

**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE****EXPLOSIVES UNIT****CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES****CONDITIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND USE OF BLACK POWDER FOR PERSONAL USE**

[Issued in terms of the Explosives Regulations of 1972, framed under Section 30 of the Explosives Act, 1956 (Act no 26 of 1956)]

The purpose of this document is to provide conditions for the acquisition, transport, storage and use of black powder for personal use as propellant in muzzle loaders, reloaded cartridges and other black powder firearms.

**1. DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions will apply:

**'antique firearm'** means any muzzle loading firearm manufactured before 1 January 1900, or any replica of such a firearm, as defined in section 1 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No 60 of 2000).

**'black powder'** means a substance consisting of an intimate mixture of charcoal or other carbon and either potassium nitrate or sodium nitrate, with or without sulphur, and gunpowder has a similar meaning. Such black powder is limited to those grades approved for sporting use only, and must be packed in containers approved by the Chief Inspector of Explosives. Black powder substitutes such as 'Pyrodex' are included.

**'muzzle loading firearm'** means any rifle, shotgun or pistol, which is designed to use black powder or black powder substitute, which is loaded through the muzzle and cannot use fixed ammunition.

**'personal use'** means the use of black powder in an antique firearm or other licensed firearm by a registered black powder user, or under his or her direct supervision, and includes the reloading of black powder cartridges.

**'registered black powder user'** means a person of 18 years and older, registered by the Chief Inspector of Explosives to acquire, transport, store and use black powder and who is in possession of a valid permit.

**2. REGISTRATION OF BLACK POWDER USERS**

Any person who intends to acquire, transport, store and use black powder for

personal use, must be registered as a black powder user by the Chief Inspector of Explosives.

The following documentation must be submitted:

- Original completed application form for registration (attached as annexure A).
- Certified copy of the first page of the applicant's identity document.
- Original antique firearm status certificate issued by a gunsmith registered in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act or the Firearms Control Act, stating a detailed description of the firearm.
- **If the applicant does not have any other valid firearm licences, an original set of fingerprints on form SAPS 91(a), together with a certified copy of a receipt for the amount prescribed for a criminal record clearance (currently R29-00), or the original. Fingerprints must be taken and the prescribed fee paid at the applicant's nearest SAPS Community Service Centre.**

Details of antique and other black powder firearms are only required for record purposes and to support the necessity to use black powder.

Applications may be submitted to the Chief Inspector in the following ways:

- By post: The Chief Inspector of Explosives, Private Bag X624, Pretoria, 0001.
- By hand: Annex Building, Department of Land Affairs, 184 Jacob Maré Street, Pretoria.
- At the nearest Explosives Unit (list attached as annexure B).

Registration of licensed firearm owners will normally take place within ten (10) working days after receiving the original application at the Chief Inspector's office. Registration of persons who do not have any other valid firearm licences depends on feedback from the Criminal Record Centre, and may take up to eight (8) weeks to finalise.

Upon registration a letter of permission to acquire, transport, store and use black powder, will be issued to the applicant which will allow him/her to store a maximum of one (1) kilogram of black powder at the premises specified on the permit. This permit will be returned by standard post to the applicant, but may be collected by hand if pre-arranged.

