



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.

VALID FROM 01/07/1997

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—

Status: Point in time view as at 17/03/1997. This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997, Cross Heading: General prohibition of small firearms etc.. (See end of Document for details)

“(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.

(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.

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

(9) In section 57 of the 1968 Act (interpretation), after subsection (1) there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(1A) In this Act “small-calibre pistol” means—

- (a) a pistol chambered for .22 or smaller rim-fire cartridges; or
- (b) an air pistol to which section 1 of this Act applies and which is designed to fire .22 or smaller diameter ammunition.”

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

II 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.

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