

## RCMP—antique firearm

From RCMP website: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms/specific-types-firearms#bpf>

### Antique firearms

The Criminal Code defines an antique firearm as either:

(a) any firearm manufactured before 1898 that was not designed to discharge rim-fire or centre-fire ammunition and that has not been redesigned to discharge such ammunition, or

(b) any firearm that is prescribed to be an antique firearm

Criminal Code

Licensing and registration requirements

If you only own antique firearms, you do not need a firearms licence or to register any of them.

Selling antique firearms

There are no restrictions on selling, buying, bartering or giving away antique firearms.

Types of antique firearms

The following firearms are antique firearms under the Regulations Prescribing Antique Firearms.

Black powder reproductions

Reproductions of flintlock, wheel-lock or matchlock firearms, other than handguns, manufactured after 1897.

Note

All other reproductions of long guns are considered non-restricted firearms. They don't need to be registered but a licence to possess them is required. As an example, reproductions of percussion cap muzzle-loading firearms like American Civil War Enfield and Springfield rifles are considered non-restricted firearms and not antiques.

## Black powder firearms

If you possess or are planning to acquire a black powder firearm, whether a muzzleloader or a firearm that discharges black powder cartridges, you should be aware of requirements that may apply to them under the *Firearms Act*. There are no licence and registration requirements for antique firearms.

Muzzleloaders made before 1898

All black powder muzzleloaders made before 1898 are considered antique firearms. Antique firearms are exempt from the licence and registration requirements set out in the *Firearms Act*.

#### Muzzleloaders made after 1898

All matchlock, flintlock and wheel lock long guns are considered antiques no matter when they were made. Like older firearms of these types, they are exempt from the licence and registration requirements set out in the *Firearms Act*.

Percussion cap long guns and muzzle-loading black powder handguns made after 1898 are not considered antiques even if they are copies of an earlier antique model. Newer percussion cap long guns are classified as non-restricted firearms. Newer handguns, including matchlock, wheel lock and flintlock handguns made after 1898 are classified as restricted if their barrel length is over 105 mm (about 4 inches), or prohibited if their barrel length is 105 mm or less.

There are a lot of reproduction firearms on the market. In addition, some firearms were made over a period of several years spanning the 1898 cut-off date. If you possess or are planning to acquire a percussion cap firearm or a muzzle-loading handgun, you need to know if it was made before or after 1898 in order to know what rules apply.

#### Firearms that discharge black powder cartridges

A firearm that discharges black powder cartridges might be considered an antique if it was made before 1898, but not necessarily. It would depend on the caliber or gauge. For example, a shotgun that discharges 12 gauge centre-fire cartridges would not be considered an antique no matter how old it is. More information on which ones are antiques is available by calling 1-800-731-4000.

### **Obtaining ammunition for black powder firearms**

You must have a firearms licence to obtain ammunition. As defined in the *Criminal Code*, "ammunition" means "a cartridge containing a projectile designed to be discharged from a firearm and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes a caseless cartridge and a shot shell." The definition does not include loose black powder and shot used in muzzleloaders. Black powder is regulated primarily under the *Explosives Act*, which is administered by [Natural Resources Canada](#). For more information on requirements for the purchase of loose black powder, contact Natural Resources Canada or consult the [Explosives Act](#). Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply.