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Basic Information

- There are more than 300 000 active hunters in Finland
- In addition to these there are tens of thousands of sport shooters and weapon collectors
- Finland has traditions of industrial weapons production as well as handmade weapons production on a smaller scale
- The weapon has to bear information of the producer as well as the serial number
- Finland requires comprehensive information on the marking of firearms and there is a register kept by the competent authority concerning the marking

Licensing procedure in Finland

- To acquire a weapon a permission from the authorities is needed. At the same time the applicant has to justify the purpose and use of the weapon
- The acquired weapon must be shown to the authority that granted the permission for acquisition
- A weapon-specific firearms license is granted (license to carry firearms)
- The authorities keep a register of the licenses
- The firearm has to be kept locked in a locked weapon cupboard/cabinet
- A person can lose the firearm license if he/she commits certain crimes

Controls of licenses

- To begin hunting the person must pass a test, which includes proper handling of the weapon and keeping the weapon safe.
- The authorities conduct controls of firearms licenses during hunting
- The legality of the firearm is controlled at the obligatory test shooting of big game
- If a firearm is temporarily brought to or from Finland for a shooting competition or hunting reasons, a European Firearms Pass is required

Weapons related accidents

- Ca. 20-30 accidents caused by hunting weapons are reported per year
- On the average less than one of these accidents leads to a death
- The most common accident is caused by the hunter to him/herself. A usual reason is slippery ground which leads to falling of the hunter, another reason is careless handling of the weapon
- Other accidents are hearing damages, which happen when shots are fired too close to a hunting companion

Comment on the proposal

- The system in use in Finland is good and it works well.
- In our opinion the Commission proposal would not bring major changes to the Finnish hunting practices.
- Being a representative of the Finnish Hunters association I can state that the Commission proposal does not affect acquisition or keeping of firearms for hunters, sport shooters or weapons collectors in Finland, nor does it hinder the pursuit of the hobby.
- For these reasons we welcome the Commission proposal which we are ready to accept without changes.



Thank you

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