



Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997

1997 CHAPTER 5

PART I

PROHIBITION OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AND CONTROL OF SMALL-CALIBRE PISTOLS

General prohibition of small firearms etc.

1 Extension of s.5 of the 1968 Act to prohibit certain small firearms etc.

- (1) Section 5 of the ^{M1}Firearms Act 1968 (referred to in this Act as “the 1968 Act”) shall have effect with the following amendments.
- (2) In subsection (1) (which describes weapons which are prohibited by section 5), after paragraph (ab) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
 - “(aba) any firearm which either has a barrel less than 30 centimetres in length or is less than 60 centimetres in length overall, other than an air weapon, a small-calibre pistol, a muzzle-loading gun or a firearm designed as signalling apparatus;”.
- (3) In paragraph (ab) (self-loading or pump-action rifles) of that subsection, for the word “rifle” there shall be substituted the words “rifled gun”.
- (4) In paragraph (ac) (self-loading and pump-action smooth-bore guns) after the word “not” there shall be inserted the words “an air weapon or”.
- (5) In paragraph (ad) (smooth-bore revolver guns), for the words from “loaded” to the end there shall be substituted the words “a muzzle-loading gun”.
- (6) After subsection (7) there shall be inserted the following subsections—
 - “(8) For the purposes of subsection (1)(aba) and (ac) above, any detachable, folding, retractable or other movable butt-stock shall be disregarded in measuring the length of any firearm.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

(9) Any reference in this section to a muzzle-loading gun is a reference to a gun which is designed to be loaded at the muzzle end of the barrel or chamber with a loose charge and a separate ball (or other missile).”

(7) The general prohibition by section 5 of the 1968 Act of firearms falling within subsection (1)(aba) of that section is subject to the special exemptions in sections 2 to 8 below.

[^{F1}(7A) In sections 2 to 7 below any reference to subsection (1)(aba) of section 5 of the 1968 Act shall include a reference to subsection (2A) of that section as it applies in relation to a firearm specified in subsection (1)(aba) of that section.

(7B) In section 8 below the reference to subsection (1)(aba), (b) or (c) of section 5 of the 1968 Act shall include a reference to subsection (2A) of that section as it applies in relation to any weapon or ammunition specified in subsection (1)(aba), (b) or (c) of that section.]

(8) In sections 2 to 8 below any reference to a firearm certificate shall include a reference to a visitor’s firearm permit.

^{F2}(9)

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 1(7A)(7B) inserted (14.7.2014) by [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(c. 12\)](#), **ss. 108(9)**, 185(1) (with [ss. 21, 33, 42, 58, 75, 93](#)); [S.I. 2014/949](#), art. 6(a)

F2 S. 1(9) repealed (1.2.1998) by [1997 c. 64, s. 2\(7\)](#), **Sch.**; [S.I.1997/3114](#), arts. 4, 5, **Sch. Pt. II**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 1(3) excluded (10.6.1997) by [S.I. 1997/1535](#), arts. 3(b), 5, **Sch. Pt. I**

Commencement Information

I1 S. 1 wholly in force at 1.7.1997; s. 1 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 53(3)(4); s. 1 in force at 1.7.1997 by [S.I. 1997/1535](#), art. 3(b), **Sch. Pt. I** (with effect as mentioned in [arts. 4, 4A](#) (as amended by [S.I. 1997/1536](#), **art. 2**) of the commencing Act)

Marginal Citations

M1 [1968 c. 27](#).

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997, Section 1.