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Carriage of Ammunition and Firearms in Aircraft during Agency operations.

Recently, Agency personnel have made requests to carry ammunition and firearms on State Fleet and Call When Needed aircraft to enable rangers and veterinarians to put down injured wildlife.

In line with existing International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations and CASA regulations, the State Aircraft Unit (SAU) has developed the following procedures for the transport of ammunition and firearms.

Note: This briefing note is for the carriage of firearms and ammunition only.

The Agencies do not have the relevant approvals or training program for the conduct of aerial shooting of feral animals from aircraft.

AMMUNITION TRANSPORT

Under the IATA DG code, the following procedures apply for the carriage of ammunition:

- Only ammunition for private/sporting purposes classified as explosive Class 1.4S - ammunition classified either UN0012 or UN 0014 (type which has an inert projectile and requires a mechanical action to cause the propellant to ignite, ie hitting the primer) may be carried.
- Ammunition carried on an aircraft must be securely packaged and labelled as Class 1 – Explosive, Division 1.4.
- The quantity is limited to not in excess of 5kg.
- Projectiles of an explosive or incendiary function are not permitted to be carried.
- The pilot or flight crew must be advised of transport of ammunition.

FIREARMS TRANSPORT

- CASA regulation 1988-143 specifies requirements for the carriage of firearms on aircraft.
- A firearm may be carried on an aircraft engaged in “charter operations”. This category covers the majority of Agency operations that would see a firearm being transported from location to location for the described purpose.

In line with these CASA requirements, the SAU has determined that for Agency operations, a firearm may be transported in a State Fleet or Call When Needed aircraft provided;

- The flight is conducted under the charter category; *and*
- Only firearms for the shooting of injured wildlife will be transported by Agency aircraft conducting operations; *and*
- The pilot or flight crew is advised of the transport of firearms; *and*
- Any such firearms shall be unloaded, chamber/s emptied and ammunition is transported as per the DG code; *and*
- Any firearms shall be made temporarily inoperable during the flight ie:
 - Shotgun – broken or visually shown to the pilot that the chamber/s are empty if a custom carry case is being used.
 - Rifle - bolt removed; *and*
- Any firearms will be transported in separate containers or aircraft compartments to the ammunition.

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