



# SAGA SNIPPETS

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## Meeting With CFR

### Service Delivery:

During a recent meeting with Brig Mabule, the Head of the CFR, it emerged that no real inroads have been made to improve service delivery by the CFR. In fact, Brig Mabule stated that he intends requesting the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police to extend the service delivery period of 90 days for the processing of license (and other) applications, since it is currently not possible to meet these deadlines.

During 2012 the CFR agreed to a 90 day turn-around strategy – from the date of receipt of a fully completed application by the DFO, through the processing thereof by the various role players, to the return of the license cards to the respective DFOs. The fact that no additional funding (for additional staff and other resources) will be forthcoming from Treasury will probably contribute to further delays. SAGA is still of the view that the agreed turn-around time is reasonable, but we understand that certain issues may complicate applications, in which case a longer period could be expected. Members are advised to make enquiries at the 24-hour helpdesk at 012-353-6111 or [cfrenquiry@saps.gov.za](mailto:cfrenquiry@saps.gov.za)

### Collectors:

SAGA members are probably aware that only people who meet the rigorous criteria of sections 17 and 18 of the FCA can be declared private collectors of firearms and ammunition.

Although firearm licenses are regularly being issued for collectors,

no permits to collect ammunition have been issued for the last 2 to 3 years. It now appears that, due to unknown reasons (could be cost or the absence of an appropriate programme), these permit cards are no longer issued. Since these permits are important for ammunition collectors (they regularly obtain or dispose of cartridges that fit into their collections), Brig Mabule undertook to issue paper permits. NAACCSA (National Arms and Ammunition Collectors Association of SA) will communicate with ammunition collectors to ensure that all those who have not yet received their permits, enquire about them.

### Late License Renewals:

Members will recall the SAGA media statement of 12 February 2016 in which we commented on the process that was, according to the Acting National Commissioner of Police, to be followed should a person wish to apply for the renewal of a license that has already expired. Although the National Commissioner stated that such a firearm should be surrendered to the police, he did not say anything about applying for their license. Our advice was that such an affected person should apply for a new license since the previous one is no longer valid. Brig Mabule was not prepared to comment on our proposals since, it seems, there is pending legal action against the police on this issue. SAGA will carefully monitor the situation and then take a decision whether

it should join any legal action against the police.

### Simultaneous applications:

Since Brig Mabule had issued an instruction on 8 February 2016 that applications for new competency certificates and new licenses may not be submitted simultaneously, we informed him that he had omitted to draw a distinction between new applications and applications for renewals.

He agreed that the law allows an applicant who wishes to *renew* their license and competency certificate to do it at the same time. With regard to *new* applications, his attitude is that it is a waste of time and money if the application for a license is submitted together with the application for a competency certificate. This is because the competency must be dealt with and issued before the license can even be attended to. Accordingly, members are advised that when they wish to renew their competency certificate and license(s), they may do that simultaneously, but when they apply for a first competency certificate, they need to obtain that first before applying for the license for the firearm, as provided for by the FCA.

*By John Welch*



## HuntEx 2016 Gallagher Estate 14-17 April

HuntEx, die grootste gebeurtenis in die jag-, wild-, en vuurwapen-industrie is om die draai! Meer as 43 000 mense het die HuntEx-skou in 2015 besoek en na verwagting gaan 2016 se skou hierdie getal oortref.

Besoek ons stalletjie, nommer 267 in Saal 2, en maak seker jy koop 'n looitjie vir R5.00, vir 'n Warthog V-SHARP® Classic II messkerpmaker ter waarde van R550.00.

Donderdag 14 April is slegs op uitnodiging beskikbaar. Die 'VIP' kaartjies vir die dag (10:00 - 17:00) word aanlyn te koop aangebied. Gaan asseblief na: [huntex.net/be-ready-vip](http://huntex.net/be-ready-vip), vir die uitnodiging, beperkte kaartjies is beskikbaar.

Vrydag, 15 April - R180.00 (9:00 tot 18:00)  
Saterdag, 16 April - R180.00 (8:00 tot 17:00)



Sondag, 17 April 2016 - R120.00 (09:00 tot 16:00)  
Plek: Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, Gauteng

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HuntEx, the biggest event for hunters, shooters, game farmers and firearm dealers, is only six weeks away. More than 43 000 people visited the show dur-

ing 2015 and it is expected that this year the numbers will increase.

Visit our stand, number 267 in Hall 2, and make sure you get your raffle ticket to win a superb Warthog V-SHARP® Classic knife sharpener valued at R550.

