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Collecting weapons: what are the rules?

Verified 26 February 2024 - Directorate for Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister)

Weapons holders: access to the weapons information system (AIS)

The **owners of major private weapons** can create an account in the AIS :

- Person with a **hunting permit**, who possesses a weapon, or who wishes to acquire and possess a weapon
- Person with a **French Shooting Federation license for shooting**, who possesses a weapon, or who wishes to acquire and possess a weapon
- Person **wishing to keep a legacy or found weapon**
- Person holding or wishing to acquire **certain category C weapons** and who has no sports license for ball-trap or biathlon, nor a valid collector's card.

These are category weapons **C3** (a firearm manufactured for firing a bullet or several non-metallic projectiles), of category **C9** (deactivated category A, B or C firearm, i.e. rendered unfit for fire) and **C12** (alarm and signaling weapon).

The AIS allows you to do your business online and access its digital rack.

This page will be updated as the AIS is opened to other specific weapons owners.

Wondering what weapons can be collected? We present you the rules to know according to the type of weapons.

What applies to you ?



Veuillez patienter pendant le chargement de la page

Old weapon, reproduction or deactivated weapon

What weapons are they?

Collective weapons are the following:



Tableau - Collector weapons

Weapon	Characteristic of the weapon	Category	Applicable regime
Pre-1900 pattern unless dangerous		D	In free sale (https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2248?lang=en) to an adult
Arms whose model dates from after 1900, mentioned in a list drawn up by the Ministers of the Interior and Defense		D	In free sale (https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2248?lang=en) to an adult
Reproduction of historical and collector's weapons with a model dating back to before 1900	The weapon must not fire metal-cased ammunition. The manufacturing technique must not improve the precision and durability of the weapon.	D	In free sale (https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2248?lang=en) to an adult
Pre-1946 deactivated warfare equipment except deactivated Class A, B or C firearms		D	In free sale (https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2248?lang=en) to an adult
Post-1946 Warfare Equipment Neutralized		D	In free sale (https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2248?lang=en) to an adult
Category A, B or C firearm deactivated (weapon rendered unfit to fire)		C	Statement (https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2246?lang=en) from a professional (authorized dealer or broker) to the prefecture of the home

Can we transport them?

You can carry deactivated Class C weapons (weapons rendered unfit for shooting) and historic and collector's weapons to participate in a round at **historical reconstruction** or to a **cultural event of a historical or commemorative nature**.

Category C weapon

You must have a **title of detention** to purchase and possess a category C weapon: valid hunting license or valid license from the Fédération française de tir.

If you don't have a detention certificate, you need to get a collector's card (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000038070861>).

Step-by-step approach

1 Check conditions

To apply for the collector's card, you must meet all of the following conditions:

- Being of age
- Have a certificate (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000038070861>) issued by an authorized association certifying that you are a weapons collector and that you have been made aware of the rules of safety in the field of weapons.
- Not be enrolled in FINIADA
- Do not have on your criminal record bulletin no. 2 (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14710?lang=en>) convictions for certain offenses (murder, murder, willful violence, rape, sexual assault, drug trafficking...). It is the prefecture that makes the request for a ballot.

The card may be refused in one of the following cases:

- You have behavior that gives rise to a fear of using the weapon that is dangerous to yourself or to others
- You have been or are admitted to psychiatric care without consent
- You are in a physical or mental state that is manifestly incompatible with the possession of weapons

2 Make Application Package ^

The file must contain the following documents:

- Weapon Collector Card Application Form (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R53472?lang=en>)
- A copy of a valid identity document (national identity card, passport or residence permit)
- Copy of proof of residence of less than 3 months
- Medical certificate of less than one month attesting that your physical and mental health condition is compatible with the possession of weapons and ammunition
- If you follow or have followed psychiatric care in a health facility, a medical certificate of less than 1 month issued by one of the following health professionals: psychiatrist practitioner, hospital teacher, doctor of the psychiatric infirmary of the police prefecture for Paris, expert approved by the courts, specialized doctor
- Certificate issued by an authorized association certifying that you are a weapons collector and that you have been made aware of the rules of safety in the field of weapons.
You can view or download the decision of 22 february 2024 listing the associations entitled (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049190924>) .

