

Title: Carriage of Firearms

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Effective security of our terminal operations and on board our vessels is critically important to our staff and customers.
- 1.2 Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries are required by law and are committed to taking appropriate counter terrorism measures to safeguard the security and protection of passengers, staff, vessels and port facilities.
- 1.3 Our staff during the course of their working day, or customers whilst traveling on our vessels, can feel safe in the knowledge that Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries have strict procedures for the carriage of firearms on board the vessels.
- 1.4 Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries are also required under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 [UK] and The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 [ROI] to provide a duty of care to all persons entering our terminals.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This document identifies the procedures required to help prevent unauthorised carriage of firearms on board Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries Vessels.
- 2.2.1 This document will also identify when the carriage of firearms is permitted on board vessels and by whom.
- 2.3 The document clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities each member of staff has in the process of passengers carrying firearms on board our vessels.

3.0 References and Guidance

- 3.1 Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990, TRANSEC Maritime Security Circular No. 2/02, Carriage of Firearms and Ammunitions
- 3.2 Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974
- 3.3 The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 [ROI]
- 3.4 Firearms Act 1968
- 3.5 Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997
- 3.6 Firearms Acts (Amendment), Regulations (Arms and Ammunition) 1992.
- 3.7 The Firearms Order (Northern Ireland) 2004
- 3.8 The Firearms (Removal to Northern Ireland) (Revocation) Order 2003
- 3.9 Firearms and Offensive Weapons Act 1990 (*Republic of Ireland*)
- 3.10 Firearms (Scotland) Rules 1989
- 3.11 Firearms (Scotland) Amendment Rules 1992

4.0 Definitions

- 4.1 **Firearms** - within the definition of the Firearms Acts (UK), means a lethal barreled weapon of any description, from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged. It includes any prohibited weapon, whether it is such a lethal weapon as aforesaid or not, and any component part of such a weapon, and any accessory to such weapon designed or adapted to diminish the noise or flash caused by the firing of the weapon.

- 4.2 Firearms, within the terms of what you are allowed to hold on a firearm certificate, would obviously not include any prohibited weapons. Neither would it include "**shotguns**", as they are held on a **shotgun certificate**. Except, that is, for Section 1 shotguns, which can only be held on a firearm certificate. In Northern Ireland there is no equivalent to a Shotgun Certificate, any firearm, shotgun, handgun or rifle and including air guns must be held on a Northern Ireland Firearms Certificate.
- 4.3 Section 1 shotgun - a Section 1 shotgun differs from a conventional shotgun, by virtue of the fact that it has a magazine capable of holding more than two cartridges. These are known as "pump-action" or "semi-automatic" shotguns, where cartridges from the magazine are loaded by hand "pumping" the action, or by the discharge of the previous round. These weapons are required to be held on a firearm certificate.
- 4.4 Boot of the vehicle – means the inside of any vehicle that has been designed for the storage of luggage.
- 4.5 Responsible person – The holder of the Firearms Certificate relating to the firearms being carried in the vehicle or the passenger/s carrying air guns/air rifles.

5.0 Responsibilities

- 5.1 Passenger** – the responsibility of notifying Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries with the intention of carrying firearm(s) rests directly with the passenger to whom the firearm(s) belongs.

The passenger shall ensure that notification is given at time of booking that a firearm is to be carried, and this notification shall be made not less than 24 hours in advance of travel.

The passenger shall at time of check in identify themselves to either the check in staff or the security staff.

- 5.2 Call Centre Staff** – it is the responsibility of the member of staff making the booking that if informed by the passenger that they wish to carry firearms that a note is posted to the booking.
- 5.3 Security** – shall be responsible for ensuring that the passenger has a valid firearms certificate and that the serial number(s) on that certificate correspond to those on the firearm(s).

It is the responsibility of Security to ensure that the Superintendent is notified of any passengers carrying firearms.

- 5.4 Superintendent** - shall be responsible for ensuring the Master is notified of any passengers carrying firearms.

