# **LAW 57** From May 27, 2011

# General of firearms, ammunition, and related materials

# THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECREES:

## Chapter I

General provisions

**Article 1.** Objective. This Law establishes the legal regime to regulate the possession, carrying, activities of import, export, marketing, storage, intermediation, transport and trafficking of weapons, ammunition, and related materials, by individuals, in development of article 312 of the Political Constitution.

**Article 2.** Scope of application. This Law regulates the sale, possession and carrying of firearms, ammunition, and related materials within the territory of the Republic of Panama, other than weapons and elements of war whose possession is exclusive to the National Government, as well as transfer activities, intermediation or transportation of firearms, ammunition and related materials made from or through the national territory.

**Article 3.** Firearms. The firearms regulated by this Law include any weapon that consists of, at least, a barrel through which a bullet or projectile can be discharged and that has been designed for it or can be easily converted for that purpose or any other weapon. or destructive device, such as explosive, incendiary or gas bomb, grenade, rocket, rocket launcher, missile, missile system and mines.

A firearm shall be understood as any device that uses, as a propellent agent for the projectile, the force created by the expansion of the gases produced by the combustion of a chemical substance.

**Article 4.** Ammunition. For the purposes of this Law, ammunition is the set corresponding to each shot of the firearms of generally rifled or rifled barrels, generally composed of a metal tube (cap), a primer or bait, a gunpowder charge, and a projectile, even when exceptionally there are projectiles that, when expanded, are divided into a plural number of buckshot or pellets.

**Article 5.** Related Materials. The related materials regulated by this Law include any component, part or spare part of a firearm or accessory that can be attached to a firearm.

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**Article 6.** Enforcement responsible authority. The Ministry of Public Security, through the Institutional Directorate for Public Security Affairs, hereinafter the DIASP, is responsible for applying this Law and its regulations.

**Article 7.** State security forces. The National Police, the National Aeronaval Service, the National Border Service, and the Institutional Protection Service may use any firearm and ammunition for the internal and external defense of Panama, except those prohibited by international conventions or treaties ratified by the Republic of Panama, and, in relation to the use and carrying of firearms and ammunition proper to their functions, they will be subject to the regime indicated by its laws and regulations.

**Article 8.** <u>State-owned weapons.</u> Registered weapons and ammunition owned by the State may only be used by members of the security forces when they are on duty.

The carrying and possession of firearms and personal ammunition of the members of the security forces, when they are not in service, will be subject to the provisions of this Law and its regulations.

State-owned weapons and ammunition may not be used by private citizens, except in the situations referred to in article 310 of the Political Constitution.

**Article 9.** State institutions security services. The State institutions that have institutional security services, regarding the use and carrying of firearms and ammunition pertaining to their duties, will be subject to the regime indicated by their laws and regulations.

# **Chapter II**

Firearms

**Article 10.** <u>Possession and bearing.</u> The power of the State to grant the possession and carrying of firearms, defined by this law of lawful possession, to natural persons, nationals, and foreign residents, who are in full enjoyment of their civil rights and meet the requirements, is recognized established in this Law and its regulations.

This power will be restricted to the conditions established in this Law and its regulations.

**Article 11.** Firearms and prohibited ammunition. The following are prohibited firearms and ammunition for use and carrying:

1. Firearms of any caliber with automatic operation or those with silencing devices or accessories that increase the capabilities to suppress sounds, the use of which is reserved for State security forces and subject to special regulations.

- 2. Homemade or handcrafted or massively manufactured artifacts that allow projectiles to be launched, whatever the form. Likewise, firearms not considered to be weapons of war, but used by their owners to launch projectiles and/or grenades.
- 3. Long firearms whose barrels have been trimmed to a length of less than twenty-four inches.
- 4. Homemade or artisanal or massively manufactured weapons or projectiles that can cause fire or that contain paralyzing, tear-producing, vomiting or explosive substances of homemade or artisanal or massively manufactured.
- 5. Armor-piercing, explosive, fragmentary or detonation projectiles and any other prohibited for civil use in international treaties and conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama.
- 6. Camouflaged firearms that hide their true purpose under an inoffensive appearance, such as canes, pencils, briefcases or other.
- 7. Military, non-hunting or sports infrared or night vision sights, noise reducers, silencers and any device that allows the launch of grenades. The use of compensators will be allowed exclusively in regulated sports activities.
- 8. The mechanisms of conversion of weapons to automatic operation.
- 9. Ammunition poisoned with chemical or natural products.
- 10. The so-called special weapons or weapons of mass destruction prohibited by virtue of international treaties and conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama.
- 11. Asphyxiating gas munitions, land mines of all kinds and any weapons of similar danger.

# **Article 12.** <u>Prohibition of carrying and possession.</u> The possession and carrying of firearms is prohibited to the following persons:

- 1. Those under twenty-one years of age for possession and under eighteen years of age for possession.
- 2. Those declared in a state of interdiction.
- 3. Those who have not passed a psychiatric or psychological test in the last six months to verify their capacity for responsible possession and/or carrying of firearms.
- 4. Those identified through medical certification in the last three months as consumers of drugs or psychotropic substances.
- 5. Those who, according to their police history, have been repeatedly arrested while intoxicated, prosecuted, or fined for repeat driving motor vehicles, participating in fights and promoting acts of domestic violence. These people will be considered habitual drunkards by the competent authority, and they will not be issued a permit to carry or possess firearms.
- 6. Those who cannot be charged according to criminal law.

- 7. Those convicted by a competent court for crimes against life and personal integrity, crimes against freedom, crimes against freedom and sexual integrity, crimes against the family legal order and marital status, crimes against economic assets, crimes against collective security, crimes against the legal personality of the State and crimes against humanity. In these cases, the competent authority must immediately notify the DIASP of the respective conviction.
- 8. Others that are prohibited by court decision.

**Article 13.** Advertising restriction. Importers and distributors of firearms, their accessories and ammunition may not carry out promotions and/or advertising campaigns for the sale of these merchandise, without clearly warning the public about the danger posed by the irresponsible or inexperienced use of firearms.