Thursday 14 April is by invitation only. The VIP tickets for this day (10:00-17:00) are available to buy online now. Please go the link for this limited offer : [huntex.net/be-ready-vip](http://huntex.net/be-ready-vip)

Friday, 15 April - R180.00 (9:00 till 18:00)  
Saturday, 16 April - R180.00 (8:00 till 17:00)  
Sunday, 17 April 2016 - R120.00 (09:00 till 16:00)

Venue: Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, Gauteng,

For more information go to: [www.huntex.net](http://www.huntex.net)

## Report Back: HuntEx Cape Game Fair

Held on 26-28 February 2016 at the Rhebokskloof Wine Estate, Paarl

The event was fairly well attended on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Lance Allam and Johan Volschenk did duty at the SAGA stand on Friday, whilst Phillip Jackson, Wessel van Breda, Daniel Badenhorst, Damian Enslin and Pierre de Villiers did their duty on the Saturday. Unfortunately due to the unexpected ill health of our lead volunteer, SAGA was not able to host a stand on the Sunday. We apologise to any member who looked for our stand on that day but could not find us.

A number of new SAGA members were signed up on both days.

The primary concern of the general public was the issue concerning the new directive from the Acting National Commissioner with respect to the expiry of licences and the non-acceptance of late licence renewals. There were also questions regarding advice for self-defence licences as well as general queries regarding sports shooting licences.

On the whole, the event was a great success and we were able to inform the general public of their rights concerning firearms ownership and use, as well as assist with

whatever advice we could give concerning firearms in general. There were a couple of queries regarding Estate firearms and the process of transferring Estate firearms.

All in all we believe that having the SAGA stand at the HuntEx Cape Game Fair was a benefit to the general public who attended as it was an easy opportunity for the general public to ask various questions that they may not have had an opportunity to deal with.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who assisted - the SAGA stand a great success.

## Buying and Selling a Firearm: What is an FFL?

by OutdoorHub - Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Are you planning a gun purchase? Many of our readers are already familiar with the process with buying and selling firearms, but what if you're a first-time gun buyer? The prospect of purchasing a gun can be intimidating, especially if you don't know how the process works. In this multi-part series, we'll explore the very basics to buying and selling guns, and why it's not as complicated as it sounds. Step by step, we will take a look at what an FFL is, how to conduct private sales, how gun shows work, what you should know about online or interstate sales, as well as gifting a firearm. Purchasing or selling a firearm should not be stressful, but there are plenty of things to learn about beforehand, such as background checks. Don't let what you hear on the news fool you, gun buyers do have to go through background checks, whether they are at a shop or a gun show.

As the title suggests, this part focuses on the FFL. Even if you're new to the concept of purchasing or selling a firearm, you might have heard this abbreviation before. So what is it and why is it important? Well, FFL stands for Federal Firearms License. Established to implement the Federal Firearms Act of 1938, there are several types of FFLs, ranging from Type 1 to Type 11. Generally, all firearm manufacturers and dealers who ship or receive guns and ammunition require an FFL to conduct business, and it forbids them from transferring these items to a customer unless certain conditions are met.

Okay, so why is it important to the average gun buyer? This is where background checks come in. FFL dealers have to abide by a strict set of rules and regulations, including validating the customer's identity. Before you are able

to complete your purchase of a firearm, federal law requires that you have a photo ID and to fill out ATF Form 4473, otherwise known as the Firearms Transaction Record. The FFL holder needs to have a log of these forms to show to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives if necessary. After filling out the form, the FFL will then run a personal background check on you through the federal system, called the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The NICS provides the dealer with status on your application: approve, deny, or delay. The process can be very quick, but this is not always guaranteed.

There can be any number of reasons why an application can be delayed, and it does not always mean that you have been denied for gun ownership. It simply means that the NICS, which is operated by the FBI, needs more information before either approving or denying your application. For example, if your name or information is similar to someone who is prohibited from owning a firearm, then your application may be delayed. Your FFL dealer will inform you when the background check is completed. The NICS is afforded three days to complete its research. If the delay takes too long, you can file an appeal on it, although the FBI recommends waiting 30 days beforehand.

A denial means you will not be able to purchase a firearm. If you are still interested in completing the purchase, find out why your application is denied. There is an appeal process for denials, and according to the National Rifle Association (NRA), a significant number of cases result in the decision being ultimately overturned. So if you think your denial was made in error, it is worth fighting it.

Lastly, an approval means that you are able to complete your firearm purchase and an authorization code will be marked on your paperwork.

That's it. The process may seem daunting for first-time gun buyers, but it is really simple. If there's anything you don't understand, be sure to ask your FFL dealer and they will be able to guide you through the process.

It should be noted that at one time, gun control supporters actually opposed the NICS system in favor of a much longer waiting period on handgun purchases — up to five days! The NRA instead supported an instant national background check system, although the technology was only in its infancy at the time, and helped to get it passed.

