STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2017 No. 1281

ARMS AND AMMUNITION

The Firearms (Amendment) Rules 2017

Made - - - -	*13th December 2017*
Coming into force - -	*31st December 2017*

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 26A(1), 26B(1) and 53 of the Firearms Act 1968(**1**), makes the following Rules.

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Firearms (Amendment) Rules 2017 and come into force on 31st December 2017.

Amendments to the Firearms Rules 1998

2. The Firearms Rules 1998(**2**) are amended as follows.

Amendments to rule 3 of the Firearms Rules 1998

3. In rule 3 (firearm certificates)—

(a) in paragraph (3)(b), for "four photographs" substitute "a photograph";

(b) after paragraph (7), insert—

"(8) The requirements in paragraphs (1) and (7) above are satisfied if the information required by the relevant form is transmitted electronically to the chief officer of police for the area in which the applicant resides.

(9) An application transmitted electronically in accordance with paragraph (8) above must be in accordance with the process for the electronic submission of applications approved by the chief officer of police for that area.

(10) A chief officer of police may only approve a process for the electronic transmission of applications that has been approved by the Secretary of State.".

(**1**) 1968 c. 27. Sections 26A and 26B were substituted for section 26 as originally enacted by section 37 of the Firearms Amendment Act 1997 (c. 5). There are other amendments to the Firearms Act 1968 which are not relevant to these Rules.

(**2**) S.I. 1998/1941; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 2013/1945, 2013/2970, 2014/1239 and 2016/425.

Amendment to rule 4 of the Firearms Rules 1998

4. In rule 4(3) (referees: firearm certificates), after the words "police employee" insert ", a police and crime commissioner or a member of their staff, a member of the Scottish Police Authority or a member of staff of the Scottish Police Authority,".

Amendments to rule 5 of the Firearms Rules 1998

5. In rule 5 (shot gun certificates)—

(a) in paragraph (1), for the words "Schedule 2" substitute "Schedule 1";

(b) after paragraph (1) insert—

"(1A) The requirement in paragraph (1) above is satisfied if the information required by the relevant form is transmitted electronically to the chief officer of police for the area in which the applicant resides.

(1B) An application transmitted electronically in accordance with paragraph (1A) above must be in accordance with the process for the electronic submission of applications approved by the chief officer of police for that area.

(1C) A chief officer of police may only approve a process for the electronic transmission of applications that has been approved by the Secretary of State.";

(c) in paragraph (3)(b), for the words "four photographs" substitute "a photograph".

Amendment to rule 6 of the Firearms Rules 1998

6. In rule 6(2) (referee: shotgun certificate), after the word "family," insert "a serving police officer or police employee or a registered firearms dealer, a police and crime commissioner or a member of their staff, a member of the Scottish Police Authority or a member of staff of the Scottish Police Authority,".

Amendment to rule 7 of the Firearms Rules 1998

7. For rule 7 (photographs to accompany application) substitute—

"**Photograph to accompany application**

7.—(1) The photograph referred to in rules 3(3)(b) and 5(3)(b) above must show the current true likeness of the applicant and either:

(a) measure 45mm by 35mm, or

(b) be transmitted by electronic means in the form approved by the chief officer of police for the area in which the applicant resides.

(2) Where an applicant applies for a firearm certificate and a shotgun certificate simultaneously, the applicant need only submit one photograph.".

Amendments to Schedule 1 to the Firearms Rules 1998

8. In Schedule 1 (form of application for firearm and shotgun certificates, and firearm certificate)—

(a) for the form in Part 1 (application for the grant or renewal of a firearm or shotgun certificate), substitute the form in Schedule 1 to these Rules (application for the grant or renewal of a firearm or shotgun certificate);

(b) for the form in Part 4 (application to vary a firearm certificate), substitute the form in Schedule 2 to these Rules (application to vary a firearm certificate).

Transitional arrangements

9.—(1) An application for a firearm certificate or a shotgun certificate may continue to be made using an application form which is replaced by virtue of rule 8(a) if it is received by the chief officer of police for the area in which the applicant resides on or before 28th February 2018.

(2) An application to vary a firearm certificate may continue to be made using an application form which is replaced by virtue of rule 8(b) if it is received by the chief officer of police for the area in which the applicant resides on or before 28th February 2018.

(3) The changes made by rules 4 and 6 of these Rules have no effect in relation to an application for a firearm certificate or a shotgun certificate that is received by a chief officer of police on or before 31st December 2017.

Nick Hurd
Minister of State
Home Office

13th December 2017

SCHEDULE 1 Rule 8(a)

Application for the grant or renewal of a firearm or shotgun certificate

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APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OR RENEWAL OF A FIREARM AND/OR SHOTGUN CERTIFICATE

PLEASE READ THE NOTES CAREFULLY (PAGES 12-15) BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

You may type your responses except where your signature is required. Otherwise, please use black ink and write in **BLOCK CAPITALS** throughout, except when signing. A continuation sheet is provided at page 6 for further information.

I am applying for (tick each box which applies)

- **Firearm certificate** ☐ Grant ☐ Renewal
- **Shotgun certificate** ☐ Grant ☐ Renewal

Do you wish to apply for a shotgun certificate which will expire at the same time as your firearm certificate? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

PART A: Personal details.

1. Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

2. Title .....

3. Surname .....

4. Forenames (state all) .....

5. If you have at any time used a name other than that given in answer to questions 3 and 4 please complete below:

Previous surname(s) .....

Previous forename(s) .....

6. Home address .....

.....

.....

a. Postcode .....

b. Home tel number .....

c. Mobile number .....

d. Home E-mail .....

Any previous home addresses in the last 5 years?

☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes please give details on page 2)

7. Height .....

8. Date of Birth .....

a. Place of birth .....

b. Nationality .....

9. Occupation .....

a. Work address .....

.....

b. Postcode .....

c. Work tel number .....

d. Work E-mail .....

PART B: Personal health & medical declaration

If necessary, continue on page 6

Important: Read notes 4-12 before completion.

10. Have you ever been diagnosed with or treated for any of the medical conditions in note 5?

☐ Yes (Please provide details) ☐ No

.....

11. Details of your GP or GP practice

a. Name .....

b. Address .....

.....

.....

c. Postcode .....

d. Tel number .....

e. E-mail .....

12. Details of all previous GP practices during the past 10 years (see note 12). Continue on page 6 if necessary.

a. Name .....

b. Address .....

.....

c. Postcode .....

d. Tel number .....

e. E-mail .....

Are there any periods in the past 10 years when you have not been registered with a UK GP or have consulted medical practitioners other than at your GP practice?

☐ Yes (Please provide details on continuation page) ☐ No

I give the police permission to contact my GP and/or specialist to obtain factual details of any medical history in relation to my suitability to possess a firearm and/or shotgun. **This authority is valid for the life of the certificate(s).** I understand that my GP may share sensitive personal data with the police concerning my physical and mental health for the purpose of enabling the police to make a fully informed decision on my application or continued suitability, and I hereby consent to this processing of my personal data.

Applicant's name (please print).....

Applicant's signature ..... Date .....

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PART C: Offences

Important: Please read notes 13 and 14 before completion

13. Have you been convicted of any offence (including speeding but not including parking offences or fixed penalty notices) or received a written caution?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, give details of all convictions and/or formal written police cautions, bindovers and spent convictions, including those received outside Great Britain.

Date	**Offence**
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

Previous home address(es) from the past five years:

Address 1

.....

.....

..... Postcode .....

From ..... To .....

Address 2

.....

.....

..... Postcode .....

From ..... To .....

Address 3

.....

.....

..... Postcode .....

From ..... To .....