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DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

NO. 8204 **19 November 2026**

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

The proposed revised Schedule of the Firearms Control Regulations, 2004, as published in Government Notice R.345 of 26 March 2004 in terms of section 145 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) is hereby published for public comments and is available on the website of the South African Police Service at the following link:

https://www.saps.gov.za/resource_centre/notices/downloads/2026/notice-for-public-comment-proposed-amendment-of-the-firearms-control-regulations-2004.pdf

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the proposed revised Schedule within 60 days from the publication for the attention of the following person:

Brigadier T de Kamper

Division: Legal Services

South African Police Service

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DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

No. R **2026**

FIREARMS CONTROL ACT, 2000

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FIREARMS CONTROL REGULATIONS, 2004

I, Mr Firoz Cachalia, the Acting Minister of Police, hereby, in terms of section 145 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000), make the regulations in the Schedule.

MR F CACHALIA
ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE
DATE: 2026-08-06

SCHEDULE

Definition

1. In this Schedule "the Regulations" means the Firearms Control Regulations, 2004, published in Government Notice No. R. 345 of 26 March 2004 as amended by Government Notice Nos. R. 696 of 16 September 2005, R.1208 of 17 December 2010, Proclamation No. R. 9 of 17 February 2012, Government Notice Nos. 275 of 9 March 2020, 589 of 5 July 2021 and R. 3412 of 17 May 2023.

Amendment of regulation 13 of the Regulations

2. Regulation 13 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion after subregulation (2) of the following subregulation:

"(2A) An application contemplated in regulation 28A(1)(*b*) must be accompanied by —

(a) a copy of the relevant expired licence card: Provided that, if the applicant provides a reasonable explanation for not being able to produce the expired licence card, and its existence may be verified on the Firearm Identification System, he or she may be exempted from producing the expired licence card;

(b) an explanation regarding the applicant's failure to renew the firearm licence before the date of expiry; and

(c) proof of the storage of the firearm as contemplated in regulation 67(2A).".

Amendment of regulation 14 of the Regulations

3. Regulation 14 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution for subregulation (3) of the following subregulation:

"(3) When the Registrar performs a function contemplated in section 124(3) of the Act in order to make a determination contemplated in subregulation (1), the Registrar may require a person applying for a competency certificate, to provide —

(a) a report issued by a medical doctor regarding the applicant's dependence on any substance which has an intoxicating or narcotic effect;

(b) a report compiled by a psychologist or psychiatrist, or both, regarding the stable mental condition and inclination to violence of the applicant;

(c) a report issued by a medical doctor or optometrist, or both, regarding the applicant's physical capability to handle a firearm safely; or

(d) any or all of the reports contemplated in paragraphs *(a)* to *(c)*.".

Amendment of regulation 21 of the Regulations

4. Regulation 21 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution in subregulation (1)(*c*) for subparagraph (v) of the following subparagraph:

"(v) period, reason and place for which possession is granted: Provided that the period determined, —

(aa) may not exceed a continuous period of 72 hours or a succession of such periods;

(bb) in the case of a security officer contemplated in section 20(5)*(b)* of the Act, may not exceed a continuous period of 72 hours or the duration of his or her shift as a security officer, whichever period is the shortest; or

(cc) in the case of a licence issued in terms of section 20(2)*(d)* or *(e)* of the Act, may not exceed the duration of a specific hunting trip for which the person is contracted as a client, employee or sub-contractor of the business, as the case may be;".

Amendment of regulation 23 of the Regulations

5. Regulation 23 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution in subregulation (3) for paragraph (*b*) of the following paragraph:

"*(b)* an official certificate from the country of citizenship of the applicant confirming that the applicant has no criminal record;".

Amendment of regulation 24 of the Regulations

6. Regulation 24 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the addition of the following subregulation after subregulation (5):

"(6) A non-citizen who was granted a temporary authorisation to possess a firearm as contemplated in section 21 of the Act must —

(a) dispose of the firearm through a dealer or in such manner as the Registrar may determine; and

(b) provide proof of such disposal to the Registrar,

before exiting the Republic of South Africa.".

