



## NATIONAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Accredited with SAPS (CFR) as  
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30 March 2015

*Responsible and Accountable Firearms Ownership*

Director, Legislation (**Attention: Mr A Soman**)  
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Mr Soman,

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FIREARMS CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL, 2015**

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2015 amendments to the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (hereafter FCA).

As an accredited hunting and sport shooting association we comment on the proposed amendments and insertions of those Sections of the FCA, which have bearing on the firearm licensing requirements of our members.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Regulations for the Amendment Act, 2006 (Act 28 of 2006) have as yet, not been published in full. Except for some Regulations for selected Sections made effective by Proclamation 77 as printed in Government Gazette 33871, dated 17 December 2010. Therefore there remains uncertainty as to why there are new extensive amendments proposed here, while important amendments to the FCA already promulgated in 2006, have not yet been implemented through publication of the required Regulations.

This confusion deepens as some of the amendments of the Amendment Act, Act 28 of 2006, are again amended by the proposed amendments contained in this proposed 2015 Amendment Bill (i.e. the proposed amendments to Section 10).

We comment as follows, clause for clause:

#### **1. Clause 1: Proposed amendments to Section 1 (Definitions)**

- 1.1 Thank you for finally defining the meaning of the concepts, muzzle-loading firearm, and percussion cap-and-ball firearm.

*Chairman of the Executive Council: Dr Herman Els*



2. **Clause 2: Proposed amendments to Section 8 (Accreditation)**

- 2.1 We cannot support the proposed inclusion of subsections 7 to 10 in any format other than if it was intended to formalise the current endorsement process conducted by accredited associations. A process, which has been inappropriately instituted by the CFR as a “prescribed administrative procedure” outside of any Regulation pertaining to the FCA.
- 2.2 If the proposed insertions of Section 8(7) to (10) are then indeed intended to describe and formalise the current system of endorsement of applications, we submit, that at the least, the wording needs to be adapted to state and describe that specific function and process.
- 2.2 In any other format of meaning we cannot support the inclusion of the mentioned subsections for the following reasons:
- a. We cannot agree to a compulsory process of verification, which is not argued in the clause-for-clause explanations at the end of the document to comment upon, as we could be agreeing to a process through which the association could become liable. Especially seen against the proposed stipulations, which read that accredited associations “...must...” verify “...applications [of its dedicated members] for the possession of firearms or ammunition regarding the use, purpose and category of firearm applied for, including the motivation for the application or any other part of the application” (with the added statement – that the process of verification is still to be described).
  - b. The wording of the proposed Section 8(7) implies that accredited associations will become responsible, and thus will also have to take over accountability for functions (the motivation or any part of the application), which are in the FCA prescribed as functions and responsibilities of the CFR. We submit that, legally, the lawmaker may not delegate responsibilities and accountability of the CFR (in effect the State) to accredited associations, as accredited associations have no executive authority under the FCA.
  - c. We further submit that the prescripts of the FCA and Regulations (2004 as amended) to which an association had to comply with in order to attaining accredited status (hunting and/or sport shooting), does not include, neither proposes, the kind of responsibility and accountability, which will now be imposed on accredited associations in respect of licence applications of especially their dedicated members.
  - d. We further fail to understand why it would be necessary for a dedicated hunter and or sports-person to be made subject to the proposed pre-processes attached to licence applications, as if they could be more of a liability to legally own firearms than so-called occasional hunters and sports-persons could be. This unsubstantiated discrimination against legal dedicated firearms owners, who have

already by the FCA imposed stricter standards, qualified themselves to a higher level than the occasional hunter and sports-person in the ownership of firearms, is unreasonable and cannot be legally motivated nor defended.

- e. We also do not understand what the lawmaker has seen to have changed in the national scenario re the legal firearm ownership of dedicated hunters and sports-persons, for these higher qualified people to all of a sudden, be made subject to prerequisites for licensing Section 16 firearms through a process which is only required for the legal possession of firearms under Section 13 for self defence.
- f. To us this sudden perceived need and imposition of stricter prescripts for legal firearm ownership for dedicated hunters and sports-persons, rather clearly speaks to the non-existence of criteria against which CFR must evaluate applications for firearms licences before deciding on the awarding or denying thereof. That is the process, we submit, which really needs urgent rectification and transparent implementation through the compilation of clearly worded Regulations. Not the implementation of proposed procedures, which unreasonably curtail the legal firearms ownership of dedicated hunters and sports-persons.

