

New proposed regulations aimed at vetting new firearm models will not prevent misclassifications

MONTREAL, January 2, 2025 – Gun-control advocacy group **PolyRemembers (PolySeSouvient)** says that the new [proposed regulations](#) published on Saturday December 28, 2024, fail to ensure that new firearm models are vetted by the **RCMP** before they enter the market, contrary to what was promised. In their opinion, the proposed measure will not prevent industry misclassifications.

The measure, which was tabled last Friday December 13th in the **House of Commons**, is not what **former Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc Minister promised**: *“To complement these measures, regulatory changes will be made to impose a mandatory physical inspection by the RCMP of all new firearm models before they enter the Canadian market. These regulatory measures will ensure that no firearm enters the Canadian market without having been properly listed or classified by competent government authorities.”* This follows an earlier [commitment](#) to *“make regulations under the Firearms Act to ensure that firearms are classified correctly BEFORE entering the Canadian market”*.

Currently, the gun industry can introduce guns to the market if they deem them to be non-restricted without notifying the **RCMP**. This has led to serious misclassification like the 2014 case of thousands of [Swiss Arms and CZ 858](#) rifles and carbines. These weapons entered the Canadian market as legal restricted or non-restricted firearms. The **RCMP** subsequently determined that they were prohibited, many being convertible to fully automatic mode. Because non-restricted firearms are no longer registered since 2012 (except in Quebec), tracking them proved difficult if not impossible. More recently, three Canadian firearm businesses imported hundreds of fully automatic military surplus [Tavor X95](#) weapons, also as wrongly classified as legal restricted firearms.



The new rules would require manufacturers or importers to send technical specifications to the **RCMP** before they enter the market. Yet manufacturers could still sell what they consider to be non-restricted models on the Canadian market. The [Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement](#) specifies that “the proposed Regulations would require manufacturers and importers to share information about the batch being manufactured or shipment of being imported. Additionally, businesses would not be required to wait for a response from the Registrar. This would ensure manufacturing and importation activities continue and supply chains are not interrupted.”

The only difference with the status quo is that **RCMP** will have the technical information in their possession. There is no new requirement for the **RCMP** to verify and certify that a non-restricted model is correctly classified before it enters the market, meaning misclassifications can continue. As before, the **RCMP** will have to play catch-up once they get around to inspecting the technical data.

The failure to codify pre-inspection into law and to ensure that the rules cannot be undermined by a different government renders the proposed regulations ineffective. In the aftermath of the **bold and historic** prohibition of existing assault weapons, the proposed approach is very disappointing. Left unchanged, it will leave Canadians at greater risk from gun violence than they would under the rules the government promised. The watering down of promised gun control measures is a problem **that has been observed** in the past.

Misclassifications carries many public safety risks and would also jeopardize the ban on assault weapons expected to be completed in the coming months. **PolyRemembers** hopes new **Associate Minister of Public Safety Rachel Bhandari** will consider amending the proposed regulations to ensure **RCMP** verifies and classifies new firearm models before they can be sold in Canada, as was promised.

For more information on the need for preauthorization:

Detailed recommendation:

https://polysesouvient.ca/Documents_2024/MAIL_24_04_10_RegulatoryMeasures_PreAuthorization.pdf

Twitter thread including testimonials:

<https://x.com/Polysesouvient/status/1651333004231409664>

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