### **Article 14.** Additional Prohibitions. It is prohibited for natural and legal persons:

- 1. Carrying or having weapons and elements of war.
- 2. Carry or have fragmentation grenades, gases, mechanisms to release biological, toxic, corrosive, or narcotic substances.
- 3. Carrying or having offensive or defensive elements, devices, equipment, and instruments for exclusively military use not considered firearms, or weapons of mass destruction or that are assimilated or resembled these.
- 4. Import, manufacture, market or install accessories or make modifications to weapons for private use, to silence the detonations produced when firing them.
- 5. Collect weapons or elements of war, even if they have been deactivated or one or more of their parts have been removed to prevent their operation.
- 6. Modify the firing mechanism of a weapon for private use, transforming it into an automatic firearm, capable of firing bursts or machine gunning.
- 7. Carrying firearms in any public or private place where their carrying is expressly prohibited.

# **Article 15.** Classification of weapons. For the purposes of this Law, weapons are classified as follows:

- 1. Weapons of mass destruction. Any type of defensive or offensive weapons whose manufacture, traffic and/or use has been prohibited, even for the States, through international treaties ratified by the Republic of Panama. Nuclear, chemical, biological and toxin weapons are weapons of mass destruction.
- 2. Weapons of war. Those that can only be owned and used by the Government of the Republic of Panama and whose import, manufacture and export is only possible through prior authorization issued by the Executive Branch. Weapons of war are characterized by their ability to fire automatically through bursts or strafing with a single press of the trigger.

- 3. *Firearms for private use.* Those that are not for war according to their universal use, such as those for hunting, those that serve for sports training and those whose use is allowed for personal defense and that in turn are subdivided into:
  - a. *Short weapons*. They are revolvers, derringers and semi-automatic pistols of all existing calibers, as long as they cannot be fired automatically by bursts or machine gunning.
  - b. *Long weapons*. They include shotguns and rifles of all calibers, with one, two or three barrels, lever, bolt, pump and with a semi-automatic firing mechanism, with the capacity for one or several shots if they cannot be fired automatically by means of bursts or strafing.

**Article 16.** Firearms for sporting and hunting use. Firearms for sporting and hunting use are those that have been designed for the practice of competitive sports and hunting and that are internationally recognized and regulated.

**Article 17.** Compressed gas fired weapons. Compressed gas-action weapons are pistols and rifles that need to release any type of previously compressed gas to propel a projectile, whether they are piston-operated or canned gas, and that use ammunition of up to 5.5 millimeters.

**Article 18.** <u>Ammunition Classification.</u> For the purposes of this Law, ammunition is classified as follows:

- 1. Prohibited ammunition. Those that, due to their nature and characteristics, are prohibited by international agreements and treaties signed by the Republic of Panama.
- 2. *Military ammunition*. Those that, due to their nature and technical characteristics, can only be owned and used by the Government of the Republic of Panama. Among these are ammunition provided with armor-piercing projectiles or points, incendiary projectiles or points, artillery projectiles or points (mortar, anti-tank, anti-aircraft); projectiles or tracer points; Teflon, with solid cores of steel, iron, tungsten, and uranium.
- 3. Ammunition for private use. Those not considered in the previous numeral, whose projectiles or points can be totally or partially jacketed or totally made of lead, copper, or bronze, such as ammunition for personal defense, hunting and any sports shooting disciplines, in accordance with the international regulations of Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer's Institute and the specifications provided by their respective manufacturers through catalogs or publications on the Internet.

**Article 19.** Ammunition collection. Ammunition up to 12.6 millimeters or its equivalent can be collected whenever they are deactivated. Collecting grenades, activated or deactivated, or any type of explosive is prohibited.

### **Chapter III**

# National Registry of Firearms and Ammunition

**Article 20.** Registry Organization. The Ministry of Public Security is responsible for organizing the National Registry of Firearms and Ammunition, in which the results of the ballistics tests of all firearms circulating in the country will be deposited.

**Article 21.** <u>DIASP functions.</u> For the regulation of the sale, possession and carrying of firearms, ammunition and related materials, the DIASP will have the following powers:

- 1. Issue the licenses and certificates established in this Law, prior compliance with the requirements for each case.
- 2. Control and supervise the operation of establishments dedicated to the sale, import and export of firearms, ammunition, and related materials, previously authorized by the Ministry of Public Security.
- 3. Authorize, control, and supervise the operation of firing ranges, armories and ammunition reloading machines.
- 4. Authorize and supervise the possession of firearms belonging to private security companies and the carrying of these by their workers, with a license to carry them, in accordance with this Law.
- 5. Supervise the physical inventory of firearms, ammunition and related materials found in commercial establishments, storage places, shooting ranges and armories.
- 6. Carry out technical and expert examinations for applicants for certificates of possession and licenses to carry weapons, for the first time.
- 7. Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Security to design and plan strategies and measures to eradicate the trafficking and illicit circulation of firearms in the country.
- 8. Propose to the Ministry of Public Security programs and projects aimed at promoting the voluntary surrender of unregistered firearms.
- 9. Promote complaints before the competent authority when there is knowledge of the possible commission of a crime.
- 10. Submit monthly reports on carrying licenses and possession certificates granted for the use of firearms to the Minister of Public Security and the director of the Judicial Investigation Department.
- 11. Comply with and enforce this Law and its regulations.
- 12. Exercise the others that are assigned by law.

**Article 22.** Weapons registry. For the management of the National Registry of Firearms and Ammunition, the DIASP will have the following powers:

- 1. Register ballistics tests on all firearms.
- 2. Register the firearms used by the public officials of the institutions and dependencies of the Public Administration that, due to their positions or functions, require the use of firearms.
- 3. Keep an electronic record of the certificates and licenses granted to natural and legal entities for the sale, possession and carrying of firearms, ammunition and related materials, the record of ballistics tests of firearms and the updated list of businesses and sports associations that sell firearms, ammunition and related materials. This information must be safeguarded for a period of no less than ten years.
- 4. Keep an electronic record of all statistical information related to the registry of firearms and ammunition.
- 5. Receive, store and guard firearms that are deposited by individuals or by court order.
- 6. Carry out the marking of firearms in the corresponding cases in accordance with this Law and its regulations.
- 7. Carry out other activities ordered by law.
- **Article 23.** The resolutions, certifications and licenses referred to in articles 21 and 22 will be delivered in a period not exceeding thirty business days, in accordance with Law 38 of 2000.
- **Article 24.** Confidentiality of information. The information received by the DIASP in relation to firearms, ammunition and related materials may be classified as confidential or restricted access and used for police and criminal investigation processes and any processes initiated by competent authority.
- **Article 25.** <u>Database.</u> The DIASP will take the ballistics test of each weapon legally entered the national territory for its registration and will keep the projectiles and shell casings used for said test. The information collected through this test will constitute the digital and physical bank of ballistics tests.