3. **Clause 3: Proposed amendments to Section 9 (Application for a competency certificate)**

3.1 We support the proposed amendment (inclusion).

4. **Clause 4: Proposed amendments to Section 10 (Competency certificate)**

4.1 We cannot support and strongly oppose the changing of the period of validity of competency back to the original 5-year period, specifically in respect of hunting and sport-shooting firearms (be that for occasional or dedicated purposes).

4.2 We find no logic or valid legal reasoning for this proposed changing back to the original period of validity of competency (5 years) in terms of Section 15 and 16 firearms licence holders. In the same vain we right from the start failed to, and still do not find any valid legal reasons behind the decision to award competency for Section 13 licensed firearms (self defence) only for 5 years.

- a. We cannot see what has changed in the national scenario re legal firearms ownership since the issue of the realistic amendments contained in Amendment Act 28 of 2006 in which periods of competency of 10 years were brought in line with periods of validity for Section 15 and 16 firearms licences. We also draw your attention to the now incongruous fact that the realistic lengthening of periods of validity of competency for Section 15 and 16 firearms were some of the very few amendments for which Regulations were issued re Amendment Act 28 of 2006 (please again see the fourth paragraph on page 1 of this document).

- b. The proposed amendments once again only target legal firearms owners and will, as always, do nothing to curb the possession and use of illegal firearms.
- 4.3 However, we take note of the proposed inclusion of item 12 into Schedule 1 of the FCA, which seem to constitute a positive approach to the competency of legal firearms owners. We appropriately comment that proposed insertion in paragraph 19 of this document.
5. **Clause 5: Proposed amendment to Section 10A (Renewal of competency certificate)**
- 5.1 The inclusion of this proposed amendment makes no realistic sense at all, as all A4-type competency certificates which are currently issued by SAPS (CFR), have no expiry date printed on them. In addition there were a large number of white licence-type competency certificates, which were also issued by SAPS (CFR) without expiry dates printed on them before CFR switched to the A4-type of competency certificate.
- 5.2 The proposed amendment will, once again, cause numerous legal firearms owners to become unfairly criminalised. If the lawmaker would want to persist to implement the unsubstantiated and legally unfounded proposed amendments to periods of competency, we submit that this amendment should stipulate that competency has to be renewed every 5 years from the date of issue of said competency certificate due to facts stated in paragraph 5.1 above (please also see our paragraph 19.4 below in this regard).
6. **Clause 6: Proposed amendment to Section 15 (Licence to possess firearm for occasional hunting and sports shooting)**
- 6.1 We support the inclusion of this amendment.
7. **Clause 7: Proposed amendments to Section 16 (Licence to possess firearm for dedicated hunting and dedicated sports shooting)**
- 7.1 We can, only under severe duress, support the inclusion of the proposed subsections 5 and 6, as well as the proposed subsections 8 to 13.
- 7.2 Our position in respect of the proposed inclusion of subsections 5 and 6 is supported by the fact that there are already a large number of dedicated sports-persons who own and legally use more than two of these kinds of firearms with legally obtained licences. The inclusion of these two subsections will thus directly and unreasonably discriminate against those dedicated sports-persons who would wish to start to use such kinds of firearms for legal sport shooting activities after the date of implementation of the proposed 2015 Amendment Act.
- 7.3 However, we cannot support, and strongly oppose, the inclusion of the proposed Section 16(7) as it places unreasoned restrictions on the legal ownership of firearms.

The proposed insertion is unsubstantiated and is not reasonably explained by the lawmaker at all (also see our paragraph 2.2 (f) above, which in our contention, directly speaks to the proposed amendment here).

- a. As the proposed insertion of Section 16(7) is written now, it would mean that a dedicated hunter could never apply for an adequate and appropriate semi-automatic rifle or shotgun for hunting purposes, despite Section 16(2) of the FCA clearly stating that such legally qualified person is legally entitled to do so. Internationally there are a number of high quality rifle manufacturers who produce fine quality and accurate hunting rifles with semi-automatic actions, which are not sport-shooting firearms. Is the lawmaker really seriously implying that he is under the impression that firearms with semi-automatic actions can only be ethically and legally used for sport shooting purposes?
- b. We further submit that there is no legal justification whatsoever to impose the proposed Section 16(7) restrictions on legal firearms owners who have already “gone the extra mile” to declare their adherence to the FCA by acquiring dedicated sports-person status (again see paragraph 2.2 (f) above). Does the lawmaker thus in fact imply that he has the right to decide when a citizen of this country may or may not start to participate in a chosen sport? That we submit, is severely irregular, and without a doubt unconstitutional.

