

Ministry of Community Safety and
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File Reference 676 20

To: All Ontario Shooting Clubs – Executive and Members
Firearms Act s. 29
All Ontario Firearms-Licensed Businesses

From: Inspector Steven B. Ridout
Deputy Chief Firearms Officer of Ontario

Re: Bill C-42 - *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act*

Date: September 9, 2015

On September 2, 2015, the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act* came into force. Bill C-42 has changed significantly the landscape by which we conduct business, in particular to the issuance of Authorizations to Transport (ATTs).

Included in this package is the Questions and Answers script that was prepared by the Canadian Firearms Program, and which is also available on their website at: rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf.

I am also including some additional information for clients of the CFO of Ontario respecting the scope and the limits of the changes effected by the Bill.

If you require further clarification or have particular questions relating to firearms transportation, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven B. Ridout", written over a horizontal line.

Steven B. Ridout, Inspector
Deputy Chief Firearms Officer - Ontario

Enclosed

Bill C-42
AUTHORIZATIONS TO TRANSPORT
RESTRICTED FIREARMS AND PROHIBITED HANDGUNS (FA ss. 12(6.1))

September 8, 2015

Effective September 2, 2015, holders of a long-term Authorization to Transport (LT-ATT) for the purpose of target shooting will automatically have 6 conditions added electronically to their firearms licence (see below).

Individuals who are not holders of a long-term ATT will have no conditions automatically added. Those individuals will, as of the 2nd of September, be eligible to have either all 6 conditions, or 5 of the 6 conditions, added to their licence as set out below.

Note that while the changes brought by Bill C-42 will substantially reduce the need for licencees to contact the CFO to request an ATT, there remain situations not covered by C-42, and in which the law still requires licencees to obtain a stand-alone short-term ATT. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for clients of the CFO of Ontario respecting the scope and the limits of the changes effected by the Bill.

If a client of the CFO of Ontario is uncertain at any time about whether a short-term ATT should be requested, s/he should contact the office and make an inquiry prior to transporting firearm(s).

In all cases where conditions are added to a licence, Bill C-42 requires that those conditions be subject to the following:

These licence conditions authorize the transport of restricted and / or prohibited firearms registered to the licence holder within their province of residence by the most direct route possible for the specific indicated purpose.

The conditions are as follows:

- 1. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited handguns (12(6.1)) of the *Firearms Act* possessed for the purpose of target practice to and from all shooting clubs and ranges approved under section 29 of the *Firearms Act*.**

Notes:

- All target shooters who presently hold a long-term ATT (LT-ATT) for the purpose of target shooting will have this condition automatically added electronically to their licence on September 2. This also applies to holders of LT-ATTs who have an approved "private range".
- The condition allows the licencee to transport their own firearms to/ from an approved shooting club/ shooting range.

- Individuals who have acquired a restricted firearm (or prohibited handgun) for the purpose of target shooting, but who are not presently LT-ATT holders, and who do not presently belong to an approved shooting club in Ontario, will not have this condition automatically added on September 2. This condition (as well as all of the other 5 conditions) will be added upon:
 - Renewal of their licence;
 - Acquisition of a subsequent restricted firearm or prohibited handgun for the purposes of target shooting; or
 - If they call requesting for this condition to be added or to request an ATT to go anywhere permitted by law.
- **Approved shooting ranges are privately operated by approved shooting clubs. The executive of such clubs continues to have the independent authority to determine who will be permitted access to their facility, to determine who will be allowed to bring and use firearms at their facility, and to determine the terms of facility guest use generally. Operators of approved shooting ranges in Ontario continue to be responsible for ensuring that all users of the range are sufficiently proficient in the safe handling and use of firearms, and that the conditions of the particular facility's Range Approval are followed by all members and guests.**

2. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to and from any place a peace officer, firearms officer or Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) is located for verification, registration or disposal in accordance with the *Firearms Act* or Part III of the *Criminal Code*.

Notes:

- Note that if the firearm is in police custody pursuant to a court order, and the registered owner is attending the police station for the purpose of repossessing it (for example, at the conclusion of criminal charges that have not resulted in a forfeiture order), the licensee will need to contact the CFO to request a short-term ATT.

3. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to and from a business that holds a licence authorizing it to repair or appraise prohibited or restricted firearms.

Notes:

- This condition does not apply to the transportation of a firearm to a business for the purpose of consignment sale. Accordingly, an individual wishing to transport a firearm to a business for consignment sale will need to contact the CFO to request a short-term ATT.
- The transportation of a firearm to a business for the purpose of temporary storage (and/ or transportation back to the place of registration after temporary storage) also requires that the individual contact the CFO to request a short-term ATT.

4. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to and from a gun show.

Notes:

- This condition permits the registered owner of the firearm(s) to transport them to/ from a gun show.
- This condition pertains to firearms acquired for any purpose (i.e.: including firearms that were acquired to form part of a gun collection).

5. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to a port of exit, in order to take them outside Canada and from a port of entry.

