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TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS INTO SOUTH AFRICA PROCEDURE



Any person wishing to bring a firearm into South Africa for hunting purposes must fill in an SAP (South African Police) **Form 520 Temporary Import Application**. This is available from the KEVIN THOMAS SAFARIS [website](http://www.Kevin Thomas Safaris.co.za). **KEVIN THOMAS SAFARIS advise against waiting to fill it out at point of entry because it is time consuming, especially after a lengthy flight.** Below is the guideline for filling in the form.

Also note that the form is in English and Afrikaans. Only the English Section needs to be filled in.

SAP 520: A Guideline to Completing the Form:

- 1) **Black** ink must be used to fill in the form.
- 2) The applicant must **NOT** sign the form until he/she is actually in front of the police official at point of entry, and who will issue the document.
- 3) Not all sections of the form need to be filled in, and inbound visitors need only fill in the following:
- 4) **Please Note:** The date format is: year/month/day
- 5) **On Page 6:** Date – when signing. Place – Where signing.
- 6) **Notarized copy of passport:** Photo and signature page.

Complete Page 2: E 2.1 to E 25.4 – Natural Person's Details.

Complete Page 4: G1 to G5 & G8 to G 9.2 – Import/Export Details

Complete Page 5: I 1.1 to I 5 – Details of Firearms etc

Complete Page 6: J – Signature of Applicant - **DO NOT** sign until in front of a SAP officer at Port of Entry.



In Addition To the SAP 520 Visitors Will Need the Following:

Identity and Flight Details

- Valid Passport.
- Return Airline Ticket.

Additional Supportive Documentation:

Proof of Ownership:

- For US citizens, a notarized copy of **Proof of Ownership/Export** of your firearm(s) in the form of **US Custom Form 4457** (contact your nearest airport for this) with an official stamp will suffice. Proof of firearm ownership can also include firearm licenses or certificates, 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 firearm etc.

Proof of Export:

- Documentary proof of export from country of origin **US Custom Form 4457**.

Letter of Invite from the Hunting Outfitter

- KEVIN THOMAS SAFARIS will furnish inbound clients with an invitational letter giving the company name, areas to be hunted, species to be hunted etc. This letter will also confirm the client will be using the firearms he/she intends bringing on safari. It too, must be shown to the officer at the SAP Firearms Desk.
- **Stop Press:** If US clientele are flying with Delta Airlines they must ensure they have on their person and available for scrutiny by Delta, a copy of the Invitation to Hunt by the safari operator.





Upon arrival in South Africa the visitor's firearms will be physically checked to ensure the serial number(s) tally with the proof of ownership and with those on the SAPS Form 520. Ammunition will also be inspected.

The above listed information is applicable to all official points of entry into South Africa. Please also ensure that you allow yourself plenty of time (at least four hours) before catching any onward connections. During peak hunting season the SAPS firearms office can be fairly congested with en-transit hunters.

Basic Regulations and Restrictions for the Issuing of a Temporary Import Permit:

- Visitors may not import more than one caliber of the same type.
- Maximum of four (4) firearms or shotguns, not more than one of the same caliber or gauge.
- Ammunition is limited to 200 rounds per caliber and all ammunition being brought in must match the rifle caliber(s).
- In the case of shotguns for bird shooting, more than one particular gauge is allowed provided the motivational letter stipulates why.
- Firearms must bear the manufacturers Serial Number(s) or any other permanent mark which will make the firearm(s) readily identifiable. These marks must be on the barrel, frame or receiver.
- Head stamps on ammunition must tally with caliber stamps on the firearm.

Handguns are allowed into South Africa, but **ONLY** for hunting purposes, any person wanting to import a handgun must provide a Handgun Association letter from the country of origin, stating that the handgun is to be used for hunting purposes only.

The following types of Firearms may NOT be imported into South Africa:

- Any fully automatic weapon.
- Weapons that are categorized military.
- Handgun(s) for self-defense.
- Any semi-automatic weapon.

If a person wishes to import a semi automatic shotgun for hunting purposes, an application, explaining why this type of shotgun is to be used, must be made to the Central Firearms Registry at least 21 days before the safari commences.

