

Classification

This section contains descriptions of key concepts to be used in the completion of the Seizures Questionnaires.

For the purposes of the Seizures Questionnaires only, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Firearm” shall mean any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique firearms or their replicas. Antique firearms and their replicas shall be defined in accordance with domestic law. In no case, however, shall antique firearms include firearms manufactured after 1899.

“Parts and components” shall mean any element or replacement element specifically designed for a firearm and essential to its operation, including a barrel, frame or receiver, slide or cylinder, bolt or breech block, and any device designed or adapted to diminish the sound caused by firing a firearm;

“Ammunition” shall mean the complete round or its components, including cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder, bullets or projectiles, that are used in a firearm

Types of firearms

<p><u>Rifle</u> A relatively long-barreled firearm, fired from the shoulder, having a series of spiral grooves cut inside the barrel (a process called ‘rifling’) imparting a rapid spin to a single projectile.</p>	
<p><u>Shotgun</u> A shoulder-fired long gun with no rifling in the barrel, designed to shoot a large number of small projectiles (“shot”) rather than a single large projectile (“a bullet”).</p>	
<p><u>Machine gun</u> A machine gun is a fully-automatic firearm. This means the weapon will continue to load and fire ammunition until the trigger, or other activating device, is released, the ammunition is exhausted, or the firearm is jammed..</p>	
<p><u>Sub-machine gun</u> A hand-held, lightweight machine gun consisting of relatively low-energy handgun-type cartridges and fired from the hand, hip, or shoulder</p>	

<p>A <u>revolver</u> is a firearm that has a cylinder with a number of chambers. These chambers are designed to be manually loaded with cartridges of the appropriate caliber and then, as the cylinder rotates into position under the hammer, the trigger can be pulled, releasing the hammer causing the cartridge to be fired.</p>	
<p><u>Pistols</u> are firearms designed for a more automatic operation. Cartridges are loaded into an ammunition magazine which is inserted into the firearm. As long as cartridges are present in the ammunition magazine and the firearm is functioning properly, the action of the firearm is responsible for the feeding and chambering of the cartridge and the extraction and ejection of the cartridge case once the cartridge is fired. They can be designed to fire semi-automatically or fully automatic. Semi-automatic operation requires a pull of the trigger to fire each cartridge. Fully automatic operation allows for multiple cartridges to be fired with a single trigger pull for as long as ammunition is available to be fired</p>	
<p><u>Craft weapons</u>: according to Small Arms Survey, “craft production of small arms refers principally to weapons and ammunition that are fabricated largely by hand in relatively small quantities. Craft-produced small arms range from rudimentary pistols and shotguns to more advanced assault rifles.” The homemade guns are included in this category. Homemade guns are crude firearms roughly made from basic, household materials.</p>	
<p>Other</p>	<p>Other types include air, gas, and antique guns, light weapons, etc.</p>

Manufacture country is the country where the firearms, their parts and components and ammunition were manufactured

Departure or source country is a country that was the point of departure for firearms traffickers, or unaccompanied shipments of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, reaching your country. The firearms, their parts and components and ammunition may or may not have been produced/manufactured in this country.

Transit country is the last country through which the firearms, their parts and components and ammunition transited before reaching your country. This could be a neighbouring country, if the drugs were transported by land, or any other country, if the drugs were transported by air.

Destination country is the country to which the firearms, their parts and components and ammunition were destined. Your country may be included as destination country.

Related crimes

“Illicit trafficking” shall mean the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from or across the territory of one state to that of another state if any one of the states concerned does not authorize it in accordance with the terms of the Firearms Protocol or if the firearms are not marked in accordance with article 8 of the Protocol;

Other criminal offences include all other actions that have been criminalized under the national legal system.

Non-criminal law proceedings refer to administrative procedures that result in sanctions for acts that constitute administrative violations under the national legal system.

The offences in connection to the seizures of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition refer to the specific reason for the seizure. The questionnaire provides a choice in the form of a drop down menu to specify the most frequent offences that lead to the seizures. These offences include, Illicit trafficking in firearms, Contraband / smuggling, Illicit possession, Illicit use, Carrying without licence, Possession for the purpose of illicit trafficking, Illicit manufacturing, Falsifying the marking on firearms, Illicitly obliterating the marking on firearms, Illicitly removing the marking on firearms, Illicitly altering the marking on firearms, Customs violations, Theft, Robbery, Homicide, Drug trafficking, Human trafficking, Trafficking in counterfeit goods, Trafficking with endangered species, Piracy, Money laundering, Illicit trafficking of cultural property.

The seizures of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition sometimes are connected to the seizures of other items. For the purpose of establishing a relationship between various trafficking commodities and firearms, the following items are provided as a choice to choose from in a drop down menu: Money, Drugs, Precursors, Counterfeit goods, Precious metals, Cultural property, Ivory, Endangered species, Contraband goods.