The Public Ministry, the National Police and the competent authorities will have access to this database for investigation purposes in cases involving a firearm.

**Article 26.** Certification as a dealer. The marketing and distribution of firearms, ammunition, related materials, cartridges and weapons or non-lethal items will be allowed only to legal entities, with Panamanian capital and with registered shares.

Legal entities that are interested in being granted a resolution for this type of activity must submit a request on plain paper, addressed to the Minister of Public Security, through a suitable lawyer, accompanied by the following documentation:

1. Power of attorney granted to a practicing attorney by the legal representative of the company.

- Certification from the Public Registry stating the name and address of its directors and officers, the legal representative and the resident agent, the type of activity and the validity of the company.
- 3. Simple copy of the articles of incorporation with the presentation of the original notarial copy for its respective comparison.
- 4. Certification issued by the company's treasurer based on the share registry book stating the names of all shareholders.
- 5. Certification issued by the company's auditor, stating the company's equity and the percentage of participation of all shareholders.
- 6. Authentic copy of the personal identity card of the directors, officers, legal representative, resident agent, and shareholders of the company.
- 7. Form, duly completed, that the DIASP will deliver for this purpose.
- 8. Copy of the Notice of Operation of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Panama.
- 9. Insurance policy that includes civil liability coverage of not less than forty thousand dollars (US\$40,000.00).
- 10. Criminal record certificate of the members of the board of directors, the dignitaries, the shareholders and the legal representative of the company.
- 11. Copy of the payment receipt of the corresponding fees.

The regulations will establish the necessary documents that the petitioner must submit to prove compliance with these requirements.

Companies engaged in the sale of firearms, ammunition and related materials may only issue registered shares.

**Article 27.** Rejection and suspension of the request. The request for resolution as a dealer of firearms, ammunition, related materials, cartridges and weapons or non-lethal items will be rejected in the following cases:

- 1. When the petitioner does not comply with all the requirements established in this Law.
- 2. When any of the members of the board of directors, dignitaries, shareholders, or the legal representative of the legal person has been convicted of committing any intentional crime, through a final sentence, with a prison sentence of two or more years.

The processing of the resolution request will be suspended when any of the members of the board of directors, dignitaries, shareholders, or the legal representative of the legal entity are subject to judicial proceedings by a competent authority.

**Article 28.** Sales report. Distributors of firearms, ammunition, related materials, cartridges, accessories and defensive items or non-lethal weapons are obliged to submit to the DIASP, within the first five business days of each month, a sales report for the previous month, indicating the name and general information of the buyer, including the number of the certificate of possession or permit to carry weapons, the description of the items sold and a copy of the sales invoices.

**Article 29.** Rate and validity. The resolution as a firearms dealer will have a cost of fifty dollars (US\$50.00) per year.

# **Chapter IV**Buy and sell

**Article 30.** Requirements for the purchase of weapons. For the purchase of a firearm for private use, sports or for individual use and handling, the interested party must present, before the business or commercial premises authorized for sale, a simple copy of both sides of the personal identity card, certificate of criminal record of the place of residence and job letter or last social security card or last income statement.

**Article 31.** <u>Delivery authorization.</u> The seller must submit the documentation provided by the buyer to the DIASP, to verify if the buyer is not prevented from purchasing firearms by reason of law or court order.

If the weapon that is the object of the sale corresponds to the sample that the authorized dealer maintains in his business premises, said sample will be sent to the DIASP, together with the documentation provided, for the purposes of verification referred to in previous paragraph.

When there is no impediment and all the requirements of this Law and its regulations have been met, the DIASP will send the seller the authorization for the delivery of the acquired weapon and the corresponding certificate of possession of weapons.

Article 32. Sale between individuals. Any transfer of ownership of a firearm between individuals must be carried out through a document that the DIASP will prepare for this purpose, which will be presented personally by the seller before the institution or, failing that, must be recorded in a document authenticated before a notary public, along with the weapon, the ammunition and the certification of possession of the firearm for the authorization of the transfer, within a period not exceeding thirty business days.

The DIASP will issue the new weapons possession certificates and will proceed to deliver the firearm to its new purchaser.

**Article 33.** Sale of ammunition. Only commercial establishments, shooting ranges and sports shooting clubs or associations that have legal authorization may sell ammunition or cartridges for firearms.

The ammunition or cartridges for firearms will be sold to the interested party upon presentation of the possession certificate or the license to carry firearms issued by the DIASP.

In the case of firearms intended exclusively for personal defense, such establishments may only sell ammunition of the caliber that is registered in said

documents and in an amount of up to five hundred units of central fire ammunition per month for each registered weapon.

In the case of sports firearms, intended for the practice of any sports shooting disciplines, their owners will not be limited in terms of the number of central fire ammunition that they can acquire, and they will only acquire them at the shooting ranges or in the clubs and duly authorized shooting associations for sale, and for no reason may they remove any remaining ammunition and/or cartridges from said facilities.

Owners of firearms intended exclusively for personal defense will avail themselves of this same rule in cases where they wish to practice shooting at shooting ranges or shooting clubs or associations and may purchase ammunition at the commercial establishment of their preference, which must transfer them to the establishment where the buyer will carry out the internship.

In the case of firearms intended for hunting, the owners may acquire, without restrictions in quantity, the cartridges and rimfire ammunition in the commercial establishment of their choice, upon presentation of their valid hunter license, issued by the National Hunting Authority. Environment, and the certificate of possession of the firearm.

