

The Air Weapon and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 will come into effect on 1 July 2016. The new law will require any person who possesses, purchases, uses, or acquires an air weapon to have a certificate to legally hold them. This basically means that persons visiting Scotland with an air weapon up to the 1st of July 2016 can do so under the current conditions however on and after this date persons visiting Scotland will require to apply for an air weapon visitors permit the details of which I have outlined below.

AIR WEAPON VISITORS PERMITS

Visitors to Scotland, if granted an Air Weapon Visitors Permit, may possess air weapons as defined by the 2015 Act. A visitor's air weapon permit will allow them to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon without holding an air weapon certificate for the duration of their visit. Visitors aged 14 or more but under the age of 18 years however may not purchase, accept a gift of or own an air weapon.

In exceptional cases permits may be issued for up to 12 months duration, but are normally only valid for the duration of the particular visit. If there are regular visits over a short time then a permit may be issued to cover these dates.

Possession of a European Firearms Pass (EFP) issued in the EU does not negate the need for a visitor's permit.

Unlike Visitor permits under the 1968 Act an air weapon visitor's permit application does not require a UK sponsor. The applicant or a person acting on behalf of a group of 2 to 20 visitors can make an application. If an individual or group applicant is over the age of 14 but under the age of 18 years a parent or guardian must consent to their application.

The exact details regarding application forms, completion and processing of forms have still to be finalised by the Scottish Government.

VISITOR PERMIT CONDITIONS

Each visitor permit will be granted along with a number of mandatory conditions, though the Chief Constable may attach additional conditions. The Chief Constable has the power to vary, by a notice to the holder, any condition of the permit.

DISPATCH OF PERMITS

The completed permit will be sent TO the applicant as they will require to present it to the Border Force on arrival within the United Kingdom with their air weapons.

I hope this provided you with the necessary information

regards,

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