition among the population and the detection of acts punishable under the present Act.
2. The civil servants referred to in the preceding paragraph, while executing the monitoring task entrusted to them, as well as the persons accompanying them for the purpose thereof, shall have free access to all places at all times, of which it can be reasonably suspected that firearms or ammunition may be found there.
3. If they are denied access, they may gain entry, if necessary with the assistance of the Police.
4. If the place is also a dwelling or only accessible via a dwelling, they shall not gain access against the will of the occupant other than on presentation of a written mandate, in Paramaribo from the Prosecutor General and in any District from the District Commissioner concerned.
5. Of such entry they shall draft an official report, within two times twenty-four hours, a copy of which report will be presented to the person whose house was entered.

#### Article 31

The investigating officers shall be authorized at all times to seize the goods eligible for seizure. They may thereto demand their delivery.

### TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 32

1. The persons who, at the entry into force of this act, keep one or more firearms and to whom under the provision repealed under this act a port d'armes has been issued in respect thereto, provided that they make such request within one month from the entry into force and on presentation of the port d'armes, shall be granted free of charge a firearms licence required under and in accordance with this act for each of the firearms falling under such port d'armes and referred to in said request.
2. The new firearms licence shall be granted for the remainder of the initial validity of the former port d'armes covering the firearms concerned.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall enter into force *mutatis mutandis* with respect to the keeping of ammunition upon the entry into force of this act.

### Article 33

1. No relevant prosecution proceedings shall be brought against the persons who, on the entry into force of this act, keep one or more firearms or ammunition which are not legally covered, if they apply for the legal authorization required under this act within one month from its entry into force.
2. If this authorization is not granted, the relevant order shall be considered a revocation of the authorization granted, with all its consequences under this act; as the period referred to in Article 13 paragraph 8 a time of 8 months shall apply, to be calculated from the date of the order under which the authorization was not granted.

### Article 34

1. Holders of pawn shops which on the day of the entry into force of the act hold firearms or ammunition in pledge, shall within one month from the entry into force of this act notify the District Commissioner of the City District thereof if the pawn shop is established in Paramaribo, and the District Commissioner concerned if the pawn shop is established in any district.
2. At the same time, the District Commissioner of the City District or the District Commissioner concerned shall be furnished a list stating the quantity and the type of the firearms and the ammunition and a description of the condition of every firearm.
3. Within the same term, such firearms and ammunition shall be surrendered to the District Commissioner of the City District or the District Commissioner concerned in whose custody they shall remain.
4. If the above has not been effected by the holder of the relevant pawn shop within a period of six months with due observance of the provisions of this act, the goods will revert, without any form of compensation, to the State and the Prosecutor General may order their destruction.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### Article 35

1. In the first paragraph of Article 72 of the Suriname Code of Criminal Procedure, after the words "Opium Act" shall be inserted the phrase "as well as in Article 22 of the Firearms Act, but only in case the suspect does not reside in Suriname within the meaning of the Act of 3 September 1915 - Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. 1916 No. 19,- in respect of residency, admission and deportation."
2. In the first paragraph of Article 37 of the Organization and Composition of the Judiciary in Suriname Regulation, as this article has since been amended - lastly by the Opium Act

(Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. 1928 No. 51) - under 3 after the words “Opium Act” shall be inserted the words: “as well as in Article 22 of the Firearms Act.”.

3. Articles 55, 56 and 57 of the publication of 23 April 1863 (Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. No. 10) providing for and promulgating the District Management in Suriname Regulation, as it reads according to Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. 1914 No. 48 and after the amendments since made - lastly by Act of 9 August 1926 (Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. No. 124) - are repealed.
4. The further obligations under the Regulations, intended in the previous paragraph, imposed in respect of firearms and ammunition, cease to apply insofar as they are contradictory to the provisions of this act.
5. The Act of 12 October 1898 (Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. No. 49) abolishing the fees for hunting licences, fishing licences and hawker licences, as since amended - lastly by Act of 14 February 1923 (Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. No. 36) - is repealed.
6. Article 67 of the Police Penal Code (Bulletin of Acts, Orders and Regulations G.B. 1915 No. 77) is repealed.

#### Article 36

This act may be cited as “Firearms Act”.

#### Article 37

This act shall enter into effect on a later date to be set by the President.