Insertion of regulation 28A of the Regulations

7. The following regulation is hereby inserted in the Regulations after regulation 28:

"**28A. Termination of firearm licence**

(1) A firearm owner whose licence in respect of a firearm in his or her possession has expired as a result of his or her failure to renew the licence prior to the expiry of the relevant period referred to in section 27 of the Act, must —

(a) dispose of the firearm in his or her possession, as well as any ammunition, by way of —

(i) sale;

(ii) donation;

(iii) destruction;

(iv) deactivation; or

(v) surrender; or

(b) submit a new licence application in terms of the Act in respect of the firearm, subject to the storage of the firearm and ammunition as prescribed in regulation 67(2A).

(2) The disposal contemplated in subregulation (1)*(a)* or storage referred to in subregulation (1)*(b)*, must take place within 7 days of the date of expiry of the firearm licence.

(3) The firearm owner must notify the Registrar in writing of the particulars of the disposal or storage within 24 hours thereof.

(4) When the firearm is stored at —

(a) a dealer, the notice of storage to the Registrar must include:

(i) the name and address of the dealer; and

(ii) the relevant serial number from the Firearms Safe Custody Register referred to in regulation 37(3); or

(b) a police storage facility, the notice of storage to the Registrar must include:

(i) the police station where the firearm was handed in; and

(ii) the relevant SAPS13 number.

(5) An application referred to in subregulation (1)(*b*) must be made —

(a) within 30 days from the date of expiry of the licence concerned where the licence expires after the promulgation of these Regulations; or

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(b) not more than two years from the date on which these Regulations come into operation where the licence expired before the promulgation of these Regulations.

(6) A period contemplated in subregulation (2), (3) or (5) may be extended by the Registrar on good cause shown.

(7) Should the firearm licence application be refused, the firearm in question must be disposed of as contemplated in subregulation (1)*(a)* or in such other manner as the Registrar may determine, within a period of 60 days after receipt of the refusal letter: Provided that, if the applicant lodges an appeal against the refusal of the application for a licence as provided for in the Act, the period of 60 days within which the firearm must be disposed of, will only commence after he or she has been informed that the appeal has been unsuccessful.

(8) If the firearm is not disposed of within 60 days as contemplated in subregulation (7), –

(a) it must be forfeited to the State and the provisions of the Act applicable to the termination of the relevant licence will apply, with the necessary changes; and

(b) no compensation will be payable to anyone in respect thereof, except where the provisions of section 149(3) of the Act are applicable.

(9) In the event of failure to dispose of the firearm within 60 days as contemplated in subregulation (7), the former holder of the firearm licence must, if it was not stored at a police facility pending the licence application, surrender the firearm concerned within 24 hours to his or her nearest police station, or in any other manner which the Registrar may determine.".

Amendment of regulation 31 of the Regulations

8. Regulation 31 of the Regulations is hereby amended by —

(a) the substitution for paragraphs *(o)* and *(p)* of the following paragraphs:

"*(o)* the dealer's licence may not be transferred;

(p) a dealer's licence does not authorise the collection of firearms or ammunition as a private or public collection; and"; and

(b) the addition of the following paragraph after paragraph (*p*):

"*(q)* a dealer must submit, to the Registrar, written proof of his or her trade within seven days of a written request to do so by the Registrar.".

Amendment of regulation 67 of the Regulations

9. Regulation 67 of the Regulations is hereby amended by –

(a) the substitution for subregulation (2) of the following subregulation:

"(2) Subject to the provisions of subregulation (2A), storage may only be provided to a person who may lawfully possess the firearm or ammunition."; and

(b) the insertion after subregulaton (2) of the following subregulation:

"(2A)(*a*) A firearm owner whose licence in respect of a firearm in his or her possession has expired as a result of the failure to renew the licence prior to the expiry of the relevant period referred to in section 27 of the Act, and who applies for a new licence in respect of such firearm, must within 7 days of the expiry of the licence surrender the firearm and any ammunition to –

(i) a holder of a dealer's licence; or

(ii) his or her nearest police station,

for storage in a safe or strongroom contemplated in subregulation (1), until such time as the licence application is decided.

(*b*) A firearm stored in terms of this regulation may not be used by any person, while it is so stored.".

Commencement

10. These Regulations come into operation on the date of publication thereof in the *Gazette*.

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