

SHOTGUN GUN LAW GUIDENCE

The details below are believed to be correct as of January 2004 and are shown here as a guide to assist both existing shooters and those interested in taking up the sport. See also the section on how to obtain a Firearms Certificate.

See the summary below regarding juveniles and age limits for possession of guns.

There is no minimum age for the issue of a shot gun certificate.

A firearm certificate may not be granted to a person under 14 years of age.

It is an offence under section 21 of the Firearms Act of 1968 as amended, for anyone convicted of a criminal offence, to handle, possess, or shoot a firearm and ammunition (this includes Air Guns). If the sentence was for more than three years the prohibition is for life; if less than three years the prohibition is for 5 years.

Cost of Firearms and Shotgun Certificates

Firearms Certificates (Valid for 5 years) Section one fire-arms

- Grant of firearm certificate; £50.00
- Renewal of firearm certificate; £40.00
- Variation of a firearm certificate (other than when it is renewed at the same time) so as to increase the number of firearms to which the certificate relates; £26.00
- Replacement of a firearm certificate which has been lost or destroyed; £ 9.00

Shot Gun Certificates (Valid for 5 years) – section 2 fire-arms

- Grant of Shot Gun Certificate: £50.00
- Renewal of Shot Gun Certificate; £40.00
- Replacement of Shot Gun Certificate which has been lost or destroyed; £ 8.00
- Renewal of Shot Gun Certificate which expires at the same time as a firearms certificate (co-terminus); £10.00

Co-Terminus Certificate for both Firearms and Shotgun (Valid for 5 years)

- Grant of co-terminus certificate; £60.00

(this is the way to go if you want both sorts of gun, as it is much cheaper than having separate certificates expiring at different times.

Explosives Certificates (necessary for Black Powder shooting)

- Acquire and keep (valid for 3 years); Free
- Acquire only (valid for 1 year); Free.

Summary of the law as affecting Juveniles: (correct as of January 2004)

Summary of the law relating to the purchase, possession and use of shot guns and airguns by juveniles.

Under 15 years

It is an offence to make a gift of a shot gun or ammunition to children under 15 years old (14 years for airguns). Children under 15 years (14 years for standard airguns) may not have an assembled gun with them except:

In the case of shotguns, providing they have a valid shot gun certificate, they may use a shot gun under the direction and supervision of someone of or over 21 years of age.

In the case of airguns, they may use an airgun under the direct supervision of someone of or over 21 years of age.

When the gun is in a securely fastened gun cover so that it cannot be fired.

Aged 15 - 17 years

A person between 15 and 17 years old (14 and 17 for air guns) may be given or lent a gun with ammunition but may not buy them.

Aged 17 years or over

A person of 17 years or more may purchase an air gun and ammunition, or a shot gun and ammunition with a valid shot gun certificate.

It is an offence to fire an air gun within 50 feet of the centre of a public highway, if by doing so you cause any member of the public using that highway to be injured, interrupted or endangered. This applies even if you are on private property adjacent the highway. Public highways include roads, bridleways and public footpaths.

Trespass:

If you go on to any land, including over water and in buildings, without permission you are Trespassing. If you have an Air gun with you it is classed as Armed Trespass which is a serious Criminal offence even if the gun is not loaded.

Sporting Prey:

The following pests are considered suitable for control.

Brown Rat, Grey Squirrel, Rabbit, Crow, Rook, Magpie, Jay, Wood pigeon, Collared Dove, Feral Pigeon, House mouse, and recently Mink have been added to the list. These are not always considered pests and only Authorised Persons can shoot them in all circumstances. Please check with your local authority before shooting any live quarry.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:

All bird and animals are protected by law. Certain species are classified as pests or vermin and only these species can be legitimately shot and then only by authorised persons. An Authorised Person is someone who has the proper permission from the land owner to control pests on that land.

IMPORTANT!

You must be aged 17 or over to order any air rifle or air pistol, you may be asked to confirm age and proof of identity

This information is provided for guidance. Always check with Police and Licensing authorities to confirm any information relevant to your situation.