6.0 Transportation

- 6.1 Ammunition, in any quantity, is classified as an explosive article and can only be carried when supported by a Dangerous Goods declaration and only ammunition of class 1.4S may be shipped. Bookings can only be made through the Freight Department. **For the purposes of clarification ammunition of any kind cannot be carried in passenger vehicles**
- 6.2 On arrival at Port of Loading, and provided that prior notification has been received, the firearms must be declared to Security personnel on entering a Restricted Area (RA)

- 6.3 Only persons booked under a passenger booking (See exceptions) may carry firearms and only under certain conditions.
- 6.4 Details of firearm(s) must be advised to Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries 24 hours prior to date of travel.
- 6.5 Firearms must be documented on a valid firearms certificate validated by the Chief Constable in which area the holder resides. (A resident of England, Scotland or Wales who wishes to bring a firearm to Northern Ireland must have already notified Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) of their intention and sought approval to do so from the Chief Constable. The individual would then travel with his own Firearm Certificate or Shotgun Certificate **and** the Certificate of Approval).
- 6.6 Foot passengers and freight drivers will **NOT** be allowed to carry firearms under any circumstances.
- 6.7 Persons traveling in '4x4' vehicles, 'people carriers', estates, hatchbacks or similar vehicles will be permitted to carry firearms/air guns/air rifles provided that;
- The responsible person has ensured that the lid or cover of the load carrying area is in place and/or that the guns are so covered or concealed to prevent their identification
- 6.8 The holder will be asked to provide photographic identification and a valid firearms certificate will be required and that the vehicle is moved away to an area away from general view.
- 6.9 Security will ask the holder to open the boot and the case containing the firearm.
- 6.10 Security will ask the holder to show the weapon in such a way that Security personnel can see the serial/registration number and they will check that the number on the firearm is the same as that recorded on the firearms certificate. (Be aware there may be more than one firearm recorded on the certificate but not all will be present).
- 6.11 Security personnel **MUST NOT** handle the firearm
- 6.12 If all is in order then the Superintendent on duty will be informed who will then advise the Master.
- 6.13 Any vehicle containing firearms should not be left unattended at any time and its movement controlled with the Restricted Area.
- 6.14 Once a vehicle is on board the vessel. It and its passengers should remain under close supervision to ensure that the firearms are not removed from the vehicle. This should continue until all passengers have left the vehicle deck.
- 6.15 If possible, the bolt or other operating part should be separated from the firearm and either carried on the person or hidden in the vehicle, or kept in a locked container ideally secured to the vehicle if practicable.
- 7.0 Exemptions**
- 7.1 Military movements are exempt from certain requirements and will have an escort/guard with any weapons being carried en masse.
- 7.2 During the voyage it may be requested by the Officer in Charge of the Party or the Captain/Chief Officer of the vessel, that a member of the military party accompany

the crewmember to check the security of the vehicles, in which the firearms are being held. This will be at the sole discretion of the Master of the vessel.

- 7.3 It is suggested that the Officer in charge of the party make personal contact with the Master to discuss any arrangements to be made during the voyage.
- 7.4 The Officer in charge of the party will advise the Superintendent of the vehicle carrying firearms for stowage purposes.
- 7.5 VIP's may be accompanied by police protection who may be carrying firearms, usually handguns. Police Officers traveling from Northern Ireland to the mainland for duty purposes may be required to carry a firearm(s). They will be required to declare that they are armed and have a valid firearms certificate with them and also a Section 5 Authority, issued by the Home Secretary authorizing the carriage of Prohibited Weapons under the GB legislation. In these instances the weapons will of course not be locked in vehicles, but will remain on the person. Prior notice should be given and the Master informed.
- 7.6 Passengers in possession of air guns/air pistols, as described in The Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 may be carried provided the transportation guidelines mentioned above in paragraph 6.7 are followed.

8.0 Appendices

None

9.0 Documentation/ Attachments

None

10.0 Distribution

Operations Director
Operations Managers
Terminal Managers
Shipping Managers
Commercial Departments