



STONE CREEK

S A F A R I S



Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, South Africa

Firearms Importation and Temporary Permits.

Familiarize yourself with the requirements for getting your firearms imported into RSA. The process is not overly complicated. However, it is a bit involved. You can complete the process completely on your own and file the forms with South African Police Service (SAPS) and save some expense, or you can hire a Clearing Agent to do it for you. Doing it yourself, while saving you some money, also involves some risk. You will be dealing with a foreign bureaucracy, so if you run into any difficulty you will not have an advocate to mitigate your troubles. If you hire a Clearing Agent you will incur some expense, but you will have an advocate if any glitches develop, and you can then focus on a part of the planning process that is more enjoyable than filing government paperwork. Even when hiring a Clearing Agent you will still have to complete the forms on your own, but filing them and monitoring the process will be handled by the Clearing Agent you have hired. You can find Clearing Agents (they go by any number of different names) providing this service - PHASA (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa) Dallas Safari Club, Safari Club International, possibly through links on their respective websites, and through online searches.

If you decide to use a South African base agent such as PHASA, a representative will greet you at the airport upon arrival and assist you with the process.

PHASA (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa)

Lynette Clarke

Email: reception@phasa.co.za

In any case, preparation of, and the actual filing of your importation paperwork is another step in the planning process that should not be delayed, because Clearing Agents have deadlines by which they must be in receipt of your properly completed documents. The number of days may vary from one Clearing Agent to the next, but a suggested minimum is at least 25 days in advance of your arrival date in RSA. Currently, (for residents of the United States) there are 5 documents that are part of a properly completed firearms importation package:

(1) SAPS 520, Go to the South African Police Service website to download the SAPS 520 Form.

(2) CBP Form 4457, (downloadable from this website: www.cbp.gov, then scroll to the bottom footer of their website and click "Forms." From the "Forms" page, you will need to scroll through all the various PDF's to find the form you need.)

(3) Copy of your passport.

(4) Copy of your airline itinerary,

(5) Proof of Ownership, i.e. firearm licenses, etc. While the South African Police Service has been lenient up until now regarding proof of ownership, they are now stricter in this regard. To preclude any problems on arrival, please make sure you have proof of ownership by the way of a gun license, customs declaration letter from the country of origin, etc. Proof of ownership is obligatory.



stonecreekhunt@gmail.com



www.stonecreeksafaris.com



+27 82 8040 125



STONE CREEK

S A F A R I S



Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, South Africa

(6) Contact Details for Client While in South Africa. Please make sure that you have the company name, and the name of your outfitter, as well as addresses and contact telephone numbers in South Africa of where they will be staying / hunting during the course of your hunt. Both business telephone number and cell number must be supplied. This information is necessary for the actual Temporary Import Permit, as well as if the Police need to get in contact for any reason.

(7) An Invitation Letter from Stone Creek Safaris.

(8) Letter of motivation (A letter written by yourself to motivate why you wish to import rifles)

Your Clearing Agent (if you use one) will provide instructions on completing the SAPS 520. Instructions on completing the CBP 4457 are attached to the form itself. Make sure you sign and date all forms where necessary. All copies must be legible.

Once you are satisfied with the completed package send a copy to RSA (via your hired Clearing Agent if you selected this option). If you have not received an acknowledgment from them of their having received your documents within 10 days of the date you emailed the documents to them then send a follow-up email asking for confirmation. At the same time make 3 copies for yourself of all documents and put them in separate file folders. When you pack for your safari, put one folder in your checked baggage, one folder in your firearms case, and keep one folder in your carry-on luggage. This is not a travel requirement, but you will be glad you have these extra copies if any part (or all) of your checked baggage gets delayed, or turns up missing. Unfortunately, governments have a penchant for changing their requirements over time, so make sure you have the latest information. This is another good reason to hire a Clearing Agent to assist in this process. These folks do this for a living, and therefore must stay current on government requirements.

Schedule Your Appointment with Your CBP Agent. Familiarize yourself with the CBP Form 4457. You must complete this form and submit it in person to a CBP Agent for verification. The purpose of this form is simply to provide a means whereby you may list all the valuable items you are taking out of the US, so that when you return to the US some suspicious CBP Agent does not try to charge you excise tax on something you already owned and had in your possession when you left the country. A good rule of thumb is, "If it has a serial number, then list it." This would include then, such items as firearms, rifle scopes, binoculars, cameras, laptop computers, i-pads, and similar such items. CBP does not consider a rifle scope attached to a rifle as part of the rifle. You must list it separately along with its serial number. Serial numbers beneath the scope can sometimes be read with a small mirror. Where the serial number is obscured by scope rings, list the scope separately like you are supposed to and annotate the 4457 that the serial number is obscured by the rings. Point this out to the CBP Agent when you submit the form. Some optics (and possibly other items of value) do not have serial numbers, the notable example being binoculars. In such cases describe the item in as detailed a manner as possible and annotate the listing with these words: No Visible Serial Number. In addition to items having a serial number, list ammunition by manufacturer, Caliber, bullet weight & type, and the number of rounds of each. List the lot numbers on factory boxes if the ammunition is packed in factory boxes.