3 Submit request ^

Send your request to the prefecture of your home.

4 Wait for response ^

The silent silence by the prefecture during **4 months** means that your application is refused.

If your request is accepted, you will receive the collector's card.

5 Follow the rules to purchase, transport and store the weapon ^

Purchase

The collector's card allows you to buy category C weapons (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2246?lang=en>) .

To purchase a Class C weapon, you must to make a declaration (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2246?lang=en>) from a licensed dealer or dealer.

Warning

The collector's card does not allow active ammunition to be purchased or held.

Transport

The collector's card (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F33655?lang=en>) is a valid ticket for the legitimate carriage of category C weapons (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2246?lang=en>) for activities related to the exhibition in a museum open to the public, to the conservation, knowledge or study of weapons.

Preservation

Rules vary depending on the size of your collection.

General case

- Either in a safe or a strong cabinet, adapted to the type of material held
- Or by dismantling a weapon element which immediately renders it unusable, which is kept separate

You have 50 or more weapons

- Either in a safe or a strong cabinet adapted to the type of material held
- Either by combining the dismantling of a weapon element making it immediately unusable, and any other device preventing the removal of the weapon

6 Request renewal before expiration

The collector's card is valid for **15 years**.

You must submit the renewal request **not later than one month before the expiry date** from the map.

It is delivered or sent one **receipt**.

The receipt is **provisional map** collector from the end of the validity of the card until the renewal decision.

The silent silence by the prefecture during **4 months** means that your renewal application is **rejected**.

Statute and miscellaneous references

Internal Security Code: Articles L311-2 to L311-4

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000025503132/LEGISCTA000025505562?lang=en)

Classification of weapons

Internal Security Code: Articles L312-6-1 to L312-6-5

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000025503132/LEGISCTA000025505588?lang=en)

Collectors

Internal Security Code: Articles R311-2 to R311-4-1

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000025503132/LEGISCTA000029655041?lang=en)

Classification of weapons and ammunition

Internal Security Code: Articles R312-66-1 to R312-66-20

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000025503132/LEGISCTA000029655243?lang=en)

Collectors

Decree No. 2022-144 of 8 February 2022 on the individualized account of weapons holders in the weapons information system (AIS) and weapons procedures (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000045141244?lang=en>)

Order of 8 February 2022 implementing Article R. 312-91 of the Internal Security Code and Article 8 of Decree No. 2022-144 of 8 February 2022 - account holders of weapons in the AIS (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000045141682?lang=en>)

Order of 28 January 2019 on deactivated firearms (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000038088599?lang=en>)

Order of 28 January 2019 relating in particular to the certificate of collector activity and the card of weapons collector (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000038070861?lang=en>)

Order of 24 August 2018 laying down the rules governing historic and collector's weapons and their reproductions (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000037391895?lang=en>)

Decision of 22 February 2024 listing the associations that can issue the certificate mentioned in 6° of article R. 312-66-5 of the code of internal security relating to the collector card (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049190924?lang=en>)

Circular dated January 29, 2019 on the Class C Firearms Collector's Card (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/circulaire/id/44321?lang=en>)

Online services and forms

Application for a Collector's Card for Weapons and their Class C Items

(<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R53472?lang=en>)

Form

FAQ

Weapons: what are the different categories? (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31877?lang=en>)

Who can carry and carry a gun? (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2252?lang=en>)

Additional topics

Category D weapons (free acquisition and possession) (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2248?lang=en>)

Service-Public.fr

Category C weapons (reportable) (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2246?lang=en>)

Service-Public.fr

Arms collector: application and model card, activity certificate

(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000038070861?lang=en>)

Legifrance

Arms collector card: associations authorized to issue the certificate

(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049190924?lang=en>)

Ministry of the Interior