**Article 34.** <u>Seller Obligations.</u> The ammunition purchase invoice must contain the name of the purchaser, the identity card number, and the number of the possession certificate and/or license to carry firearms and a place for the purchaser, with his signature, to acknowledge receipt of the ammunition delivery. The seller will stamp the seal of the commercial establishment on each box of ammunition, as well as the date of sale whenever the packaging allows it. Within the first five business days of each month, the report referred to in article 28 must be sent to the DIASP.

At the time of delivery of the firearm, the seller must indicate to the buyer how to disassemble it for the purposes of cleaning and efficient maintenance in accordance with its technical characteristics.

**Article 35.** <u>Transfer Prohibition.</u> Ammunition ownership transfer between individuals is prohibited.

# **Chapter V**Possession

**Article 36.** <u>Possession.</u> Any natural person, national or foreign resident, who is in full enjoyment of their civil rights, who meets the requirements set forth in this Law and in the regulations, may be authorized by the State, by means of a certificate, to possess firearms.

**Article 37.** <u>Possession certificate.</u> The firearms possession certificate is the document that authorizes its holder, in a nominal and non-transferable manner, to possess firearms

in registered real estate for personal defense purposes and of those who, being its permanent or temporary residents, are in said place.

The certificate of possession of firearms will serve as authorization for the transfer of firearms that are duly registered in the certificate, as well as the corresponding ammunition.

Firearms must be transported in their respective cases or transport bags unloaded and with empty chargers. The ammunition must be transported in a case, bag, or package different from the one used to transport the weapons.

**Article 38.** Requirements. For the issuance of a firearm possession certificate, the interested party must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Have reached eighteen years of age.
- 2. Provide the DIASP with the firearm and three ammunition to carry out the ballistics test.
- 3. Complete the form that the DIASP will provide for this purpose.
- 4. Provide a simple copy of the personal identity card, with presentation of the card for comparison.
- 5. Submit the invoice for the purchase of the firearm, if it is a new weapon, or the transfer form, if it is a used weapon.
- 6. Provide three passport size photographs.
- 7. Submit certification issued, valid for six months, by a suitable psychiatrist or psychologist, stating that he or she enjoys mental and emotional stability.
- 8. Provide certification from a suitable clinical laboratory, issued valid for three months, stating that they underwent an anti-doping test whose negative results prove that they have not consumed prohibited drugs.
- 9. Prove through a certification issued by a public or private institution, duly authorized by the DIASP, that they satisfactorily passed the shooting test. The methodology of this exam will be determined by the DIASP and carried out with the best technology available in the market.
- 10. Provide a criminal record certificate.
- 11. Submit the consignment certificate issued by the Banco Nacional de Panama, accrediting the payment of the corresponding rights.

**Article 39.** <u>Firearm possession certificate.</u> The firearm possession certificate issued by the DIASP will contain the following information:

- 1. Name of the holder of the document.
- 2. Residential and work address of the holder of the document.
- 3. Address of the place where the weapon will remain.
- 4. Nationality.
- 5. Personal identity card number.

6. Brand, model, caliber, serial number, barrel length and caliber conversions of the weapon or weapons covered in the document.

7. Place and date of registration.

8. Expiration date of the document

**Article 40.** Certificate fee. The firearm possession certificate will cost fifty dollars (US\$50.00) and may cover up to a total of ten firearms in each document; however, it will be issued by the

number required by each user.

**Article 40.** <u>Validity.</u> The firearm possession certificate will be valid for ten years, except in cases where the listed weapons are no longer in the possession of the certificate holder, which will require an update of the certificate and the corresponding payment of rights established in the previous article.

**Chapter VI**Carriage

**Article 42.** Concept. Carrying a short firearm is the action of carrying it with you hidden or within

reach for personal defense with the respective license issued by the DIASP.

Article 43. Carrying license. The license to carry a firearm is issued exclusively to natural persons,

owners of a firearm, in a nominal and non-transferable manner, which authorizes them to carry

concealed up to two loaded firearms, duly registered, for personal use within the national territory.

Article 44. Requirements. For the issuance of a license to carry a firearm, the interested party

must meet the same requirements as for obtaining a certificate of possession of a firearm, except

for the age that must be twenty-one years. In addition, must present a field test or certification

issued by a suitable instructor or authorized shooting range that certifies that the interested party

is properly trained to use firearms for defensive use.

People who need to renew their licenses to carry firearms or firearms registration certificates must submit, along with the corresponding application, proof of commercial or official shooting ranges or associations or clubs dedicated to the practice of the discipline of firearms. shooting, through which it is proven that the applicant has invested at least six hours a year in

controlled shooting practices with their firearms.

**Article 45.** <u>Firearm license information.</u> The license to carry a firearm issued by the DIASP will contain, in addition to the information provided in numerals 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of article 39, the brand, model, caliber, serial number, barrel length and caliber conversions of the two weapons

covered by the license.

**Article 46.** License fee. The license to carry a firearm will cost one hundred dollars (US\$.100.00) and will cover short firearms, but effective carrying of up to two will only be authorized for reasons of personal or professional defense or for reasons of trade or position held or the economic activity carried out by the petitioner.

It may be authorized to include in the license to carry a firearm up to a maximum of ten firearms.

**Article 47.** <u>Validity.</u> The license to carry a firearm will be valid for four years, except in cases where the listed weapons are no longer in the possession of the license holder, which will require an update of the license.

**Article 48.** Special licenses. They are the licenses granted for firearms intended for the protection of diplomatic missions or diplomatic personnel by operation of law. For these cases, the license will be granted upon presentation of the application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by the corresponding diplomatic accreditation and based on the reciprocity principle.

A special license may be issued for the carrying of a greater number of weapons than that permitted in article 43, in the case of weapons intended for the protection of diplomatic missions or foreign officials legally accredited in the Republic of Panama.

When the license is granted in the name of the diplomatic mission, it will be valid for four years. In the case of licenses granted in the name of a diplomatic or consular official, they will be valid until the end of their mission.

# **Chapter VII**Common Provisions

**Article 49.** Authorization by license. The DIASP will authorize, through a license to carry firearms and certificates of possession of firearms, the carrying and possession of firearms and ammunition to natural persons who meet the requirements established in this Law and in the regulations.