7.4 Although we understand the reasons for inclusion of the proposed Section 16(13) in the FCA, it is unclear as to what the Registrar will, or must, do with the required information stipulated here.

- a. If the consequences for persons who transgress in terms of the prescripts of the proposed subsections 13 (a), (b), and (c) are not stipulated in the same place in the FCA, the requirement will regress into just another official form that must be annually completed by accredited associations just to be filed or to be kept on record by the Registrar.
- b. It then becomes just another irrational and futile exercise, which places even more bureaucratic burdens on the CFR and accredited associations alike. It is a known fact that the CFR does not act on information contained in the prescribed and compulsory annual reports, which are already submitted to the CFR by accredited associations in compliance with the stipulations of Regulation 4(2)(b), as well as Regulation 12(2)(a) and 12(2)(b).

## 8. **Clause 9: Proposed amendments to Section 23 (Identification marks on firearms)**

8.1 The proposed inclusion of the word, microdot or microdots, in all proposed inclusions in Section 23 cannot be supported and is opposed in the strongest possible terms. The act of policing the illegal possession and use of firearms comes through diligent policing, not through an unrealistic imposition of a non-cost effective additional

bureaucratic procedure imposed on people who would want to own firearms legally (and who, truthfully, openly and legally, apply to own said firearms).

a. The proposed procedure of micro dotting is flawed in its core and is just not realistically implementable, apart from the fact that it presents unfair and unrealistic financial implications for legal firearms owners, as it can never be legally proven to be cost effective.

b. More comments on this ill-conceived process under paragraph 10 below.

8.2 We support the proposed amendments to Section 23(2) as it is in line with reality, and enhances the aesthetics attached to the ownership of high value firearms.

8.3 We submit that the proposed inclusion of subsection 23(8) is a contradiction in itself. We fail to understand how muzzle-loading firearms kept in a dealer's stock must be marked in the prescribed manner, but no serial number may be inscribed on the muzzle-loading firearm itself. The proposed amendment neither the clause-by-clause explanations state where these prescribed marks must then be inscribed on the specific firearm. Surely there must be some mark on the firearm to identify it by. Unless such firearm referred to is a collector's item, but then, we submit, it must be stated in so many words.

9. **Clause 10: Proposed amendment and insertions into Section 24 (Renewal of firearm licences)**

9.1 The inclusion of the proposed amendment is supported as it officially clarifies the process and procedures related to the renewal of licences for the first time.

9.2 We would, however, submit that an additional subsection must be included to clearly describe the process and procedures legal firearms owners must adhere to, if they would apply for renewal of a licence after the expiry of said licence (if for instance such a licence holder can render good reason for having missed the renewal date of the licence completely).

10. **Clause 11: Proposed insertion of Section 23A (Compulsory application of microdots on all new firearms)**

10.1 We submit that the place where these inclusions have been written into the proposed Amendment Bill should change to directly follow the proposed changes to Section 23, and not to follow proposed amendments to Section 24.

10.2 We have already declared our strong opposition to the implementation of the whole process of microdots to be attached to firearms.

10.3 In addition we make the following submissions:

- a. Any form of firearm identification, which is not etched into the steel parts of firearms, is highly unrealistic and imposes unfair cost implications on legal firearms owners as such identification marks can without any big effort, be removed irrespective of where and how these marks are affixed to firearms (and after the legal firearms owner has been forced to pay for such a flawed process just in order to remain a legal firearms owner).
- b. The proposed microdot system could possibly be proven to be unconstitutional. It will invariably criminalise a large number of legal firearms owners who will not have reasonable access to so-called service providers who will be able to produce and affix said microdots to legally owned firearms in the six months time period imposed with the implementation of the process. We cannot see where this reality has been taken into consideration by the lawmaker, especially as the proposed increased sentence could be 3 years imprisonment for failing to comply with prescripts of the Regulations (which surely must be issued in terms of this proposed 2015 amendment).
- c. It surely cannot be the intention of the lawmaker to force legal firearms owners to travel the country to find a so-called service provider who can make and affix said microdots. Just so that the owner can maintain legal ownership of his/her legally owned property, if there is no such service provider within realistic reachable distance from the legal firearm owner (Gauteng cannot be the measure here).
- d. We cannot fail to remind the lawmaker of the fact that the inadequate distribution of so-called training providers through out the whole of the country is already a serious oversight, which constitutes bad administration of the FCA. This administrative oversight by the lawmaker directly caused a number of firearms owners living in deep rural areas, and who legally possessed firearms under the 1969 Act, not to be able to renew licences under the FCA, just because they do not have realistic access to required training service providers. Since the inception of the FCA on 1 July 2004, the lawmaker has not remedied this oversight at all. We submit that there can be no legal justification for the lawmaker to expect citizens to adhere to prescripts contained in Laws if citizens who openly and willingly function inside the Law, cannot for reason of mere reality, comply with some stipulations contained in some Acts.
- e. The cost for a firearms owner who legally holds five licences to have microdots affixed to his/her firearms, will according to the calculations of the composers of the document we are commenting on, come to R2,250-00. We can with confidence ascertain the lawmaker that the real cost a legal firearms owner will have to pay will be substantially more, irrespective of who the so-called service provider will be. This in addition to the undisclosed costs involved in the proposed ballistics testing of said five firearms. This we submit could be construed as misrepresentation, especially as the proposed microdot process is not fool proof,

