

Firearms & Ammunition

We recommend that you bring your own rifles.

For hunting Elephant, Buffalo and Hippo the minimum legal caliber is .375

For hunting Eland, Crocodile and Lion the minimum legal caliber is .300

For hunting medium size game the minimum legal caliber is .270

Most of your shooting will be done with a medium caliber rifle from .270 to .375. Distances that you will be shooting will be between 80 to 300 yards. We encourage hunters to avoid using extremely high velocity rifles. In most cases, heavier bullets perform better on tough skinned animals. African game is large and tough, and good penetration is essential for clean kills. Good bullets to consider are Swift A-Frame, Barnes X and Trophy Bonded bullets. It is important to have the correct ammunition pouches for the ammunition that you will be carrying.

All Airlines require firearms and ammunition be declared and checked-in. Firearms should be securely cased and packed unloaded. Ammunition needs to be in a separate locked box that can be placed in your check-in luggage. Upon check-in, you must advise the commercial airlines that you are traveling with firearms and ammunition. Each airline has strict restrictions as to weight and packing. Please check with the appropriate airline or your travel agent as to their particular regulations at least **six weeks** before your intended departure.

IMPORTING FIREARMS INTO ZIMBABWE

Documentation for temporary importation of firearms into Zimbabwe is simple; a temporary firearms import permit will be issued to you by Zimbabwe customs on arrival at Harare International Airport. Please ensure it is completed in four copies.

You can temporarily import a maximum of **4 firearms per hunter** but not more than 1 of the same calibre. No fully automatic, semi-automatic or custom-made handguns can be imported. The maximum amount of ammunition allowed is 100 rounds per firearm. Recommended amounts for a heavy rifle are, 40 rounds of expanding bullets, and 10 rounds of full metal jacket bullets. For a medium rifle, 60 rounds of expanding bullets. Some medium caliber solid ammunition is useful for hunting small game such as Duiker, Steenbok, Klipspringer and the small cats.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS INTO ZIMBABWE

- A **letter of invitation from your outfitter** confirming his outfitter licence number, the hunt dates, location of the hunt, species you will be hunting, and the firearms he suggests you bring for the hunt (appropriate calibres for the species).
- Proof of Ownership:
 - For **US citizens**, a Notarised copy US Customs Form 4457 **OR** a letter from your local sheriff in the form of an affidavit confirming ownership **OR** an invoice from the gun shop where you purchased the firearms.
 - **Other Nationality Hunters**. A copy of your firearms licence. In addition to this a Notarised copy of the documentary **proof of export of the firearms** in the form of a letter from your local Police or Customs office confirming there is no objection to taking your firearms out of the country. Letter must be on a Police Department/Customs letterhead.

Please note, a Notarised copy of a document must **be stamped and signed by a Notary Public, stating that the document is a true copy** of the original.

TRAVELLING THROUGH OLIVER TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA) TO ZIMBABWE

Hunters passing through South Africa and/or overnighing there will be required to their firearms. There is **no fee** required to obtain a firearm permit in South Africa.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR TEMPORARY IMPORTING FIREARMS INTO SOUTH AFRICA:

- Application Form **SAPS520**
- **Notarised copy** of the photograph & signature page of your passport. Please make sure you have a minimum of two free pages in your passport and a passport validity of six months after returning home.
- **Notarised copy** of proof of ownership of the firearm(s) –
 - US Customs Form 4457 or Firearm Licence/Permit from home country. *****NEW***** As of 23 March 2017, the South African Police will no longer accept US Customs Form 4457 as proof of firearm ownership, **if the date in the top right hand corner has expired**. Please check your 4457 form and if expired, apply for a new one.
 - **Other Nationality Hunters.** A copy of your firearms licence. In addition to this a Notarised copy of the documentary **proof of export of the firearms** in the form of a letter from your local Police or Customs office confirming there is no objection to taking your firearms out of the country. Letter must be on a Police Department/Customs letterhead.
- A **letter of invitation from your outfitter** confirming his outfitter licence number, the hunt dates, location of the hunt, species you will be hunting, and the firearms he suggests you bring for the hunt (appropriate calibres for the species).

Additional information:

- A letter of motivation by yourself stating the following: That you are temporarily importing the firearms (list serial numbers and calibers) to South Africa while in transit to Zimbabwe.

- Add your intended date of departure Please bear in mind that all firearms will be physically inspected by a police official upon entry into South Africa, and again on departure.

Information on SAPS520 Form:

It is very important to complete this form accurately or it may be rejected.

- Complete in **BLACK** ink only.
- Date format is **YYYY-MM-DD**.
- Not all sections are required to be completed but **submit ALL 8 pages**.
- If you are applying on arrival but aim to complete the form in advance for the sake of efficiency, **do NOT pre-sign Page 6 Section J** - wait until you are in front of the firearms officer so he may witness your signature.

Only complete the following sections:

- Page 2 Section D - Type of Permit - Tick 5 for temporary permit
- Page 2 Section E - Particulars of Applicant - parts 1 to 25.4
- Page 4 Section G - Import/Export Details - parts 1 to 9.2
- Page 5 Section 1 - Details of Firearms - all parts. Note for 1.7 Barrel serial number is not necessary unless the barrel has a different serial number from the receiver or the only number is on the barrel and not the receiver.
- Page 6 Section 1 - Declaration by person who is lawfully in possession of the firearm - parts 3 to 4.4
- Page 6 Section J - Signature of Applicant - parts 1 to 4

PROCEDURES AT OLIVER TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TERMINAL 1):

- **On arrival**, the firearms will be removed from the aircraft by security staff and brought to the baggage hall where you must identify them. The firearms officer will then carry it to the firearms office. There, the firearms will be kept under lock and key.
- The hunter will first go through Immigration, then collect his luggage, proceed through customs and then move on into Terminal 1 and the firearm office. There the hunter will be issued with his firearms after a check to ensure that the serial numbers and make correlate with the personal data of the hunter. The final step is the issuing of the SAPS525 or temporary import permit.
- **On departure**, the firearms are checked in at the check-in desk and tagged for the flight. You then carry them through to the firearms office which is located before the main security check area. You check the serial numbers and ammunition with the officer and leave them there. You then proceed through security and immigration into the departure hall.