

Fact Sheet

International movements of weapons and war material for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings of June 6, 1944

The import, export, introduction and dispatch of weapons and war material are prohibited, unless otherwise expressly authorized. The authorizations to be obtained vary depending on the nature and category of the goods (see Article R.311-2 of the French Internal Security Code) such as defined by the legislative texts.

Exemptions may be granted under certain conditions, specified in the decree of July 8, 2015 for import flows and in the decree of June 2, 2014 for export flows towards a third country and for dispatch towards another member of the European Union.

The main exemptions are as follows:

- On Import:
 1. War material, weapons or their elements, temporarily imported, and the ammunition permanently imported for ceremonies or commemorations organized by a public entity and performed by foreign military personnel;
 2. War material classified in paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 of category A2 of aforementioned Internal Security Code, imported under the customs procedure of temporary admission, tracked vehicles or other tracked devices requiring transportation by another vehicle fitted with tires.
- On Re-Export/Re-Dispatch:
 1. The material re-exported following a temporary import for ceremonies or commemorations organized by a public entity and performed by foreign military personnel;
 2. War material classified in paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 of category A2 of aforementioned Internal Security Code, re-exported following temporary admission, tracked vehicles or other tracked devices requiring transportation by another vehicle fitted with tires.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide a summary of the various types of authorization as well as the cases for exemption. This document is purely indicative, only the provisions set out in the legislative texts are legally binding.

Vocabulary:

- AIMG: French authorization to import war material
- BNE: Banc National d'Épreuve (French weapon deactivation center)
- CSI: French Internal Security Code
- EFP: European Firearms Pass
- LEAF: French license to export firearms
- LEMG: French license to export war material
- LT/PT: license to transfer
- MS: Member State
- PA: prior agreement

80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings
Authorizations and exemptions according to the type of goods

	Flows with a non-EU country		Flows with an EU country	
	Import	Re-export	Introduction	Dispatch
I. 'Civilian' firearms, their ammunition and other elements from categories A1, B, C and D a, b, and c				
<i>Principle</i>	AIMG	LEAF	PA or AIMG	PT
<i>Exception</i>	Exemption possible	Exemption possible	No exemption possible	No exemption possible
- Specific case of neutralized weapons from the C9 category:				
	Authorization not required Must go through the BNE if not neutralized within the EU Proof of neutralization issued for customs clearance	Authorization not required	Authorization not required Must be marked and accompanied by a European neutralization certificate	Authorization not required Must be marked and accompanied by a European neutralization certificate
- Specific case for historical reenactors traveling to France, in possession of the EFP and invited to a cultural event:				
	Not applicable	Not applicable	Authorization by the Prefect not required up to the limit of three neutralized weapons	Not applicable
II. Category A2 war material or material specified in the decree of June 27, 2012				
<i>Principle</i>	AIMG	LEMG	LT from the MS of origin	French LT
<i>Exception</i>	Exemptions possible	Exemptions possible	AIMG (A2 par. 1 and 2)	No exemption possible
III. Historical and collectors' weapons and their reproductions from category D, e, f and g				
	Authorization not required Must go through the BNE Expert's report issued for customs clearance	Authorization not required (categories D e and D f) or LEAF (category D g)	Authorization not required Historical nature (categories D e and D g) or classification (category D f) must be justified	Authorization not required Historical nature (categories D e and D g) or classification (category D f) must be justified
IV. Collectible war material (neutralized) from category D k				
	Authorization not required Must go through the BNE Proof of neutralization issued for customs clearance	Authorization not required unless the items are specified in the decree of June 27, 2012	Authorization not required Neutralization in another MS must be certified by the BNE	Authorization not required unless the items are specified in the decree of June 27, 2012

Competent Authorities for Granting Authorizations

- Requests for the authorization to import war material, licenses to export firearms, prior authorization and transfer licenses must be sent to the Department for the Authorization of the International Movement of Weapons:

Service des Autorisations de Mouvements Internationaux d'Armes - SAMIA
11 rue des Deux Communes
93558 Montreuil CEDEX
samia-armes@douane.finances.gouv.fr

<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/>

<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/french-customs-information-available-english>

- Requests for export licenses for war material and transfer licenses must be sent to the Directorate-General for Armament by electronic format via the online service SIGALE:

Direction Générale de l'Armement - DGA
60, bd du général Martial Valin, CS 21623
75509 Paris Cedex 15

Telephone: +33 (0)1.45.52.76.35

<https://sigale.defense.gouv.fr>

- Requests for the neutralization or testing of weapons must be sent to the Banc National d'Épreuve in Saint-Étienne:

Banc National d'Epreuve
Zone Industrielle Molina La Chazotte
5 rue de Méons - CS 40147
42004 Saint-Etienne cedex 1 - FRANCE

Telephone: +33 (0)4.77.25.12.06
info@banc-epreuve.fr

<https://www.banc-epreuve.fr/>

<https://www.banc-epreuve.fr/en/homepage/>