General:

- A Temporary Import Permit will only be issued to a foreign visitor for the purpose of hunting.
- It will only be issued subject to the requirements of the Act with regard to the carrying, storage, safe custody and transportation of the firearm and ammunition.
- Subject to the use of the firearm only for the purpose set out in the permit.
- Subject to the fact that no person who holds a temporary import permit is allowed to transfer the firearm to another South African without prior permission having been obtained from the Central Firearm Registrar.
- Whenever the holder of a Temporary Import Permit leaves South Africa, the firearm in respect of whom the permit is issued to, must accompany the permit holder.
- Possession of no more than the quantity of cartridges determined by the Registrar and specified on the permit for the firearm in respect of which the temporary import permit applies.
- A Temporary Import Permit shall not be issued for a period exceeding six months at a time.
- An applicant must be over 21 years of age.
- Should a firearm not be declared on arrival and a Temporary Import Permit not issued, you will face severe penalties and possible arrest on departure from South Africa.

Applications for Temporary Import Permits from the Firearm Registrar may be made in advance – KEVIN THOMAS SAFARIS will assist you in this regard.





Arriving at OR Tambo (Johannesburg) Airport:

- Go through passport control
- Go to import/Export Office. Next to it is an area marked: **Firearm Security Items**.
- Go there to identify your rifle case and if required sign for it.
- Collect your normal luggage at the appropriate conveyer belt.
- Proceed on the **GREEN** line through customs.
- For passengers arriving in Terminal A1 or A2 please exit the arrivals hall then turn right. Look out for the **SAP** office. **You will be met inside this office.**
- Your firearm(s) and ammo will be checked against your pre-issued Temporary Import Permit after which you will be free to leave.
- Please note that the procedure regarding your firearm at customs depends on the airline used. The speed, in which your permit will be handled, depends on the speed in which the rifle case is handled before arriving at the SA Police office. Please be patient when awaiting your gun cases.
- **We recommend that you allow at least 3 hours between landing and connecting with onward flights.**

Important:

Visitors must try to ensure that their firearm(s) arrive on the same flight as them. This arrangement must be made with the airline the visitor is using, because upon arrival **ONLY** the inbound visitor can sign for the firearm(s). Firearms arriving on a different flight, **WILL NOT** under any circumstances be released to an outfitter or professional hunter. If the firearm(s) do not arrive on the same flight, the visitor must proceed to his/her final destination, where they will be assisted by KEVIN THOMAS SAFARIS to apply for a Temporary Import Permit, at the nearest police station. Once the permit is issued, it must then be couriered, by a registered Transport Agent, with the keys to the gun box, to the point of entry where the visitor entered South Africa. The Transport Agent must also be in possession of a letter from the visitor, instructing him/her to take delivery of the firearm(s) and return them to the visitor. After the police at the point of entry have inspected the firearm(s), the Transport Agent will return the firearm(s) to the visitor.

Visitors are requested **NOT** to pay for any service regards the firearm handling and documentation processing at their point of arrival. The issuing of a SAP 520 by the police is a **FREE SERVICE** and the SAP specifically request that inbound visitors do not allow them selves to be conned into paying for this service. Visitors, who unwittingly end up paying security staff and porters for handling their firearms, are actually creating a problem. Some airlines have however started charging a 'Handling Fee' for the transportation of firearms; we suggest you check with your chosen airline at time of booking.

There are no permits of any sort required for the importation of bows into South Africa, by bow hunters. However, airlines and security companies may charge a handling fee.

The SAP will **NOT** hold any firearms for safekeeping and if a visitor arrives with more firearms than he is allowed, brings in a prohibited one, or lacks the correct documentation, and his request for a Temporary Import Permit is rejected, the firearm(s) must immediately be exported to their country of origin, or voluntarily surrendered to the State.

Transit inside South Africa:

If visitors are flying onwards to other destinations in South Africa after arriving at their point of entry, it is imperative that they get their booking agent to ensure the internal carrier being used will convey baggage and/or firearms. Not all of South Africa's domestic airlines will carry firearms.

If a domestic airport is your final destination, prior to hunting, you do not need to go through another temporary import permit procedure; it is a one off at point of entry.

If your inbound airline will not transfer your baggage and firearm(s) to your domestic airline/flight - after final Customs clearance - you must convey your baggage and firearm(s) to the Domestic Terminal and check them onto the flight before you move to the Departures Lounge.

Zimbabwe:

Visitors wishing to hunt with KEVIN THOMAS SAFARIS in Zimbabwe are issued a Zimbabwean Visitors Firearm Temporary Import at their point of entry into Zimbabwe. There is no cost attached to this permit, however, if the client(s) choose to hunt in South Africa first, the completion of the South African SAP 520 must be carried out.