To learn more about state and federal firearm laws, visit [www.nraila.com](http://www.nraila.com). The NRA's Institute for Legislative Action website has a detailed list of laws and regulations for every state, as well as up-to-date news on firearm-related issues. If you're curious about how to transport your guns across state lines, or in what establishments you can carry a concealed firearm, the NRA-ILA website will offer a wealth of information.

<http://www.outdoorhub.com/how-to/2016/02/22/buying-and-selling-a-firearm-what-is-an-ffl/>

## Scotland Sets July Deadline for Airgun Licensing



<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20160304/scotland-sets-july-deadline-for-airgun-licensing>

Friday, March 4, 2016

In a sad turn, the home of the Scottish Enlightenment continues to adopt benighted gun controls. On June 25, 2015, the Scottish Parliament passed the Air Weapons and Licensing Act, with Royal assent following on August 4. The legislation requires airgun owners to acquire a certificate or permit to continue to possess the devices. Late last week, Scottish officials announced July 1, 2016 as the deadline for obtaining the required documentation.

Specifically, the law makes it "an offence for a person to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon without holding an air weapon certificate." If convicted, a violator faces up to two years in prison.

An applicant for an air weapon certificate must be at least 14 years of age and have a "verifier," who "in the opinion of the chief constable, [is] of good standing in the community," attest to the veracity of the application. Law enforcement has significant discretion in issuing an air weapon certificate, requiring that the chief constable be "satisfied" that the applicant "is fit to be entrusted

with an air weapon," and "has good reason for using, possessing, purchasing or acquiring an air weapon." In considering an application, police may "visit the applicant at the applicant's usual place of residence," and "inspect any place where the applicant intends to store or use an air weapon." A certificate may be revoked under similarly nebulous circumstances. If granted, the certificate is valid for five years, or in the case of minor, until the holder turns 18.

Alternatively, law enforcement may issue a "police permit," "visitor permit," or "event permit" in order for those lacking an air weapon certificate to possess or acquire an airgun.

Back in November 2014, Scottish Police Federation General Secretary Calum Steele pointed out some of the problems with increasing the restrictions on airguns. Steele stated that the legislation was "not something that can be glibly dismissed as having little impact on the police service," going on to note, "Adding the burden of having to deal with potentially up to 500,000 air weapons... is something that needs to be properly understood." Steele went on to explain that otherwise well-meaning individuals were likely to be ensnared by the new rules, remarking, "I suspect that there are many people - possibly tens of thousands of individuals - out there who may well find themselves falling foul of the criminal justice system because of licensing offences, something that has never featured before."

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation reiterated some of Steele's concerns last week, telling the BBC, "The six months 'lead in' period (before a certificate becomes a legal requirement) is shorter than we had anticipated and may present a challenge to Police Scotland staff, who will administer the new regime."

In a release justifying the new legislation as a means of combatting "anti-social behavior," the government also announced a corresponding airgun turn-in program. Police Scotland Assistant Chief Constable Mark Williams stated that police "will launch an air weapons surrender campaign later this year."

The Scottish government has been encouraging subjects to surrender their airguns for over a decade. In 2005, Scotland ran a campaign telling residents "If You Don't Need It, Get Shot of It." Intimidating pamphlets apprised Scots of the already severe restrictions on airguns, and told them, "If you don't need an airgun, then give your neighbours a helping hand. Hand it in to the police."

Unfortunately, Scotland isn't the only part of the Anglosphere that has adopted absurd airgun restrictions. In Australia, air rifles are typically placed in the same licensing category as certain shotguns and rimfire rifles, and require a Category A firearms license to possess. The process to own even Category A firearms is intrusive, including an onerous application process.

**Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets**

## .....Continued Scotland Sets July Deadline for Airgun Licensing

The folly of the Australian scheme was brought into stark relief in early February, when the Townsville Crocodiles of Australia's National Basketball league were informed by the Queensland Police Service that their compressed-air-powered t-shirt cannon was in fact a Category B weapon, akin to a centerfire rifle. The harmless device had been used by Townsville mascot The Croc to fire t-shirts into the crowd during breaks in the game.

Following confiscation of the device, Townsville General Manager Rob Honan told a reporter, "The

ballistics unit informed the venue that essentially it was a category B weapon and it needed to be handed in, otherwise people in possession of it would be prosecuted." Honan went on to add, "I think you would be clutching at straws to think you could hurt someone... I think you would not get enough buildup of gas, it's just a PVC pipe, so it is not like a gun as such. This is really just a mechanism to get giveaways to the back of the crowd."

Praise for England is rare for this journal, however, the remainder of the United Kingdom should be mildly saluted for, as of yet, not

enacting a Scottish-type airgun regime throughout the country. For Americans, Scotland and Australia's foolish airgun schemes should stand as another reminder of the anti-gun advocates' insatiable impulse for control.