and the ballistic test firing of firearms will prove to be highly complex and possibly not realistically implementable.

- e. The process required for the re-blueing of legally owned firearms in order to refurbish or just to maintain their good quality, or even just for the sake of appearance, will immediately imply the additional unfair and unreasonable administrative cost of again affixing such microdots to said firearm.
- f. We further fail to understand how the lawmaker can even begin to suggest that the capacity can be created to make and affix microdots to an approximate 24,166 firearms per day. Given that there are a calculated 2,9 million legally owned firearms in the country, and that these will all have to be micro dotted in the mere 120 working days, which constitute the six month period afforded legal firearms owners to affix said microdots on their firearms after the implementation date of the 2015 amendments (again said, once the Regulations have been published). We again refer to our statements made in paragraphs 10.3 a, b and c above.
- g. We respectfully submit that the Firearms Register is just as unorganised and just as inadequate, if not more so, than it was with the implementation of the FCA on 1 July 2004, despite the restructuring and updating of the Register being a stated purpose of the FCA (incidentally the Deputy Minister of Police made the exact same statement in press on 27 March 2015).
- h. Lastly we submit that the administrative burden placed on SAPS (CFR) and the forensics people implied with the administrative requirements to manage the system of microdots filing, in addition to the filing of ballistics tests, is unrealistic, and to everybody's knowledge not administratively manageable with current electronic capabilities of SAPS and coupled to the shortage of trained personnel to manage the firearms licensing process in the country as it is (once again a statement confirmed by the Deputy Minister of Police in press on 27 March 2015).

**11. Clause 11: Proposed insertion of Section 23B (Ballistic sampling of all firearms)**

- 11.1 We submit that the place where these inclusions have been written into the proposed Amendment Bill should change to directly follow the proposed changes to Section 23, and not to follow proposed amendments to Section 24.
- 11.2 We also submit that the proposed subsection 23B(1)(e) should read occasional and dedicated sports shooting.
- 11.3 Despite the fact that we understand the reasoning behind the inclusion of Section 23B into the FCA, we again state that the implementation of the proposed system will be seriously contentious. It will definitely lead to numerous court cases against SAPS for the mismanagement and inappropriate handling of privately owned and high value firearms in the process, as the lawmaker once again ignores the reality of the

implementation of a highly complex process, which cannot without fault be adhered to in a realistic manner through out the country.

- 11.4 We, in strongest possible terms, oppose the inclusion of Section 23B(2) into the FCA. There can be no legal basis for the proposed prescript to ballistically re-test a firearm after it had been ballistically tested in the first place by the original owner as the ballistics of said firearm has already been captured on the forensics system (why are legal firearms owners once again targeted to become part of a process for which there is no administrative capacity ?). This proposed procedure leads to an increase in the administrative burden of the CFR and DFOs and will undoubtedly lead to an unreasonable increase in the already unaccounted for, and unacceptable time it takes to acquire a licence for a firearm.
- 11.5 We further also fail to understand why firearms of security service providers have to be handed back “forthright” after ballistic testing (proposed subsection 23B(3)), while those of the private individual are excluded from this timeframe. The lawmaker surely cannot imply that the security industry needs their firearms more urgently than do other legal firearms owners in this country. If that would be the case the lawmaker in Act, directly implies that it cannot maintain law and order without the security industry being in possession of their firearms. That would be a seriously negative admission for government and the keepers of law and order in this country to officially admit too.
- 11.6 If the lawmaker proposes to include Sections 23B(4) and 23B(5) into the FCA, there really cannot be any reason why all firearms presented for ballistic sampling, cannot be handed back “forthright” to their owners, be they private owners or security service providers.
- 11.7 We again submit that the inclusion of Section 23B into the FCA holds the potential to criminalise legal firearm owners, as the lawmaker cannot ascertain that all legal firearm owners will have reasonable access to places where ballistic testing can be conducted (Gauteng cannot be the measure of this). Even suggesting that quantities of high value firearms could be transported from one centre to another for ballistic testing, suggest a serious irresponsible and unrealistic mind-set.
- 11.8 Lastly, it verges on the ludicrous to even suggest that shotguns should be ballistically tested. These firearms must be clearly excluded from the proposed process.
12. **Clause 12: Proposed amendment to Section 31 (Prohibition of unlicensed trading in firearms or ammunition)**
- 12.1 We support the proposed amendment to Section 31(3) as it conforms to reality.

