

1983 No. 1899 (N.I. 20)

NORTHERN IRELAND

**The Firearms
(Northern Ireland) Order 1983**

<i>Made</i>	21st December 1983
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	11th January 1984
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	22nd February 1984

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 21st day of December 1983

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Whereas this Order is made only for purposes corresponding to the purposes of the Firearms Act 1982:

1982 c. 31

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974 (as modified by section 3 of the said Act of 1982) and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1974 c. 28

Title, citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

(2) This Order and the principal Order may be cited together as the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Orders 1981 and 1983.

(3) This Order shall come into operation on the expiration of the period of two months from the day on which it is made.

Interpretation

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 shall apply to Article 1 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1954 c. 33
(N.I.)

(2) In this Order “the principal Order” means the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

S.I. 1981/155
(N.I. 2)

(3) Subject to Article 4(2), any expression given a meaning for the purposes of the principal Order has the same meaning in this Order.

Imitation firearms to which this Order applies

3.—(1) This Order applies to an imitation firearm if it is so constructed or adapted as to be readily convertible into a firearm.

(2) For the purposes of this Order an imitation firearm shall be regarded as readily convertible into a firearm if—

- (a) it can be so converted without any special skill on the part of the person converting it in the construction or adaptation of firearms of any description; and
- (b) the work involved in converting it does not require equipment or tools other than such as are in common use by persons carrying out works of construction and maintenance in their own homes.

Control of imitation firearms to which this Order applies

4.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Article, the principal Order shall apply in relation to an imitation firearm to which this Order applies as it applies in relation to a firearm; and references in the principal Order to a firearm shall be construed accordingly.

(2) For the purposes of this Order and the principal Order as it applies by virtue of this Order, the definition of “firearm” in Article 2(2) of the principal Order shall apply as if paragraphs (b) and (c) of that definition were omitted.

(3) The following provisions of the principal Order do not apply by virtue of this Order to an imitation firearm to which this Order applies, that is to say—

- (a) Article 5(3) (offence to convert anything having appearance of firearm into a firearm); and
- (b) Articles 17 to 21 and 46 (provisions relating to, or to the enforcement of control over, the manner in which a firearm is used or the circumstances in which it is carried);

but without prejudice, in the case of the provisions mentioned in sub-paragraph (b), to the application to such an imitation firearm of such of those provisions as apply to imitation firearms apart from this Order.

(4) In any proceedings brought by virtue of this Article for an offence under the principal Order involving an imitation firearm to which this Order applies, it shall be a defence for the accused to show that he did not know and had no reason to suspect that the imitation firearm was so constructed or adapted as to be readily convertible into a firearm.

N. E. Leigh,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order applies the provisions of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (with certain exceptions) to imitation firearms which are readily convertible into firearms.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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