**Article 50.** <u>Update of information.</u> Individuals who have licenses to carry firearms or certificates of possession of firearms, security agents provided with licenses to carry firearms and their employers are required to notify the DIASP of any changes that may occur in their business addresses and/or private addresses, within thirty calendar days from the date on which any of the aforementioned changes occurs.

**Article 51.** Loss, theft or robbery. The holder of a certificate for possession or a license to carry a firearm who suffers the loss, theft or robbery of the firearm must

submit, within twenty-four hours after becoming aware of the fact, the corresponding complaint before the competent authorities, a copy of which must be submitted to the DIASP.

In case of loss of the carrying license or the possession certificate, the holder must inform the DIASP of such circumstance within twenty-four hours after becoming aware of the fact.

If the firearm is recovered or appears, you must immediately notify the corresponding authorities and the DIASP.

**Article 52.** Resident foreigners. Foreign citizens residing in Panamanian territory may request a certificate of ownership of a firearm and a license to carry a firearm, after complying with the requirements established in this Law and its regulations for nationals.

**Article 53.** Exclusive use of natural persons. Licenses to carry firearms are documents intended exclusively for natural persons. The agencies that provide private security services, as legal entities, will have the duty to protect them through the certificates of possession of firearms that each of them requires.

**Article 54.** Withholding. Members of the Public Force, governors, mayors are authorized to withhold any firearms or ammunition and/or cartridges in the possession of any individual who does not display the respective possession certificate or license to carry firearms.

In case of withholding of a person who is in possession of firearms, the following procedure will be followed:

- If the person is the holder of a certificate of ownership or a license to carry a firearm, the
  items withheld will be returned to him/her, upon payment of a fine of one hundred dollars
  (US\$100.00), deposited in the Banco Nacional de Panama.
- 2. If the person withheld is the holder of an expired possession certificate or license to carry a firearm, they will pay a fine of two hundred dollars (US\$.200.00), which will be deposited in the Banco Nacional de Panama, and the weapons and retained ammunition will pass into the custody of the DIASP and the interested party will have thirty days to renew the respective certificate or license. Once this period expires without such renewal having been carried out, the weapons and ammunition will be transferred to the National Police.
- 3. If the person withheld is not the holder of a possession certificate or a license to carry a firearm, he/she will be placed under the orders of the competent authorities.

The sums collected as fines for any of the behaviors provided for in this article will be consigned to the Ministry of Public Security for use by the DIASP.

**Article 55.** Renewal. The certificate for the possession and the license to carry a firearm may be renewed for the same period of its validity. Renewal will be subject to compliance with the same requirements for the granting for the first time in which they are applicable. The renewal application must be submitted within thirty days prior to the expiration of the license.

**Article 56.** <u>Denial, suspension or cancellation.</u> The DIASP may, by reasoned resolution, cancel, deny or suspend the possession certificate or the license to carry a firearm in any of the following circumstances:

- 1. Death of the holder of the document.
- 2. Give up, without just cause due to a fortuitous event or greater, the use of one or more firearms owned by him, without the corresponding authorization.
- 3. Destruction or manifest deterioration of one or both documents.
- 4. Confiscation of the weapon.
- 5. Conviction of the holder of the document to a custodial sentence issued by a competent judicial authority.
- 6. Court order.
- 7. If the holder of the document participates in acts of domestic violence or is reported for provoking them

**Article 57.** Renewal procedure. The renewal of firearm possession certificates and licenses to carry firearms must be requested thirty days before the expiration date and for this purpose the corresponding application must be submitted to the DIASP, accompanied by the following documents:

- Original and color copy of the weapon possession certificate or the license to carry firearms. The color copy will be stamped and signed by the DIASP, in order to serve as an acknowledgment of receipt and as a temporary permit while the requested renewal is processed.
- 2. Certification issued by a suitable psychiatrist or psychologist, valid for six months from the date of issue, stating that the applicant continues to enjoy mental and emotional stability.
- A suitable laboratory certificate, valid for six months from the date of issue, stating that the
  applicant underwent an anti-doping test whose negative results prove that he has not
  consumed prohibited drugs.
- 4. Certificate of consignment of the rights to issue certificates of possession and license to carry firearms, issued by the National Bank of Panama.
- 5. Three recent photographs.

**Article 58.** Transfer of the firearm. The DIASP may authorize the transfer of firearms exclusively in favor of family members up to the fourth degree of consanguinity or second degree of affinity or to the spouse of the holder of the corresponding firearms possession certificate,

provided that the beneficiaries of such assignment live under the same roof as the assignor and meet all the requirements that this Law requires for the issuance of the certificate of possession of firearms.

**Article 59.** <u>Inclusion and exclusion.</u> During the validity of a certificate of possession of a firearm or a license to carry firearms, the holder may request the inclusion or exclusion of the weapons that appear registered for purchase, for sale to third parties or for having previously reported them as stolen. or lost or totally and permanently damaged.

The renewal will cause the payment of a fee of eleven dollars (US\$11.00).

**Article 60.** <u>Information under oath.</u> All information provided by the interested party to the DIASP for the issuance of a certificate of ownership of firearms or a license to carry firearms is understood to be rendered under the gravity of the oath and, in the event that it is totally or partially false, will lead to the cancellation of the corresponding license, without prejudice to the corresponding criminal penalties.

The firearms covered by the license issued by virtue of presumably false information will remain in the custody of the DIASP until the due process is completed, the information is clarified, or the guilt of the accused is proven, and they will be transferred to the National Police for immediate destruction or for them to become the property of the State.

The regulation will establish the procedure for these transfers of firearms to the National Police.

# **Chapter VIII**Reload

**Article 61.** Ammunition reload. The holder of a possession certificate or a license to carry a firearm may request the registration and authorization for the possession of a reloading machine for their ammunition, after complying with the requirements of this Law for the license to carry firearms.

Only the possession of a machine whose adapters and accessories are applicable only to the reloading of the caliber or calibers of the weapons registered in the name of the interested party will be authorized.

**Article 62.** <u>Prohibitions.</u> Natural persons are prohibited from transferring or marketing ammunition to be reloaded.

It is prohibited to change the usual ballistic characteristics of ammunition or chemical or natural products.

