
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Firearms Act 1968, the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988, the Firearms Rules 1998 and the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (“the Firearms legislation”) for the purpose of implementing the requirements of Directive [2008/51/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (O.J. No. L179, 8.7.2008, page 5) (“the 2008 Directive”), which amends Council Directive No. [91/477/EEC](#) on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (O.J. No. L256, 13.9.1991, page 51) (“the 1991 Directive”).

Regulations 2, 3, 4 and 5 amend the Firearms legislation in order to implement article 5(a) of the 1991 Directive as amended by article 1(4) of the 2008 Directive, which restrict the acquisition and possession of firearms by persons under the age of 18. Article 5(a) permits a person under the age of 18 to acquire a firearm only by means other than purchase, and to acquire or possess a firearm only in certain circumstances, the relevant ones for the purposes of these Regulations being where the person has parental permission or is under the supervision of a licensed adult.