



THE HON JASON WOOD MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR CUSTOMS, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Ref No: MC19-014924

Mr Graham Park
President
Shooters Union Australia
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Dear Mr Park

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 July 2019 concerning the recall of Berika SP12 'Black Ops' Straight Pull 12 Gauge Shotguns currently being carried out by the Australian Border Force (ABF). Your correspondence has been referred to me as the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs as the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

The ABF has advised me that the examination of the Berika SP12 'Black Ops' firearms was conducted on 20 March 2019, however, the concerns with the firearms' appearance were not raised at the time.

The Department of Home Affairs and the ABF do not take the decision to reconsider the classification of firearms lightly. However, our primary focus is on ensuring the safety of the community through compliance with the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.

For the purposes of importation, a straight pull shotgun can generally be imported with permission from state and territory police. However, firearms that are 'substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm' are more highly controlled and require import permission from the Department. Controls based on a firearm's appearance are a part of the National Firearms Agreement put in place in 1996 and re-agreed by the Commonwealth and all states and territories in 2017.

Commonwealth experts have confirmed that the appearance-based controls apply to the Berika SP12 'Black Ops'. As such, the original import permission issued for the Berika SP12 'Black Ops' was invalid and the firearms are considered to be prohibited imports.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely



JASON WOOD

20 / 8 / 2019