

SINGAPORE

Legislation on gun control in Singapore consists of the Arms and Explosives Ordinance of 1913, as amended up to <sup>1954</sup>1955; the Fire-arms and Ammunition (Unlawful Possession) Ordinance of 1946; and the Arms Offences Ordinance of 1947, as amended up to 1951.

The Arms and Explosives Ordinance describes how licences are to be issued, and provides that no person shall, unless so authorized by licence, and in accordance with the conditions of such licence and other prescribed conditions, have in his possession, or under his control, import, export, manufacture or deal in any gun or arms.<sup>1/</sup> Contravention of this section (Section 8) in the form of import, export or manufacture, is punishable by a fine not exceeding three thousand [Singapore] dollars and imprisonment of up to three years. Contravention of Section 8 by having a gun in one's possession or under one's control is punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars for every such gun, and to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years. Having any arms in possession or under control carries a penalty of two thousand dollars and imprisonment of up to three years, and if it can be proved that the offender had the arms for the purpose of committing an offence punishable under the Penal Code, this carries

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<sup>1/</sup> Laws of the Colony of Singapore, Singapore, Government Publications Bureau, 1955, VI, Chapter 210, p. 8.

an additional penalty of whipping with a rattan.

"Arms" is defined to include fire-arms, air-guns, air-pistols, automatic guns, automatic pistols, and gun or any other kind of gun from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged or noxious fumes emitted, any component part of any such arm, and bayonets, swords, daggers, spears and spearheads.

"Gun" is stated to include howitzers, mortars, quick-firing and machine-guns, and other guns of a similar nature.

Exempted from this Ordinance are the manufacture, possession, importation or exportation of any article by order of the Government, and the following persons or their equipment while in the course of their duty of employment: officers or men of the naval, military and air forces, volunteer forces, additional forces created under law, police force; members of the Special Constabulary, additional constables and peace officers; and dog-shooters employed by the City Council of the City of Singapore.

The Fire-arms and Ammunition (Unlawful Possession) Ordinance of 1946 defines "fire-arm" as "any lethal weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged and includes any component part of any such weapon but does not include any air-gun or air-pistol."<sup>2/</sup> Ammunition is defined

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<sup>2/</sup> Ibid., III, Chapter 115, p. 22.

to mean ammunition for any fire-arm, and includes grenades, bombs or other similar missiles, whether they are capable of use with a fire-arm or not, and ingredients or components thereof.

The Ordinance provides that any person in unlawful possession of any fire-arm or ammunition shall be guilty of an offence, and on conviction shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to both such imprisonment and fine. "Unlawful possession" is defined as possession or control contrary to the provisions of the Arms and Explosives Ordinance.

The Arms Offences Ordinance of 1947, as amended up to 1951, makes any person who carries or possesses arms, unless licensed or authorized to do so, liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years or to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dollars, or to both such imprisonment and fine. Any such unlicensed and unauthorized person who uses or attempts to use any arm shall on conviction be punishable with death or imprisonment for life. Where any person at the time of his committing or at the time of his apprehension for any offence specified in the Schedule to the Ordinance has in his possession any arm of imitation arm, he shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be sentenced for the first mentioned offence. The Schedule lists a

number of sections of the Penal Code.

"Arm" is defined in this Ordinance to mean

. . . any fire-arm, air-gun, air-pistol, automatic gun, automatic pistol and any other kind of gun or pistol from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged or noxious liquid, flame or fumes can be emitted, and any component part thereof and includes any bomb or grenade and any component part thereof. <sup>3/</sup>

"Imitation arm" is defined as meaning anything which has the appearance of being an arm.

Members of the armed forces, police force, legally constituted volunteer or local forces, and of any authorized organization or association are exempted from the Ordinance, provided they are carrying the arm in, or in connection with, the performance of their duties.

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<sup>3/</sup>  
Ibid., III, Chapter 112, p. 3.

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