Complete all the entries on the CBP Form 4457 in advance of arriving for your appointment. Do not waste the agent's time trying to complete the forms in the CBP office. Lastly, after your appointment is



stonecreekhunt@gmail.com



www.stonecreeksafaris.com



+27 82 8040 125



STONE CREEK

S A F A R I S



Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, South Africa

completed, should you happen to purchase anything new that might ought to have been listed on the CBP Form 4457 you do not need another appointment to enter the newly purchased items so long as you keep the original purchase receipt with the newly purchased item and present it upon your return to the U.S.

Call your CBP Agent and arrange an appointment to have your 4457 form reviewed and your items inspected. This is a duty of CBP Agents, but it is way down on their priority list. So, be patient with them and show appreciation for their time. You may not get the appointment you want on the first try. If you call Agents at local, municipal, county or regional airports instead of large International Airports (e.g. Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, etc.) you will probably fare much better. Once you have your appointment, be there on time.

You must have all the items listed on the form in your physical possession when you arrive for your appointment. Present the items in the order they appear on the form. You may wish to have a family member or friend with you to assist you in presenting each item depending on the volume just to speed things up, but it is not necessary. It's probably best to list the firearms first followed by the next most valuable items. Make sure you have made the firearms inoperable before you leave your place of residence. For bolt-action rifles, simply remove the bolt and leave it at home. Point out to the CBP agent that you have removed the bolt. Then present the firearm to them for verification. It helps to indicate to them where they should be looking for the serial number. Not all of them are firearms experts; they will appreciate this assistance, and it will put them at ease. Finally, there is a movement afoot to change this process, so be alert by visiting the CBP website regarding any new policy postings. This is another reason to belong to SCI as they typically notify members when policy changes are anticipated.

- Please note however that there is a handling fee charged by airlines and/or security companies for the handling of handguns.
 - **Temporary Import Permits (SAPS520) are issued to the particular person and are not transferable.**
 - Temporary Import permits are issued for a period of 90 or 180 days.
 - **When the visitor departs from the country, he MUST take all the firearms as stated on the Import Permit with him. He is not allowed to leave any of the firearms mentioned on the SAP520 in South Africa.**
 - Should a firearm not be declared and a temporary import permit not issued, and you proceed through customs without declaring a firearm, you will face severe penalties and possible arrest on departure from South Africa.
 - There is no permit required, nor any charge by the South African Police Service for a bow. Handling fees are charged by airline and/or security companies for bows and handguns, but not for rifles.
 - **No more than one firearm per caliber and 200 rounds per caliber will be allowed into the country.**
 - **The only exception to this is for shotguns**, where more than one shotgun of the same caliber may be allowed for bird hunting purposes if the **client produces on arrival at the South African Police Gun Office an acceptable written motivation as to why he/she requires more than one shotgun of the same caliber.**
 - Permits will only be issued for ammunition which is accompanied by a firearm of the same caliber.
 - **Temporary Import Permits will not be issued for anyone under the age of 21.**
- Note: **Prohibitions of firearms are:** (Section 32 of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969) (No 75 of 1969)
- **Automatic or Semi-Automatic Rifles**



stonecreekhunt@gmail.com



www.stonecreeksafaris.com



+27 82 8040 125



STONE CREEK

S A F A R I S



Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, South Africa

- **Automatic or Semi-Automatic Shotguns**

- **Hand Carbines**

- Strict controls on automatic and semi-automatic firearms are enforced.

- The **SAPS requests applications for semi-automatic shotguns be made well in advance so that the necessary administrative work can be completed** authorizing the issuing of the permit before the client arrives in South Africa. **No application on arrival will be considered.**

- **No temporary imports will be issued for semi-automatic or automatic rifles.**

Hunting rifles shall only be transported to & from the following destinations:

OR Tambo International, Johannesburg
Cape Town
Durban
Port Elizabeth
Kimberly
Polokwane
Phalaborwa
Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, Nelspruit
Upington
Bloemfontein

HOW TO PACK AND FLY WITH FIREARMS

Firearms may NOT be packed inside checked luggage and must therefore be packed in an appropriate lockable firearm container or case, separate from checked luggage.

Ammunition must be separated from the weapons and must be packed within checked luggage on international flights, but must be properly secured in an ammunition case or solid box. We strongly recommend a solid and lockable ammunition box (the reason for this is the current rules on domestic flights in South Africa and explained below). No ammunition may be packed loosely in checked baggage or within the same case as the firearms.

NOTE 1: FlySafair and AirLink is currently the ONLY airline carriers, who is currently allowed to transport firearms onboard domestic flights (South African Airways ceased their domestic flights on 29th February 2020) – Please therefor make sure your domestic flights within South Africa is carried out by SafAir or AirLink. The Corona pandemic in 2020/21 may cause new airlines to form and arise, so other airlines may also be added to the list in the near future. In any case, please update yourself with regulations before booking your flight.

NOTE 2: On domestic flights within South Africa, your ammunition must be checked in separately. All though this is only a “recommendation” from the local airlines, the airport staff chooses to enforce this, from a recommendation to procedure! We therefor strongly recommend that ammunition is packed in lockable cases, which is suitable for being handed in as a separate piece of luggage on domestic flights.

This all may seem a bit complicated, but really it is not. If you have any questions, we will gladly help you out.



stonecreekhunt@gmail.com



www.stonecreeksafaris.com



+27 82 8040 125