# **Chapter IX**

Import, Export and Temporary Entry

**Article 63.** <u>Import license and export prohibition.</u> Only legal entities, with Panamanian capital and that have registered shares, may import firearms,

its accessories, ammunition, cartridges, related materials and non-lethal defensive items, prior authorization, through import resolution issued by the DIASP. The importation of weapons prohibited in this Law may not be authorized.

Authorized shipments may only be used for marketing within the territory of the Republic of Panama. The export of shipments imported into the national territory is prohibited.

No resolutions will be issued on the importation of firearms, their accessories, ammunition, cartridges, related materials and non-lethal defensive items will not be issued to legal entities whose legal representatives, directors, dignitaries or shareholders act as such or are holders of shares of pre-existing companies dedicated to the same line of business.

**Article 64.** General requirements. The importer must, at his cost, send all imported firearms to the DIASP, to carry out ballistic tests and issue certificates of possession in the name of the importer.

All requests to import firearms, their accessories, ammunition and cartridges, related materials and non-lethal defensive items must be accompanied by the catalog of the items whose import is requested.

Whenever possible, all new weapons entering the country should be factory marked with the letters PTY, followed by the serial number. If this is not possible, it must be accompanied by a certification issued by the manufacturer, explaining the reasons why it is not possible to comply with this requirement. The practice used to mark weapons will be established in the regulations of this Law.

**Article 65.** Pickup shipments. To pick up any shipment of firearms, their accessories, ammunition or cartridges, related materials and non-lethal defensive items from the corresponding customs facility, the importer who owns the shipment must request the necessary permit from the DIASP, accompanied by the relevant documentation. The DIASP will verify the documentation and, if all the requirements are met, will grant the permit and commission one of its inspectors to coordinate the removal of the merchandise from customs, its transfer and entry to the official deposit warehouse.

**Article 66.** Entry of weapons for sporting reasons owned by foreigners. Firearms that, in accordance with this Law and its regulations, are lawful possession and permitted use by individuals may be brought into the Republic of Panama by their foreign owners, when they are registered or have been invited to participate in competitions. sports shooting or hunting venues.

Local sports organizations, clubs, federations, or associations that organize such competitions must request authorization from the DIASP, through a resolution, for the entry of weapons for sports reasons, with a maximum validity of twenty calendar days, for each foreign participant or guest. After these competitions, the weapons must be removed from the national territory in a period not exceeding ten calendar days.

**Article 67.** Weapons entry resolution for sports reasons. The resolutions for the entry of firearms for sports reasons will be granted in a nominal and non-transferable manner and will only cover the entry of a maximum of four firearms for each event and will not cover firearms that can be fired automatically by bursts or machine gunning, even if it is a military or police competition. The authorization for the entry of ammunition, cartridges and accessories will be subject to what is established by law.

**Article 68.** Requirements. The requirements for the DIASP to issue a decision on the entry of firearms for sports reasons to foreigners are:

- 1. Make the request to the DIASP at least forty-five days in advance.
- 2. Submit a special power of attorney granted by the legal representative of the local sports organizations, clubs, federations or associations that organize the event, for the corresponding processing.
- 3. Provide certification from the Public Registry on the existence of the organization, club, federation or local sports association, which organizes the event, and the legal representative.
- 4. Submit a copy authenticated by the Panamanian consul of the place of residence of the owner of the weapons of the license, permit or current document that proves the ownership of the firearms that are intended to enter Panamanian territory.

**Article 69.** Withdrawal and re-entry of firearms belonging to nationals. Firearms that, in accordance with this Law and its regulations, are lawful possession and permitted use by individuals may be withdrawn from the national territory and subsequently re-entered by their national owners, when they travel to participate in hunting safaris or are registered or have been invited to participate in hunting or sports shooting competitions, organized by sports associations or clubs located abroad.

In the case of firearms registered in the name of Panamanian natural persons or residents in Panama, these may be sent to their countries of origin for reasons of guarantee or repair.

In both situations, the owners of the firearms must notify the DIASP of such circumstances so that it authorizes the respective exit and re-entry.

# **Chapter X**Intermediation

**Article 70.** Special license for intermediation activities. Individuals who wish to dedicate themselves to the activities of intermediation or brokerage of firearms, ammunition and

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related materials must request a special license from the DIASP, which will be granted provided they meet the following requirements:

- 1. Make the corresponding request, through an attorney and on authorized paper, to the DIASP.
- 2. Being Panamanian by birth or naturalization.
- 3. Be over eighteen years of age.
- 4. Submit an authentic copy of the personal identity card.
- 5. Not have been sentenced by a competent court for crimes against life and personal integrity, crimes against freedom, crimes against freedom and sexual integrity, crimes against the family legal order and marital status, crimes against economic assets, crimes against collective security, crimes against the legal personality of the State or crimes against humanity.
- 6. Pay the license fee.

**Article 71.** <u>License fee and validity.</u> The license for intermediation or brokerage of firearms, ammunition and related materials will cost five hundred dollars (US\$500.00) and will be valid for ten years.

# **Chapter XI**

# Transport, Transfers and Storage

**Article 72.** <u>License extension.</u> The licenses that are issued in compliance with the provisions of this Law include the authorization for the transport within the national territory of the weapons and ammunition that they cover, but their holders must abide by the laws, regulations and special provisions for the transit of these materials.

**Article 73.** Compliance with security measures. The transportation derived from the licenses granted in favor of legal entities by the DIASP to cover the commercial activities provided for in this Law must comply with the security measures established in the laws and regulations for the transportation of such merchandise.

All transportation of firearms and ammunition to or from the official warehouse will be guarded by the National Police.

**Article 74.** Transfer to the polygons. The document that accredits a citizen as an active member of a legally recognized shooting club or federation will serve as authorization for the transfer, from the home of the interested party to the corresponding shooting range and its return, of the sporting firearms that are duly registered. in the possession certificate, as well as the ammunition for training or competition.

Article 75. Official deposits. Only the State may store firearms, ammunition and related materials.

# **Chapter XII**

# **Armory Workshops**

**Article 76.** Repair establishments. For the purposes of this Law, the armory workshops are the establishments that are dedicated to the repair or maintenance of firearms for private use or those belonging to companies dedicated to the provision of private security services with firearms.

