

Advice on: Category B Weapons Authorisation Requests **(Summary for Sports Shooters)**

The sports shooter must:

- be of age (except if selected to participate in international competitions, after favorable opinion of his federation approved for the practice of sport shooting).
- have less than 12 Category B weapons (not including 10 one-shot rim-fire handguns) with 2000 rounds per weapon per year.
- use these weapons in a shooting range.
- have at home a safe allowing him to ensure the security of weapons and their ammunition.

The application for authorisation

The application for an Authorisation is sent to the Prefecture of the place of residence or, for foreigners, the place of residence in France.

Please note that the exact documentary requirements vary slightly from Prefecture to Prefecture. It is wise to look on the website of your Department's Prefecture which should contain their current requirements. (For example, some require a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return documents; some do not.)

Documents required:

Must be attached to Cerfa application form no. 20-3257 (downloadable .pdf file) in all cases:

- Valid credentials - photocopy of both sides/relevant pages of French ID card or Passport (and for completeness, your Carte de Sejour/residence if you have one).
- A proof of address (recent utility bill, etc.)
- A legibly completed and signed declaration (Cerfa 20-3257), indicating:
 - the number of weapons and ammunition held at the time of application, their categories, calibres, brands, models and numbers
 - the type of weapons for which you are requesting authorisation – *it might be wise to include a pistol and a rifle on the application as they come under separate sub-categories and you may wish to purchase the other type later.*
- Proof of possession of a secure gun-cupboard or safe or secure gun-room (usually: purchase receipt, photograph, approximate dimensions and Maker's name). It must be securely fixed in place and the keys *and ammunition* kept securely apart from it. (A gun cupboard with a separate, lockable compartment for storing ammunition is acceptable as separate storage.)
It may be inspected at any time by the Gendarmes though they cannot demand to see the contents, but to foster good relations it might be wise to do so if asked).
- The favorable opinion of the FFTir ("feuille verte"). This is provided by the Club President (*upon demand*) on a green form to confirm you are worthy of holding category B weapons. *When you get receive this, ensure you sign and date it where required BEFORE you send it off with the other documents).*

- A “birth certificate with marginal mentions” (For non-French individuals, this means an original of your birth certificate less than three months old, as per French Birth Certificates. *As this is not available from the UK, the prefecture will usually accept a legible copy of your Birth certificate, stamped and signed by the Maire of your commune, and dated by him/her LESS than three months before the application*).
- A photocopy of front and back of your current FFTir licence – showing that it has been signed by you and signed/stamped by your general practitioner doctor.
- For sport shooters who are minors, proof of selection for competition and authorisation to acquire a weapon from a person exercising parental authority.

Notification and duration of the authorisation

After having examined the application and verified that you are not a person prohibited from acquiring weapons and that you are not subject to any limitations of the Regional Health Agency (ARS), the Prefect notifies his response.

The authorisation is granted for a maximum duration of 5 years from the date of issue and is renewable during this time. The Prefecture's decision must be notified to you within 15 days under all circumstances.

You have 3 months after the date of notification to acquire a weapon/weapons corresponding to the category authorised. After this period, you will have to re-apply for a new authorisation.

If, subsequently, you wish substitute one Category B weapon with another (e.g. A .22LR revolver for a 9mm pistol) this can be done by your armoury.

To purchase additional Category B weapons, you have to go through the process again.

Application for renewal

Must be submitted no later than 3 months before the expiry date, except in the case of justified impediment. Otherwise the original authorisation will not be renewed.

In the event of refusal of renewal or withdrawal of the authorisation, the person concerned must divest himself of his weapon(s) and the corresponding ammunition.

A receipt may be issued by the Prefecture which is a provisional authorisation valid for 3 months from the expiry date of the authorisation.

In case of inheritance acquisition of an unregistered Cat. B weapon

Anyone who has found or has acquired by inheritance a Category B weapon must take it to the police station or the gendarmerie of his place of residence where he will be issued with a receipt. They will hold the weapon whilst an Authorisation is obtained.

The weapon must be surrendered if an Authorisation is not provided within a year from the date of possession by the applicant. If he does not want to keep it, he can surrender it at any time during that year.