

Ministry of Community Safety and  
Correctional Services

Chief Firearms Office

777 Memorial Avenue  
Orillia ON L3V 7V3  
TeL: 705-329-5522  
Fax: 705-329-5623



File Reference 677 80 25

January 28, 2013

To All Ontario Shooting Clubs

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Changes to Authorizations to Transport - Club Members**

As you are likely aware, I recently decided to amend the wording of the standard conditions being attached to all long-term Authorizations to Transport issued to Ontario licencees who belong to an approved shooting club in the Province. The condition now requires authorization-holders to produce a written invitation, upon demand of the CFO or a police officer, when they are using the A TT to transport their firearms to an approved range operated by a shooting club that is not a club to which they, themselves, belong. The intent of the change was to make A TTs consistent with and reflective of the requirements of section 6 of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations*, SOR/98-212, made under the *Firearms Act*. This change also reflects a recent court decision that affirmed that it was reasonable for the Chief Firearms Officer to require proof of an invitation when considering issuing an ATT to a licensee that would permit that licensee to transport firearms to a range operated by a shooting club of which they are not a member.

For your reference, the condition now being attached to all long-term ATTs issued to Ontario club members is as follows:

"To all approved restricted shooting ranges in Ontario as a member in good standing of that club or an invitee of an authorized member of the host club. When transporting firearms by invitation, written proof of invitation by authorized club member must be provided to CFO or police upon request.

Section 6 of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations* provides as follows:

**Requirements for Users**

**SECTION 6.**

6. No person may use a restricted firearm or prohibited handgun at a shooting range unless the person is

- <, (a) a member or an officer of an approved shooting club;
- (b) a guest of a person referred to in paragraph (a); or
- (c) an individual who ordinarily resides outside of Canada who is either a member of a recognized shooting organization or a guest described in paragraph (b).

Since commencing issuance of A ITs inclusive of the above condition, this office has received a number of inquiries from Ontario authorization-holders respecting what is required of them by way of documentation that will ensure that they are in compliance with the condition. We are answering these inquiries as we receive them, but in the interests of ensuring that all authorization-holders in Ontario are cognizant of their obligations, we are also writing to the Executive of all Ontario shooting clubs, knowing that your organizations have a vested interest in ensuring that the shooting sports are pursued safely and in accordance with the law. Please feel free to share this information with your members and guests.

Before an authorization-holder undertakes to transport his or her registered restricted firearms or prohibited handguns to a range operated by a club of which the authorization-holder is not a member, the authorization-holder must have been invited, by an authorized club member, to bring his or her firearms to that venue. Most of the time, obtaining a written invitation will be easy. The invitation may simply be a print-out of an e-mail from the member of the host club who has invited the authorization-holder to attend, or it might be a copy of a notice of a competition generated by the host club that invites members of other clubs to attend.

Obviously, having the invitation available for production is the authorization-holder's best protection, and constitutes the best practice. However, I do wish to make it clear that if the authorization-holder does not have the written invitation on his/ her person, but can, if asked by the CFO or police, produce it within a short, reasonable time, this will satisfy the condition. It is an offence under the *Firearms Act* for an authorization-holder, without lawful excuse, to contravene a condition of an authorization.

Finally, I would remind you that section 14 of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations* provides as follows:

### **Records**

#### **SECTION 14.**

14. (1) The operator of an approved shooting club shall keep records, with respect to the following users of restricted firearms or prohibited firearms, that include

- (a) with respect to a member or officer of the club
  - (i) his or her name, address and phone number,
  - (ii) his or her membership card number, and
  - (iii) the number of his or her licence to possess firearms or, if one does not exist, his or her date of birth; and
- (b) with respect to a guest of a member or officer of the club
  - (i) the information required in subparagraph (a)(i), and
  - (ii) the number of his or her licence to possess firearms, if one exists.

(2) Every record made under subsection (1) must be maintained for at least six years.

(3) At the chief firearms officer's request, the operator of the approved shooting club shall submit to the chief firearms officer a report containing all or any requested part of the information described in subsection (1).

:

I am confident that Ontario sport-shooters are genuinely committed to the safe and lawful pursuit of the shooting sports, and that the recent change to the wording of the standard conditions on long-term A TTs will cause them minimal inconvenience. I trust the foregoing will be of some assistance to you in the event your members or guests approach you for clarification respecting what is required of them, and the reasons for it.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours truly,

*Chris Wyatt*

Chris M. Wyatt, Superintendent  
Chief Firearms Officer