13. **Clause 21: Proposed amendment to Section 91 (Restrictions on possession of ammunition)**

13.1 We support the inclusion of these proposed amendments and inclusions into the FCA.

14. **Clause 23: Inclusion of Sections 98A and 98B (Possession and use of firearms by Official Institutions)**

14.1 We submit that if the lawmaker would continue with imposing the very difficult and complex process of implementing ballistic testing of firearms, as well as with the ill-conceived process of affixing microdots to legally owned firearms, that official institutions should first be subjected to the processes before the processes be imposed on the legal firearm owning public.

14.2 We also submit that this should be clearly stated in the proposed insertions of Section 98A into the FCA. This will afford the relevant authorities time to see where problems do occur and how to fix it before making the law abiding public subject to a proposed system of ballistic sampling and microdot affixing, which holds the mark of making innocent law abiding citizens criminals by default if they cannot for one or other reason, reasonably comply with the imposed process. This in addition to the fact that they may so lose their legally owned firearms. We submit that this situation could possibly be construed as, and possibly even be proven to be, unfounded dispossession of legally owned property.

15. **Clause 24: Proposed amendment to Section 124 (Functions of Registrar)**

15.1 We support all proposed amendments and inclusions in this Section of the FCA, as the description of the majority of these procedures and processes are long overdue.

16. **Clause 25: Proposed insertion of Sections 124A and 124B (Duties of commanders in respect of firearms)**

16. We support the inclusions of these Sections into the FCA, and specifically applaud the wording of Section 124A(2) by way of which criminal investigations are proposed to be instituted against members of SAPS who loose their firearms through negligence, which will replace the mere initiation of disciplinary procedures against such an official as are currently imposed in such instances.

17. **Clause 26: Proposed amendment of Section 128 (Establishment of Appeal Board)**

17.1 We support the commendable effort to make the functioning of the Appeal Board more effective through the proposed amendments and inclusions.

18. **Clause 30: Proposed amendment to Schedule 1 (Transitional provisions)**

18.1 We support the inclusion of items 1B, 1C and 1D into Schedule 1 of the FCA.

18.2 We cannot support and strongly oppose the inclusion of item 1E into Schedule 1 of the FCA, as that would amount to legalising a procedure whereby the lawmaker can use the amendments to an Act to circumvent the decisions of the High Court of this country (as the precedent would have been created). That is, we would respectfully submit, unconstitutional. In this instance it would declare the decision of the Northern Gauteng High Court, issued on 26 June 2009 re the validity of licences issued under the former Arms and Ammunition Act of 1969, null and void.

18.3 In addition the inclusion of item 1E into Schedule 1 brings into play the stipulations of item 11(4) of the Transitional provisions (Schedule 1) of the FCA, which were deferred and placed “on hold” by the High Court decision referred to in paragraph 18.2 above, until such time as the main court case between SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association and the Minister of Police had been decided. That court case has as yet not been concluded. We respectfully submit that it has always been, and remains the responsibility of SAPS to act accountable and to finalise this long outstanding main court case in order to achieve closure of the 1969 Arms and Ammunitions Act, and not to try and shift this responsibility in a round about manner, which we believe can be proven to be the intent with these proposed insertions.

18.4 We also respectfully submit that the reasons presented for the proposed insertion of item 1E into Schedule 1 of the FCA, as is set out in the document at our disposal under the heading “Background and Purpose”, are unconvincing and fail to present a really valid explanation as to why this proposed inclusion should be made to Schedule 1.

a. We also submit that the statements made in paragraph 2.24.5 (namely; that the inclusion of item 1E gives effect to the interim court order granted in the mentioned court case); and in paragraph 2.24.6 (namely; that the inclusion gives effect to the court’s decision that the legislature must take into account the available administrative facilities that are designed to implement the transitional arrangement are in place and must be able to be implemented by the Department.) really cannot, in all sincerity, be presented as representing the factual basis for purportedly giving effect to the verdict in the mentioned court case. These presentations dismally fail to reflect the whole and real truth of the undisclosed reasons behind the proposed insertions.

