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FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2014

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No. 10 of 2014

FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2014

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIREARMS ACT TO INCLUDE OFFENCES RELATING TO HIGH POWERED FIREARMS, ILLICIT MANUFACTURE, TRAFFICKING AND EXPORT OF FIREARMS PURSUANT THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES

[Date of Assent-6th May, 2014]

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act, which amends the Firearms Act (*Ch. 213*), may be cited as the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2014.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister may appoint by Notice, published in the *Gazette*.

2. Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act.

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by the deletion of the definition and expression for “ammunition”;
- (b) by the insertion, in the appropriate alphabetical position, of the following —

“ammunition” means the complete round or its components, including cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder, bullets or projectiles, that are used in a firearm, provided that those components are themselves subject to authorization and includes grenades, bombs and other missiles whether capable of use with a firearm or not and prohibited ammunition;

“body armour” means a bullet proof vest, protective jacket or other article of apparel designed to resist the penetration of ammunition discharged from a firearm;

"export" means to take or cause to be taken out of The Bahamas by land, air or sea;

"export licence" means a permit authorizing the taking of firearms and ammunition outside of The Bahamas by land, air or sea;

"exporter" means any person engaged in the business of exporting or sending firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from The Bahamas;

"high powered firearm" means any rifle designed or chambered to discharge any rifle cartridge of .22 caliber or greater and with a muzzle energy of 900 foot/pounds or higher;

"illicit trafficking" means the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement, or transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from or across the borders of one country to that of another country without legal authorization issued by the Licensing Authority;

"in-transit" means imported into The Bahamas for the sole purpose of being exported from The Bahamas to another country;

"in-transit licence" means a permit granted by the Licensing Authority;

"marking" means a unique brand, heading, label ticket, name, signature, word, letter, numeral or any combination thereof which—

- (a) identifies the country of manufacture; and
- (b) provides information that enables the Licensing Authority of that country to identify the manufacturer and serial number;

"illicit manufacturing" means the development, production, or assembly of firearms, their parts and components or ammunition, and the conversion or transformation of something that is not a firearm into a firearm —

- (a) from parts and components illicitly trafficked;
- (b) without a licence or authorization from the Licensing Authority; or
- (c) without marking the firearms at the time of manufacture;

"parts and components" means any element or replacement element specifically designed for a firearm and essential to its operation, including a barrel, frame or receiver, slide or cylinder, bolt or breech block and any device designed or adapted to diminish the sound caused by firing a firearm;

"readily convertible firearm" means an object which can be converted into an imitation firearm without any special skill on the part of the person converting it and the work involved in converting it does not require equipment or tools other than such as are in common use;