The armory workshops must obtain a resolution issued by the DIASP that will include the authorization for the purchase of the parts and materials that they require to carry out their activities.

**Article 77.** <u>Security measures.</u> Armory workshops must strictly comply with the security measures established by law, those established by the DIASP and the regulations of this Law.

Article 78. Repair Requirements. The repair of firearms must be carried out in authorized workshops, run, or supervised by qualified gunsmiths. For these purposes, natural or legal persons holding a valid firearms license or certificate that require their repair must submit to the owner of the gun shop a simple copy of the respective license or certificate, issued by the DIASP, with its original for comparison. and a simple copy of the personal identity card, together with the firearm. The owner of the armory workshop will be obliged to keep a control book with the details of the weapons received for maintenance or repair, indicating the general information of their owners.

In the event that the repair of a firearm is carried out that is not covered by a possession certificate or license to carry a firearm, the resolution of the armory workshop will be canceled, and the firearm will be confiscated, without prejudice to the criminal responsibility for the owner or the manager or administrator of the workshop, for illegal possession of weapons.

**Article 79.** <u>Modification Prohibition.</u> Armory workshops, as well as qualified gunsmiths, professionally dedicated to the repair and maintenance of firearms, are prohibited from installing parts and/or making modifications to any firearm, in such a way that its mechanisms or technical characteristics are altered so that they can fire automatically through bursts or machine gunning or be used to shoot or attach to elements of war or to fire silently.

**Article 80.** Reasons for denial of the request. The following are grounds for the denial of the application for operating licenses for armories and shooting ranges:

- 1. Failure to comply with all the technical and safety requirements established in this Law and its regulations.
- 2. That the applicant, any of the directors or shareholders or the legal representative has been convicted by a final judgment by a competent judicial authority for the commission of crimes against life and personal integrity, crimes against liberty,

crimes against sexual freedom and integrity, crimes against the family legal order and marital status, crimes against economic assets, crimes against collective security, crimes against the legal personality of the State or crimes against humanity.

# **Chapter XIII**

# **Hunting and Shooting Ranges**

**Article 81.** Shooting and hunting activities. The practices of the different shooting disciplines will only be carried out in shooting ranges recognized by the Ministry of Public Security.

In the cases of hunting activities within the national territory, the firearms used will be subject to the provisions of Law 39 of 2005, which reforms Law 24 of 1995, on wildlife and which regulates the matter of hunting in Panama.

**Article 82.** Requirements for agricultural work. The natural person dedicated to agricultural work in remote regions of the national territory, possessing a hunting weapon that he/she uses to support his/her family, must request a possession certificate from the DIASP, with no other requirement than a certification from the mayor of the place on their social status.

The issuance of this type of license will be exempt from the payment of fees.

**Article 83.** <u>Authorization of shooting associations.</u> The associations, federations or shooting clubs, as a prior and essential requirement for the recognition of their legal status by the Ministry of Government, must have the prior approval of the DIASP of the statutes and regulations related to safety and the use of weapons by its members.

**Article 84.** Arms and ammunition control. The DIASP is empowered to regulate and supervise firearms and ammunition used by shooting associations or clubs. Consequently, these associations or clubs must inform the DIASP of the holding of competitions at least fifteen days in advance, to allow said authority to carry out the verifications it deems pertinent.

The minor may use firearms for the practice of sports, of sports shooting disciplines, provided that he/she is accompanied by a suitable shooting instructor or, failing that, by a relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or second of affinity, of legal age, with a license to carry firearms. This practice can only be carried out in the polygons authorized by the DIASP.

**Article 85.** Shooting ranges. Legal entities that own shooting ranges that are not for profit are subject to the same regulations required for firearms, ammunition and related material distributors.

**Article 86.** Sales report. The shooting ranges are obliged to provide the DIASP, within the first five working days of each month, a complete report of the sales of shotgun ammunition and cartridges made each month, with an indication of the balance of the stocks that of these still have, by caliber, in their respective premises, as well as the general buyers and the amounts acquired by each one. The report must be accompanied by copies of the sales invoices. Likewise, they are obliged to report the names, date, and time that each person used their facilities, for which they must have the corresponding log.

### **Chapter XIV**

# Infringements and sanctions

**Article 87.** Classes. Without prejudice to the civil or criminal liability that may arise, violations of the provisions of this Law may be very serious, serious, or minor.

Article 88. Very serious offenses. These are very serious violations of this Law:

- 1. Carrying, possessing, or storing prohibited firearms or ammunition without any type of license or certification issued by the DIASP.
- 2. Use firearms without the corresponding license in the commission of any punishable act.
- 3. Marketing firearms prohibited by law.
- 4. Marketing firearms without the corresponding authorization or failing to comply with the regulations established in this Law.
- 5. Sell firearms in an authorized establishment without requiring the presentation of the respective license for the use of firearms.
- 6. Selling ammunition for firearms authorized by this Law without presenting the respective possession certificate or the license to carry a firearm by its holder.
- 7. Reloading ammunition without a firearm possession certificate or a license to carry a firearm justifying such activity.
- 8. Import or introduce into the country firearms, ammunition, shotgun cartridges and/or related materials without prior official authorization.
- 9. Make modifications to the weapon's operating mechanism for its conversion into automatic.
- 10. Repair noise reducers, suppressors, or silencers.
- 11. Transporting weapons or ammunition or related materials without the corresponding authorization.
- 12. Operate a shooting range without the respective license.
- 13. Operating a gun shop without the proper permit.
- 14. Use firearms whose use is prohibited to individuals by this Law.

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- 15. Carrying firearms while intoxicated or under the influence of psychotropic substances, according to a medical opinion, even when carrying the corresponding license.
- 16. Reoffend in the commission of serious infractions in a period of one year.

