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*Firearms Measures:
Technical Briefing*

March 7, 2025



Objective

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- To provide technical information on firearms measures announced by the Government in March 2025, including:
 - Prohibition of assault-style firearms
 - Review of the firearms classification regime
 - Temporary licence suspension regime, “yellow flag” laws
 - Enhanced licence revocation and ineligibility authorities
- Part of the Government’s comprehensive approach to combat firearms violence, which includes:
 - transformative legislative and regulatory change
 - over \$1.4 billion in investments to enhance border security and law enforcement capacity and to support community-level guns and gangs and community safety initiatives





Prohibition of Assault-Style Firearms

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- Effective March 7, 2025:
 - Regulations amended to prohibit 40 families of assault-style firearms, encompassing 179 unique makes and models and their variants
- An Amnesty Order is in place to protect existing owners from criminal liability while they come into compliance with the law
- Affected firearms will have to be disposed of within the amnesty period
 - Numerous options are available
- The Government has communicated intent to offer compensation to affected businesses and individuals for these and the December 2024 prohibitions, with information to be available later in 2025
- More than 19,000 unique makes and models of non-restricted firearms remain available for hunting or sport shooting





What is prohibited?

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- Revised classification Regulations are now in force
 - 40 families, encompassing 179 unique makes and models, are newly prescribed by name as prohibited firearms
- All current and future variants of these listed firearms are prohibited, whether or not they are named in the regulations
- These firearms all have semi-automatic action with sustained rapid-fire capability (tactical/military design with large magazine capacity)
- Approximately 3,800 previously restricted firearms currently registered in the Canadian market are affected by the prohibition





What can owners do with newly prohibited firearms?

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- Prohibited firearms **may not be bought, sold, lent or imported**
- These firearms **may not be used for hunting or sport shooting**, at a range or elsewhere
- The Amnesty Order creates **one exception** to the prohibition on use:
 - A firearm that was previously non-restricted may still be transported and used **for sustenance hunting or in exercise of a right recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution**
- The firearms need to be kept safely and **securely stored** in accordance with their previous classification and **may not be transported**, except for disposal and storage in accordance with the Amnesty Order
 - **One-time exception** to transport the firearm to return home or to return the firearm to its owner, if it was not at the owner's home or in their possession at the time the prohibition came into force
- Individuals currently outside of Canada with an affected firearm will be able to **re-import** the firearm and will be asked to provide proof, either by producing an export permit or an import permit from the country the individual was visiting



Prohibition: What does the Amnesty Order do?



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- An **Amnesty** Order has been made to protect affected businesses and individuals from criminal liability for unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm
- This includes those who:
 1. were in legal possession of a newly prohibited firearm at the time the Regulations came into force, and,
 2. **continue to hold a valid licence during the amnesty period**
- The amnesty period provides time for those affected by the new prohibition to come into compliance with the law
 - Amnesty Order permits specific activities for impacted owners to dispose of the **newly prohibited firearms**
- The **Amnesty Order expires on March 1, 2026**



Prohibition: How can owners comply?



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- Methods to dispose of prohibited firearms permitted under the Amnesty Order:
 - **Deactivation** by an approved business at any time within the amnesty period, with no compensation
 - **Contacting a police detachment** at any time within amnesty period, with no compensation (appointment required)
 - **Exporting the** firearm for sale outside of Canada if they have the proper export authorizations
 - If a business, **returning the firearm to the manufacturer**
 - The Government has communicated intent to include these newly prohibited firearms in the **Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program**





Prohibition: What happens next?

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- The Canadian Firearms Program will communicate with all firearms licence holders
- **Information** on the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program is intended to be made **available later in 2025** for **firearms prohibited in December 2024 and March 2025**



Classification Review



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- The Government is launching a **review of firearms classification** that will also look at modernizing the legal framework for prohibited weapons, devices, and ammunition **to close gaps in the law**



Former Bill C-21: Licence Suspension Regime



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- Effective today, March 7, 2025, the licence suspension regime introduced in former Bill C-21 is in force.
 - Also known as “Yellow Flag” laws
- This regime requires a Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) to temporarily suspend a person’s firearms licence if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the person is no longer eligible to hold a licence (e.g., illegally reselling firearms or storing firearms unlawfully).
 - The suspension may be in place for up to 30 days
 - The licence holder will be allowed to keep their firearm(s), but their authorization to **use, acquire, or import** any firearms will be suspended. If the licence holder does not follow these restrictions during the suspension period, their licence can be revoked
 - The individual's use, acquisition and import privileges will be reinstated once the suspension period has elapsed or earlier if the CFO is satisfied that the reasons for suspension no longer exist
- Regulations under the *Firearms Act* have been amended to support the issuance of notices of suspension and implementation of the regime.
 - The Order and Regulations will be published in Canada Gazette 2 on March 12



Former Bill C-21: Enhanced Licence Revocation and Ineligibility Provisions



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- An Order in Council (OiC) has been approved and sets the coming into force as **April 4, 2025**. This **OiC will be published in Canada Gazette on March 26, 2025**.
- Effective April 4, 2025:
 - a firearms licence **will not be issued** for those individuals **who have been convicted - on or after April 4, 2025** - of an offence involving the use, threat or attempt of violence against an intimate partner or any family member
 - CFOs will be **required to revoke a licence** if they have **reasonable grounds to suspect an individual may have engaged in an act of domestic violence or stalking**
 - In such a scenario, the licence must be revoked within 24 hours
 - Any weapon, including firearms, must be delivered to a peace officer, firearms officer, or CFO within 24 hours or within a time set by the CFO
- If an individual is subject to any of the above measures, a CFO can issue a licence with conditions if they are satisfied that a firearm is required for the person to hunt or trap to sustain themselves or their family



Former Bill C-21: Enhanced Licence Revocation and Ineligibility Provisions



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- Other elements of these new measures will take effect later
- Specifically, those that require the refusal or revocation of a licence if an individual is subject to a “protection order” will take effect when regulations are made to define the term and other relevant sections of former Bill C-21 are brought into force
- The Government will pre-publish proposed amendments to the *Firearms Licences Regulations* to:
 - define “protection order” and “competent authority”;
 - outline factors to support CFO decision-making for the issuance of a licence with conditions for the purposes of sustenance hunting and trapping
- The proposed regulations will be published in Canada Gazette 1 on March 8 and will open for consultation for a period of 30 days
- The proposed regulations will also be tabled in both houses of Parliament in accordance with the *Firearms Act* requirements at the earliest opportunity





Additional Information

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- Canada Gazette
 - Part I, Proposed Regulations (Enhanced Revocation and Ineligibility)
 - Part II, Orders in Council and Regulations (Licence Suspension, Prohibition)
- Public Safety Canada Web site
 - [Former Bill C-21: Keeping Canadians safe from gun crime](#)
 - [Firearms Buyback Program - Canada.ca](#)
- Canadian Firearms Program
 - rcmp-grc.ca/cfp-pcaf/cont/index-eng.htm
 - General Inquiries: 1-800-731-4000 (toll-free for Canada and the US)
- Global Affairs Canada – Export Permits
 - General Inquiries Trade Controls Bureau:
1-877-808-8838, TIE.reception@international.gc.ca

