

# Importing/exporting knives

Importing the following knives is restricted under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. To import these knives, the importer will need to obtain the written authorisation of the Minister for Justice and Customs **before the goods arrive in Australia**. In order to obtain the Minister's permission, you will first have to obtain permission from your State/Territory police force to possess the knives. See below of this document for more information.

**Daggers or similar devices**, being sharp-pointed stabbing instruments ordinarily capable of concealment on the person (*excludes swords or bayonets*).

**Ballistic knives**, being knives that discharge a blade as a projectile by a spring mechanism or other means.

**Flick knives (aka switchblade knives) or similar devices**, with a blade that opens automatically.

**Concealed knives, blades or spikes** that are designed to disguise the presence of the blade etc.

**Sheath knives or similar devices**, with a sheath which withdraws into its handle.

**Push knives or similar devices**, with a handle that allows the blade to be supported by the palm of the hand so that stabbing blows or slashes can be inflicted by a punching or pushing action.

**Trench knives or similar devices**, with a handle that fits over the knuckles to protect them and increase the effect of a punch or blow.

**Throwing blades, throwing knives or throwing axes**, made of any material, designed or modified to be thrown.

**Non-metallic or ceramic knives, blades or spikes** (*excluding plastic cutlery*).

**Butterfly knives**, also known as 'balisongs', or other devices.

**Penalty:** The maximum penalty for importing these goods without import approval is a fine not exceeding \$275,000 or imprisonment for 10 years, or both.

## How do I get permission to import?

Applications for permission to import should be made on the *Application for permission to import Schedule 2 and 3 weapons* form. This form is available from any Customs office, or on the Customs website.

Applications should include:

- contact details including street address and telephone or email, as further information might be required to supplement the application
- a detailed description of the items being imported, including pictures, trade names, and technical specifications
- evidence of the proposed end use – this will include the written authorisation from the State/Territory police that you are legally allowed to possess the items in your home state, in the form of a form B709B. This form is attainable from State/Territory Firearm Registries – see the Firearms/weapons information contacts fact sheet.

All applications should be forwarded to:

National Manager  
Cargo Branch  
Australian Customs Service  
5 Constitution Avenue  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

## Exporting requirements

There are no restrictions on the export of these items.

For information on any Customs matters, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)