



Media Release – 22 August 2025

SAGA ALERT 2 | FCA AMENDMENTS: States Non-Inclusive Firearm Policy Discussions !

Issued by the SAGA Board of Trustees

NEDLAC Steps Into Firearm Legislation Without Any Firearms Industry Consultation

The South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) notes with deep concern recent developments indicating that the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) is brokering discussions on the Firearms Control Amendment Bill (FCA Bill).

An internal NEDLAC notice to Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) members outlines plans for a NEDLAC task team to deliberate on potential sweeping changes to South Africa's firearm laws before the Bill is even submitted to Parliament, including proposals to:

- **Tighten firearm regulation by reducing privately-owned firearms;**
- **Impose stricter licensing requirements for self-defence firearms;**
- **Further regulate private security firearm use;**
- **Enforce new storage, transport and justification requirements for all firearm licences.**

If there is a new draft FCA Bill, we have some serious questions needing answers:

1. **Why** the secrecy?
2. **Why** has this not been released to the general public, the firearm community and firearms industry?
3. **Why** is access to the draft FCA Bill being restricted to only certain organisations, why these organisations and what jurisdiction do they have?
4. **Why** has there been no engagement or consultation, with any of the firearms organisations directly affected?

Despite the fact that the amendments directly threaten the livelihoods, rights and safety of those who work in, rely on and sustain this multi-billion-rand industry.



What Is NEDLAC's Role In Society?

The National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) is a statutory forum created under the NEDLAC Act, 1994. Its core function is to facilitate dialogue between government, business, labour and community organisations on **socio-economic and labour matters**. It considers labour legislation, workplace policy and industrial/economic strategy **not firearms legislation**.

NEDLAC is **not SAPS, not the Civilian Secretariat for Police and not Parliament!**

Why This Matters:

By convening a task team on the Firearms Control Amendment Bill, NEDLAC is:

- Operating **outside its legal mandate**,
- Usurping the role of Parliament and the Police Ministry, and
- Excluding those with **direct constitutional, economic and public safety interest** in lawful firearm ownership.

The Hard Truth:

Firearm regulation affects certain **constitutional rights and is a public safety issue**. As a result, government should be actively consulting who are directly affected by a proposed FCA Bill - the firearms industry.

"This is not just inappropriate — it is procedurally illegitimate."

Johnathon Deal, Safe Citizen Alliance

The NEDLAC notice explicitly states:

"The Bill aims to tighten firearm regulation in South Africa by reducing the number of privately owned guns and enhancing oversight mechanisms... targeting more rigorous regulation of private security firearm use and revisiting the requirements for self-defence firearm ownership, signalling a shift toward more restrictive licensing conditions."

Firearm regulation is a public safety, constitutional rights and sector-specific economic matter. It is NOT a labour relations or industrial policy issue. NEDLAC's statutory purpose is economic and labour policy dialogue. It should NOT be dealing with firearm legislation or diminishing the rights of lawful citizens. We agree with *Safe Citizen*; NEDLAC's intervention in firearms law is procedurally inappropriate and democratically suspect.

BUSA Must Answer For Its Role

If the NEDLAC-led process proceeds without the firearms sector present; BUSA risks being complicit in closed-door negotiations that undermine:

- Lawful firearms industry;
- Private security sector;
- Rural safety and food security;
- Economic contribution of hunting, sport shooting, collecting, and conservation.

If BUSA claims to represent the interests of business, it must explain why it has not insisted on the inclusion of the firearms sector in these 'talks'?

Undermining The Firearms Sector Without Consultation

We will **actively resist** any attempt to reshape the Firearms Control Act without direct engagement with those most affected; namely:

- Law-abiding firearm owners;
- Accredited hunting, sport shooting, collecting, and training bodies;



- Private security industry, which relies on lawful, regulated firearms to protect South Africans where the police cannot.

Any amendments driven without direct, structured sector engagement are **illegitimate and will be publicly and aggressively opposed**.

Disarming The Law-Abiding Does Not Disarm Criminals

No credible crime-reduction strategy is served by removing tools of defence from citizens while illegal firearms pour across porous borders. Restricting lawful ownership does nothing to address:

- SAPS's annual loss of thousands of firearms;
- Smuggling from neighbouring states;
- Illicit black-market supply that arms violent criminals.

Our Position Is Unambiguous:

1. **NO** consultation on any proposed firearm law should take place without the firearm sector at the table.
2. NEDLAC has **NO jurisdiction** in this policy space.
3. BUSA **MUST** account publicly for its participation in this process.

South Africa does not need more backroom deals, hidden drafts, or proxy decision-making. It needs transparent, accountable, fact-based firearm policy - grounded in reality, not ideology or political agenda. **We simply will NOT stand for it!**

In Summary

The South African firearms industry and community is a strategic economic pillar ^{refer annexed sector} and a public safety asset. Any legislative amendments impacting this sector without the industry's direct participation - risks damaging the economy, shedding more jobs, rural livelihoods, conservation funding AND importantly the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves.

*Endorsed by the SAGA Board of Trustees,
a trusted voice in the firearms sector for over four decades.*



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Acknowledgements:

- Drafted by SMS Lyle, endorsed by the Board
- Safe Citizen Alliance response to Busa, 8th August 2025
- SAGA Media Release: "SAGA notes NEDLAC consultation on Firearms Legislation," 18 August 2025



Annexure:

Economic Benefits of the South African Firearms Sector

1. Direct Economic Contribution

- **Annual turnover:** Estimated R2–3 billion in direct retail sales of firearms, ammunition, and accessories.
- **Employment:** Over 9,000 direct jobs in retail, gunsmithing, ranges, training, and related services.
- **Tax revenues:** Generates over R150 million annually in firearm licensing fees (SAPS, 2023) plus substantial VAT, corporate tax, and customs duties.

2. Private Security Sector

- **Market value:** Exceeds R50 billion annually.
- **Employment:** Over 577,000 registered security officers, plus ~2 million auxiliary/reserve security personnel.
- **Dependence on lawful firearms** for armed response, guarding, VIP protection, cash-in-transit, and rural safety.

3. Hunting & Conservation Economy

- **Economic scale:**
 - PHASA 2022: R14.2 billion annually.
 - Daily Maverick 2024: up to R45 billion annually when including eco-tourism spin-offs.
- **Conservation role:** Hunting revenue funds anti-poaching, land management, and preservation of endangered species like rhino.
- **Rural impact:** Critical income for rural communities, lodges, outfitters, and wildlife ranchers.

4. Sport Shooting & Training

- **Participation:** Tens of thousands of members across accredited associations (e.g., SAPSA, NSA, SA Hunters, Natshoot).
- **Spending:** Range fees, competition hosting, training courses, firearms, ammunition, and travel.
- **Skills development:** Builds safety competence, discipline, and marksmanship — transferable to security and conservation roles.

5. Firearms Collecting & Heritage Preservation

- Supports specialist auctions, appraisers, and collectors' associations.
- Preserves military, cultural, and technological heritage for museums, education, and tourism.

6. Wider Economic & Social Value

- **Rural stability:** Armed farm security reduces crime risk, sustains food production, and anchors rural economies.
- **Tourism:** Hunting and shooting events attract domestic and international visitors.
- **Upstream/Downstream industries:** Metalwork, optics, leather goods, security systems, logistics, and legal services.

As previously published by SAGA