19. **Clause 31: Insertion of item 12 into Schedule 1 (Validity of competency certificates)**

19.1 We support this inclusion, but reiterate that in its practical implementation, it will definitely cause massive confusion and lead to untold frustration for DFOs and for

legal firearms owners alike. It also directly contradicts what is proposed for amendments to Section 10 as described in paragraph 4 above.

19.2 We further submit that the perceived premise for making this concession is in direct opposition to the reality of a person who legally owns more than one hunting and/or sport-shooting firearm. The premise upon which the proposed insertion is founded, seems to be that a legal firearms owner only has one firearm for which s/he holds a specific competency and that the licence and the competency can be linked in time for renewal (also see paragraph 5.1 above). The reality is, however, quite different in that:

a. Numerous legal firearms owners hold competency for handguns, rifles, shotguns, and semi-automatic rifles/carbines, which competencies are all indicated on one competency certificate without an expiry date printed on it. The question is then when does the competency lapse, and which competency is it that must be renewed as they are all printed on the same competency certificate. Or is it just the competency for the specific category of firearm of which the licence expires, which has to be renewed? This reality is not contained in the proposed insertions and will, we submit, definitely cause massive confusion, as it will once again be left to the SAPS (CFR) to manage the system by way of further confusing directives.

b. Numerous legal firearms owners receive licences for hunting and sports-shooting firearms over consecutive years as they build their "firearm collections" based on suitability of specific calibres for specific types of hunting and/or sport shooting. The question is now which expiry of which licence determines when a specific competency must be renewed (as is proposed for insertion). Is it the licence of, for instance, a hunting and sport shooting rifle that was issued for the applicant's first application, or is it the most recently issued licence as these licences obviously have different expiry dates.

19.3 We respectfully submit that this proposed insertion must be clearly rewritten to reflect that the longest outstanding licence per category of firearm is the licence renewal which needs to be accompanied by the renewal of the specific competency certificate, when the licence holder falls within the category of competency holders described in the proposed item 12(b) of Schedule 1 of the FCA. This is clearly in line with the stipulations of the seriously confusing SAPS directive issued on 7 January 2011 in this regard. This directive is currently utilised extensively by all DFOs to determine when a renewal of a competency for a specific category of firearm is required and necessary (See SAPS directive dated 07-01-2011 signed by the then acting National Commissioner, Lt Genl. BC Ngwenya, with title, *Legal Consequences of the putting into Operation of Certain Sections of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2006 (Act no 28 of 2006)*).

19.4 We further submit that it has become time that it be written into Regulations that CFR must issue separate competency certificates for separate categories of firearms (i.e.

handguns, rifles, shotguns & semi-auto rifles/carbines). The cost involved in printing additional A4-type competencies is easily covered by the cost accompanying an application for competency, as there are no longer white licence-type competency certificates issued (and because of reasons mentioned in 19.2 above).

20. **Clause-by-clause analysis**

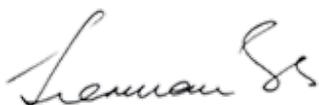
20.1 We were left with the clear interpretation and understanding that the amendments proposed to Section 16 referred to semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, and not to semi-automatic rifles and handguns as is stipulated in paragraph 2.7 (in which case our opposition to the inclusion of the amendment still stands and will be even more intensely worded).

20.2 Thus we respectfully submit that either the reference to semi-automatic shotguns should be substituted with handguns in the proposed amendments to Section 16 (see our paragraph 7 above), or this sentence in paragraph 2.7 should be corrected to reflect shotguns and not handguns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the FCA, and for the time you have spent on reading our comments. The proposed amendments and inclusions invariably pose some serious challenges to the continued legal firearms ownership of our members and for the public at large.

We, therefore, cannot refrain from stating that it is our contention that a large number of the proposed amendments and insertions are once again only focussed on creating further administrative bureaucracy for legal firearms owners (and for the already understaffed and ill equipped personnel of the CFR), and not focussed on curtailing the really very serious nature of the criminal and illegal possession and use of firearms in this country.

Sincerely



Dr Herman Els  
Executive Chair