

Council Directive of 18 June 1991 on control of the
acquisition and possession of weapons (91/477/EEC)

CHAPTER 3

Formalities for the movement of weapons within the [F2Union]

Article 12

1 If the procedure provided for in Article 11 is not employed, the possession of a firearm during a journey through two or more Member States shall not be permitted unless the person concerned has obtained the authorization of each of those Member States.

Member States may grant such authorization for one or more journeys for a maximum period of one year, subject to renewal. Such authorizations shall be entered on the European firearms pass, which the traveller must produce whenever so required by the authorities of the Member States.

2 [F1[F2Notwithstanding paragraph 1, hunters and historical re-enactors, in respect of firearms classified in category C, and target shooters, in respect of firearms classified in category B or C and firearms classified in category A for which an authorisation has been granted under Article 6(6) or for which the authorisation has been confirmed, renewed or prolonged under Article 7(4a), may, without the prior authorisation referred to in Article 11(2), be in possession of one or more firearms during a journey through two or more Member States with a view to engaging in their activities, provided that:

- (a) they are in possession of a European firearms pass listing such firearm or firearms; and
- (b) they are able to substantiate the reasons for their journey, in particular by producing an invitation or other proof of their hunting, target shooting or historical re-enactment activities in the Member State of destination.]

Member States may not make acceptance of a European firearms pass conditional upon the payment of any fee or charge.]

[F2However, this derogation shall not apply to journeys to a Member State that, pursuant to Article 8(3), either prohibits the acquisition and possession of the firearm in question or makes it subject to authorisation. In that case, an express statement to that effect shall be entered on the European firearms pass. Member States may also refuse the application of this derogation in the case of firearms classified in category A for which an authorisation has been granted under Article 6(6) or for which the authorisation has been confirmed, renewed or prolonged under Article 7(4a).]

In the context of the report referred to in Article 17, the Commission in consultation with the Member States, will also consider the effects of applying the second subparagraph, particularly as regards its impact on public order and public security.

3 Under agreements for the mutual recognition of national documents, two or more Member States may provide for arrangements more flexible than those prescribed in this Article for movement with firearms within their territories.

Status: EU Directives are being published on this site to aid cross referencing from UK legislation. After IP completion day (31 December 2020 11pm) no further amendments will be applied to this version.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2008/51/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.
- F2** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2017/853](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (Text with EEA relevance).