

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance
(Chapter 238)

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2000

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 16 May 2000, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that the Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Regulation 2000 (at Annex) should now be made.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

2. On 12 January 1999, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that -

- (a) the Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Bill 1999, at Annex A to the memorandum, should be introduced into the Legislative Council, to update and tighten the legislation regulating the possession and use of arms and ammunition for recreational or sporting purposes; and
- (b) the Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Regulation 1999, at Annex B to the memorandum, should be approved in principle, and be referred back to Members to be made after the Bill has passed into law.

The Legislative Council Brief setting out the general background and the proposals in details was issued on 14 January 1999.

3. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Council on 24 February 2000 and received the assent of the Chief Executive on 2 March 2000.

4. The Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Regulation 2000, just referred back to the Executive Council, has been revised slightly to include a few technical amendments mainly arising from the discussion at the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council on Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Bill. The proposed new Regulation 4B(2) has been expanded to elaborate on the major criteria that the licensing authority (i.e. Commissioner of Police) will take into consideration when processing an application for a possession licence on behalf of a shooting club. The word “safe” in the existing Regulation 4 is retained to make it clear that the tests that the Commissioner may require applicants and holders of licences and exemptions to undergo will emphasize the safe handling and safe use of arms or ammunition, instead of the skills or other knowledge.

ENQUIRIES

5. Any enquiries to this brief should be directed to Ms Jessie WONG, Assistant Secretary for Security at 2810 2686.

Security Bureau
17 May 2000