Notes:

- The licensee is still required to ensure that s/he has complied with all requirements imposed by the destination country for the importation of firearms into that jurisdiction.
- This condition does not allow clients to cross intra-provincial borders. If a licensee wishes to transport firearms to a province other than Ontario, the licensee should contact the CFO to request a short-term ATT. The CFO of Ontario will liaise with the CFO of the other involved province(s) to facilitate this request.

6. Transportation of newly acquired restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms from the place of acquisition to the licence holder's dwelling house or other place authorized by the CFO.

Notes:

- If the buyer and seller have agreed to meet in a neutral location to effect the physical transfer of the firearm, the seller will need to contact the CFO to request a short-term ATT to take the firearm to that location. The buyer does not need to request an additional ATT, based on the wording of this condition.
- If the seller is transporting the firearm to a courier company or to Canada Post, the seller will need to contact the CFO to request a short-term ATT to take the firearm to that location.
- If the licensee is travelling to a province outside Ontario to acquire a new firearm, the licensee will require an ATT to enable the licensee to transport the firearm through that province to Ontario. In this case, CFO-Ontario would issue the ATT, following consultation with the CFO in the province where the firearm is being acquired.

Additional notes:

- Revised licence applications reflecting C-42 changes are now posted on the RCMP – CFP website on September 2.
- Individuals who hold an Authorization to Carry for trapping or wilderness purposes must still also obtain an ATT from the CFO to transport those firearms to the work location.
- Any PAL with possession-only conditions that have been imposed by a court order will not be affected on September 2.
- Instructors of the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC) will continue to require an ATT issued by the CFO for instructional purposes.
- Individuals wishing to transport firearms for use in historical re-enactments will still need to contact the CFO to obtain a short-term ATT.
- These conditions permit the licence-holder to transport only his or her own registered firearms. Individuals wishing for any reason to transport firearms that are registered to anyone else must contact the CFO to obtain a short-term ATT. Borrowing firearms from a spouse or from another person residing at the same residence requires that the borrowing individual obtain a short-term ATT from the CFO.
- Individuals who are not target shooters (i.e.: individuals who, as of the 2nd of September, are not the holder of a LT-ATT issued for the purpose of target shooting, and have not previously acquired any firearms for the purpose of target shooting) will not have any conditions automatically electronically added to their licence on that date. Conditions #2 to #6 will be added to the licence of such individuals when, after the 2nd of September, the individual
 - Renews their firearms licence
 - Acquires a restricted firearm for a purpose other than target shooting
 - Requests that these conditions be added.

Conditions #1 to #6 will be added to the licence of such an individual when, after the 2nd of September, the individual acquires a restricted firearm for the purpose of target shooting.



[Home](#) > [Canadian Firearms Program](#) > Questions and Answers: two additional provisions of the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act* that came into force on September 2, 2015

Questions and Answers: two additional provisions of the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act* that came into force on September 2, 2015

Elimination of POLs and conversion of all valid POLs to PALs

ATTs become a condition of a licence for certain routine and lawful activities.

Elimination of POLs and conversion of all valid POLs to PALs

Q1: I have a POL. What do I do?

A1: If you have a valid² POL, you will be allowed to acquire firearms for the classes of firearms you had on your POL. A PAL will be issued to you when you renew your POL.

* *A valid POL is one that is not expired.*

Q2: I want to acquire firearms. What is the process to be issued a new PAL before it expires?

A2: Your POL card will provide you with the ability to acquire firearms immediately. You will receive a PAL card upon the renewal of your licence.

Q3: Is there a safety training requirement for converting my POL into a PAL?

A3: No. You are not required to take classroom safety training when your POL is converted to a PAL.

Q4: If my POL has expired, will I automatically receive a PAL?

A4: No. Your POL must be valid to qualify for the POL to PAL conversion.

Q5: If my POL expired, how do I get a PAL?

A5: If you have not already passed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC), to be eligible to apply for a PAL, classroom participation in the CFSC is mandatory. Once the course is completed, you will then have to pass the tests.

To apply for a PAL, individuals aged 18 and over are required to submit form RCMP 5592 / CAFC 921E.

Q6: The Government of Canada extended a regulatory compliance incentive allowing eligible holders of an expired POL to apply for a new POL until May 16, 2017. Can I still qualify?

A6: No. As of September 2, 2015, you can no longer apply for a new POL. Furthermore, the conversion of existing POLs to PALs happened automatically with no action required by holders of valid POLs.

Q7: I submitted a new POL application before legislative changes converting all POLs to PALs came into force on September 2, 2015. Will my application be processed?

A7: Yes. Applications for a new POL or a POL renewal that were submitted before legislative changes converting all POLs to PALs came into force on September 2, 2015 will be processed.

Q8: Why do I have to pay \$80 to renew my PAL with restricted privileges when I only paid \$60 to renew my POL?

A8: Firearms licensing fees did not change; however, legislative changes have converted all existing POLs to PALs. The fee payable for the issuance or renewal of a PAL is \$80 if you have privileges that include restricted and prohibited firearms.

Q9: If I have a PAL and want to apply for a Restricted Possession and Acquisition Licence (RPAL), can I challenge the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC)?