## Mark Barnes Honoured



SAGA recently honoured Mark Barnes with Life Membership of SAGA for the unpaid work he does on our behalf at various WFSA, UN and related meetings and events around the world. His representation and participation ensures SAGA has a voice on the international firearms lobby stage and for this we are very grateful.

Mark Barnes is a respected U.S. lawyer with over 30 years experience in government and private sector practice. For the past twenty-five years he has owned and operated a successful law firm focusing on firearms, weapons, and explosives law.

As an avid sports shooter, his interest in the firearms trade is both personal as well as professional. Mr Barnes is dedicated to assisting and supporting law-abiding firearm manufacturers, importers, dealers, and owners around the world.

He is involved with multiple organizations that work to support legislation, regulation, and policies that are fair and reasonable to responsible firearm owners.

Accordingly, Mr Barnes has had the pleasure of representing SAGA at the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA) and is proud to participate in an organization that seeks to impact the international shooting community in a positive way.

SAGA thanks Mr Barnes for his service to South African gunowners.

## Flawed Study Exposes Broader Problems in Anti-gun Research

Friday, 11 March 2016

The anti-gun press couldn't contain their excitement. A new study published in the UK's prestigious *The Lancet* medical journal purported to show that certain gun control measures could lead to incredible reductions in the firearm mortality rate. CNN blared, "Study: 3 federal laws could reduce gun deaths by more than 90%," the *L.A. Times* touted, "Aiming to drive down gun deaths? Put these three laws on the books, researchers say," and the *Christian Science Monitor* proclaimed, "Federal gun control laws could reduce deaths up to 90 percent, study says." What these outlets weren't anticipating is that the study has proven so flawed that the most influential members of the anti-gun research community have been forced to denounce it; lest the public realize the larger problems attendant to the entire field of study.

The controversial study is titled, "Firearm legislation and firearm mortality in the USA: a cross-sectional, state-level study," and was authored by a team led by epidemiologist Bindu Kalesan of Boston University's Department of Medicine and School of Public Health. The researchers attempted to determine the effects that more than two dozen different types of gun control measures - ranging from fingerprinting requirements to child access laws - had on homicide mortality, suicide mortality, and overall firearm mortality rates. As has been the focus of the laudatory news items, the researchers concluded that implementation of a federal "universal" background check law, in concert with federal ammunition background checks and "firearm identification requirements," could reduce overall firearm mortality by more than 90 percent.

Unsurprisingly, most media outlets have given less attention to the research team's findings pertaining to a host of other gun controls. The team found many gun control measures have little, no, or even a detrimental effect on firearm mortality rates.

According to the study, gun dealer licensing, dealer state record reporting requirements, dealer police inspections, gun owner fingerprinting, closing of the "gun show loophole," ammunition purchaser recordkeeping, child handgun restrictions, child access laws, juvenile handgun purchases, magazine bans, and may-issue carry permits, have little to no effect on firearm-related deaths. Further, their results show, semi-auto bans, firearms locks, "bulk purchase limitations," and mandatory theft reporting, increase firearm-related deaths.

Likely fearing the flawed study will result in a massive backlash that could further expose the shortcomings of their own work, the anti-gun research community has turned on Kalesan, her team, and *The Lancet*.

Daniel Webster, director of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Gun Policy and Research, told the *Washington Post*, "Briefly, this is not a credible study and no cause and effect inferences should be made from it." Webster is later quoted, stating, "What I find both puzzling and troubling is this very flawed piece of research is published in one of the most prestigious scientific journals around... Something went awry here, and it harms public trust."

David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, said of the findings,

"That's too big - I don't believe that." Pouring cold water on the schemes of politicians peddling gun controls as societal cure-alls, Hemenway went on to tell the *Post*, "These laws are not that strong. I would just be flabbergasted; I'd bet the house if you did [implement] these laws, if you had these three laws and enforced them really well and reduced gun deaths by 10 percent, you'd be ecstatic." Offering a glimpse into the broader deficiencies of the field, Hemenway told *U.S. News & World Report*, "I could find serious problems with virtually any U.S. study about gun laws."

This bout of public infighting and candid admissions as to the credibility of the entire field of gun violence research should give the public and policymakers pause when presented with studies supporting further gun restrictions. As Webster so eloquently alluded to, the peer-review process and stature of a journal offer little indication of the veracity of its contents when it comes to the politically-charged topic of gun control. Further, this episode provides important evidence as to why NRA works with federal lawmakers to ensure that this type of shoddy and politically motivated research is not federally funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is bad enough that such defective anti-gun research finds its way into distinguished publications, without forcing the taxpayer to foot the bill.

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20160311/flawed-study-from-the-prestigious-lancet-exposes-broader-problems-in-anti-gun-research>