# Article 89. Serious offenses. These are serious violations of this Law:

- 1. Carry firearms without carrying the respective license or possession certificate or with the expired document.
- 2. Failure to give immediate notice to the National Police, as soon as the incident became known, in the event of an accident or criminal act in a gun store or workshop.
- 3. Sell ammunition or shotgun cartridges for firearms authorized by this Law that do not correspond to the caliber of the weapon whose license or possession certificate is recorded.
- 4. Use, transport or possess ammunition not permitted by this Law.
- 5. Train third parties in the use of firearms without having official suitability as a shooting instructor, except in the case of relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity or second degree of affinity.
- 6. Keep loaded weapons for display or sale inside the warehouse.
- 7. Not having in the armory workshops a control book in which the firearms that were admitted for maintenance or repair and the general ones of their owners must be registered.
- 8. Store firearms, cartridges, or ammunition in violation of the provisions of article 75.
- 9. Incurring in any of the prohibitions provided for in articles 11, 12, 13 and 33.
- 10. Giving or delivering firearms as collateral for any commercial transaction, without the person or company that receives it being authorized by law to do so.
- 11. Use firearms with the corresponding expired license in the commission of any punishable act.
- 12. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Law on sales reports.
- 13. Failure to issue the invoice that accredits the purchase and sale of ammunition or failure to include in it the technical data that characterizes them.
- 14. Carry out scandals with a firearm on public roads.
- 15. Refusing to show or deliver to the competent authority the license to carry firearms or the possession certificate at the time of an inspection carried out by the competent authority.
- 16. Failure to notify, persons possessing an authorized firearm, in the cases in which they are lost, stolen or stolen within the period established in this Law, unless they have not been able to comply with the notification within the established period. for reasons of force majeure or fortuitous event.
- 17. Reoffending in the commission of minor infractions in a period of one year.

The recurrence of established offenses in numerals 12 and 13 will lead to the definitive closure of the commercial establishment and the cancellation of the respective certification.

**Article 90.** Minor offenses. These are minor infractions of this Law:

1. Possessing ammunition without owning a registered weapon of that caliber.

2. Hide the lawful possession of a firearm from the competent authority at the time of an inspection.

3. Carrying a firearm without carrying the respective valid license or having it expired.

4. Failure to attend to or respect the notices and/or signs prohibiting the entry of firearms into commercial premises, offices, or others.

**Article 91.** <u>Administrative sanctions.</u> Without prejudice to the criminal or civil liability that may arise, the infractions provided for in this Chapter will be sanctioned as follows:

1. Very serious infractions, with fines of ten thousand dollars (US\$10,000.00) to twenty thousand dollars (US\$20,000.00).

2. Serious infractions, with fines of five thousand dollars (US\$5,000.00) to ten thousand dollars (US\$10,000.00).

3. Minor infractions, with fines of one thousand dollars (US\$1,000.00) to five thousand dollars (US\$5,000.00).

The sums collected as fines for infractions indicated in this article will be consigned in the name of the Ministry of Public Security for use by the DIASP.

The DIASP will allocate a percentage of the resources it receives by virtue of this provision to the promotion and execution of programs and projects aimed at promoting the voluntary surrender of unregistered firearms, ammunition, and related materials.

**Article 92.** Accessory sanctions. In addition to the fines imposed in the previous article, natural or legal persons sanctioned for very serious infractions will have their possession certificate, license to carry a firearm or the resolution, as the case may be, and will order the confiscation of the weapon or ammunition. In cases of serious or minor infraction, the license will be suspended for a period of three months.

**Article 93.** Competence. The administrative sanctions provided for in this Law will be imposed by the DIASP.

**Article 94.** Ordinary procedure. In the determination of the infractions and the application of the sanctions foreseen in this Law, the ordinary procedure foreseen in Law 38 of 2000 will be observed.

Chapter XV

Transitory dispositions

**Article 95.** <u>Voluntary surrender of weapons.</u> A period of twelve months is granted, counted from the entry into force of this Law, so that the firearms or ammunition prohibited by this Law are voluntarily delivered to the National Police or to the government.

The same term is granted to natural or legal persons who carry or possess weapons without the corresponding license or that is expired to carry out the corresponding registration.

**Article 96.** Adequacy of records. A period of twelve months is granted, counted from the entry into force of this Law, to:

- 1. Adapt the private, commercial and sports licenses issued that cover more weapons than those permitted in this Law.
- 2. Request the renewal of any license that has expired due to the simple passage of time.

# **Chapter XVI**Final Provisions

**Article 97.** <u>Income.</u> The income from the rates and fines established in this Law will be deposited in a special account in the Banco Nacional de Panama called service rates, at the order of the Ministry of Public Security. This account will be supervised by the Accounting Department of said Ministry and by the Comptroller General of the Republic.

The investment of all the income from fees and fines, except for the percentage referred to in article 91, will be programmed by the DIASP annually for the development of its service plans, training, purchase of equipment and computer programs that it requires, in order to improve user service and fully comply with the functions assigned by this Law

**Article 98.** Collection and destruction. The Ministry of Public Security, through the DIASP, will regulate the collection of firearms and ammunition and will establish the procedure for the destruction of these materials, whether they have been seized or handed over voluntarily.

Collected firearms that are destined for destruction will not be returned to commerce through auctions, sales, or other means.

**Article 99.** Regulation. The Executive Branch, through the Ministry of Public Security, will regulate this Law within ninety days from its entry into force.

Article 100. Nature. This Law is of public order.

**Article 101.** Derogation. This Law repeals Law 14 of October 30, 1990, articles 8 and 9 of Law 48 of August 30, 2004, Executive Decree 354 of December 29

1948, Decree 2 of January 2, 1991, Decree 240 of July 26, 1991, the Decree 409 of August 12, 1994 and Decree 245 of December 31, 1998.

Article 102. Validity. This Law will come into force the year after its enactment.

### C COMMUNICATE AND ENFORCE.

Project 209 of 2010 approved in the third debate in the Justo Arosemena Palace, Panama City, on the thirtieth day of the month of April of the year two thousand and eleven.

The President,

José Muñoz Molina

The General Secretary,

Wigberto E. Quintero G.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BODY. PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, PANAMA, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, MAY 27, 2011.

# RICARDO MARTINELLI BERROCAL

President of the Republic

JOSÉ RAÚL MULINO

Minister of Public Security

The foregoing is a true and accurate translation into English of the document presented before me in Spanish. Panama, August eight (8) Two Thousand Twenty Two (2022).