A9: No. Challenges are no longer accepted. If you wish to obtain a RPAL, you must take the CRFSC and pass the tests.

Q10: Recently, based on CFP instructions, I took and paid for the CFSC to upgrade my POL to a PAL. Since all existing POLs will be converted to PALs, will I receive a refund for the course I took?

A10: No. The legislative changes do not include compensation if you previously upgraded from a POL to a PAL and paid for the CFSC.

Q11: When will my new PAL expire?

A11: Existing POLs are still valid and are treated as PALs for the classes of firearms you are licensed to possess. Existing licence expiration dates will not be affected and you will receive a new PAL card upon the renewal of your licence.

Q12: I do not want to acquire firearms. Can I keep my POL?

A12: No. The POL is no longer available.

ATTs become a condition of a licence for certain routine and lawful activities.

Q13: What do the changes to ATTs mean?

A13: As of September 2, 2015, individuals with restricted or prohibited firearms may be eligible to have conditions attached to a firearms licence for certain routine and lawful transportation purposes.

Q14: I have a valid ATT to transport a firearm to and from a shooting club or range for the purpose of target practice. Will ATT conditions be attached to my firearms licence automatically?

A14: Yes. As of September 2, 2015, if you are licenced and possess a valid ATT to transport a firearm to and from a shooting club or range for the purposes of target practice, you will obtain, as a condition of your licence, the activities listed below.

These licence conditions authorize the transport of restricted and/or prohibited firearms registered to the licence holder within their province of residence by the most direct route possible for the specific indicated purposes.

1. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited handguns (12(6.1) of the *Firearms Act*) possessed for the purpose of target practice to and from all shooting clubs and ranges approved under section 29 of the *Firearms Act*.
2. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to and from any place a peace officer, firearms officer or Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) is located for verification, registration or disposal in accordance with the *Firearms Act* or Part III of the *Criminal Code*.
3. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to and from a business that holds a licence authorizing it to repair or appraise prohibited or restricted firearms.
4. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to and from a gun show.
5. Transportation of restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms to a port of exit, in order to take them outside Canada and from a port of entry.
6. Transportation of newly acquired restricted firearms and/or prohibited firearms from the place of acquisition to the licence holder's dwelling house or other place authorized by the CFO.

Q15: I do not have a valid ATT to transport a firearm to and from a shooting club or range for the purpose of target practice. Will ATT conditions be attached to my firearms licence automatically?

A15: No. If you do not possess a valid ATT to transport a firearm to and from a shooting club or range for the purposes of target practice as of September 2, 2015, you will not get the transportation purposes added as a condition to your firearms licence.

See next question for additional information.

Q16: When will the conditions be added to my licence, since I don't have a valid ATT for transport to and from a shooting club or range for the purpose of target practice?

A16: If you do not possess a valid ATT to transport a firearm to and from a shooting club or range for the purposes of target practice, you will get the relevant transportation purposes added as a condition to your firearms licence when you:

- acquire your first restricted firearm;
- acquire additional restricted or prohibited firearms;
- request a new ATT during valid period of licence;
- request a replacement ATT during valid period of licence; or,
- renew your firearms licence with restricted and/or prohibited privileges.

Once the conditions have been added to the firearms licence, you are no longer required to request additional ATTs unless it is for a purpose other than those that have been added as a condition to the licence.

Depending on the purpose for which you acquire firearms, you either get all six conditions added to your licence as a condition (if you have acquired your firearms for target shooting) or you get just five conditions, excluding transport to and from an approved range (if you have acquired your firearms for collection purposes).

Q17: I have a paper ATT. Is it still valid?

A17: Yes. Existing paper ATTs are still valid.

Q18: Since ATTs will be a condition on a licence, and I currently have a valid paper ATT, will I receive a new licence card to reflect these changes?

A18: No. Existing paper ATTs remain valid until expiry. In addition, as of September 2, 2015, if you are a licensed client possessing a valid ATT to transport a firearm to and from a shooting club or range for the purposes of target practice, you have, as a condition on your licence, the six transportation conditions.

Q19: I don't have an ATT and would like to acquire one. What do I do?

A19: Call the CFP toll-free information line at 1-800-731-4000 to request an ATT.

Q20: Can an ATT that is "attached to" a firearms licence be revoked?

A20: Yes. CFOs still have the authority to revoke an ATT.

Q21: If I buy a restricted firearm for the first time after this change comes into force, will I be issued a new PAL card with the ATT conditions attached?

A21: Yes. Upon acquisition of your first restricted firearm, once a CFO confirms the acquisition purpose of the firearm, the CFP will issue you a new licence card indicating that special conditions are attached.

Q22: Once the ATT as a condition on the licence comes into force, will I receive all the conditions for transporting firearms on a piece of paper, as well as those same conditions being placed on my licence?

A22: If a licence card is reprinted as a result of the conditions being placed on the licence, you will receive a new licence card. On the card carrier (for the licence card) the normal standard conditions (i.e. that you must inform the CFO when you move or change

your name) will be listed. The ATT conditions will also be listed on the card carrier under Special Conditions.

Date Modified: 2015-09-02