**3. TRANSPORT** (Issued in terms of Regulation 6.49 of the Explosives Regulations, 1972)

- ▶ Registered users must apply for a transport permit to acquire and transport not more than one (1) kilogram of black powder from the nearest supplier to his/her specified physical address on form SAPS 408(a) (attached as annexure C).
- ▶ Applicants may also apply to acquire percussion caps on the same application form. Black powder must be kept away from percussion caps during transport.
- ▶ The original application form may be submitted to the Chief Inspector's office or at the nearest Explosives Unit. Persons wishing to obtain a transport permit on the application date, are advised to make an appointment with the local inspector-of explosives.
- ▶ A transport permit will be issued free of charge for not more than one (1) kilogram of black powder in a single, once-off consignment.
- ▶ No permit is required to transport black powder between the place of storage and place of use. Registered users must keep a copy of their storage permits together with a copy of these conditions at hand, for information to any authorised person, eg police or traffic official, who may stop and search a vehicle.
- ▶ Black powder must be transported in its original container when being transported from the supplier to the registered premises for storage.
- ▶ Black powder may be transported in smaller suitable containers such as non-sparking horns, flasks and powder measures, between the place of storage and place of use.
- ▶ All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent theft or unauthorised access during transport.
- ▶ The original used transport permit must be returned to the Explosives Unit where application is made for a new permit.
- ▶ A maximum of five (5) kilograms of black powder may be transported in a private vehicle where more than one black powder user travel together. Such a vehicle is exempted from the Chief Inspector of Explosives' licensing requirements and the dangerous goods road transport requirements in terms of the National Road Traffic Act and Regulations.

#### **4. STORAGE** (Issued in terms of Regulation 8.25 of the Explosives Regulations, 1972)

- ▶ Black powder not being used, must be stored in its original container, in a locked safe, strongroom, lockable steel cabinet or sturdy cupboard at the specified address.
- ▶ The original storage permit must be kept in or near the storage facility

(attached as annexure D).

- ▶ A maximum of three (3) kilograms of black powder may be stored where ~~more than one registered black powder user intends to store their powder~~ on the same premises.
- ▶ All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent unauthorised access to black powder or percussion caps.
- ▶ Percussion caps must be stored separate from black powder.

**5. USE** (Issued in terms of Regulation 10.33 of the Explosives Regulations, 1972)

Black powder obtained in terms of these conditions may only be utilised for personal use and in accordance with the firearm and powder manufacturers' specifications.

**NB:** Black powder is an explosive and pose certain hazards. Users are advised to join professional black powder associations and clubs which will provide them with safety guidelines and procedures.

**6. DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF REDUNDANT BLACK POWDER**

The local inspector of explosives must be contacted for advice whenever any redundant or 'old' black powder must be destroyed or disposed of.

**7. GENERAL**

The Chief Inspector must be notified immediately of any of the following:

- ▶ when black powder or percussion caps are stolen or lost;
- ▶ when an accident occurred during the transport, storage or use of black powder; and
- ▶ when there is a change of information of registered users, eg address, new black powder firearms obtained, etc.

Written requests for any deviation from these conditions must be properly motivated and submitted to the Chief Inspector.

The Chief Inspector, the State and/or its employees shall in no way be liable for the damage, loss or injury sustained by any person or persons which in any way, may be attributable to the use of explosives in accordance with these conditions or otherwise.

Private Bag X624  
PRETORIA, 0001

**Annexure 'A'**

**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE**



**CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES**

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION TO ACQUIRE, TRANSPORT, STORE AND USE  
BLACK POWDER FOR PRIVATE USE  
(ONLY FOR FIRST APPLICATION)**

1. Name of applicant: .....
2. Residential address: .....
3. Postal address: .....
4. Contact details: Tel (W) ..... (H) .....  
(Fax) ..... (Cell) .....
5. Name and address of supplier of black powder/percussion caps.....
6. Physical address of storage .....
7. Description of storage facility: .....
8. Nearest SAPS Community Service Centre/police station: .....

**The following documents must be attached to this application**

- Certified photocopy of first page of identity document
- Original letter from gunsmith to verify the status and details of antique firearm
- Certified photocopies of other black powder firearm licences (if applicable)
- Original Criminal Record Enquiry (SAPS 91(a)) and receipt of payment (to be obtained from nearest SAPS Community Service Centre). (Only necessary if not a registered firearms licensee).

Date: .....

.....  
**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

**FOR CIE OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date received	
Date SAPS 91(a) submitted to CRC	
Date CRC feedback received	
Date registered on CES and permit issued	
Reference number allocated	
Date finalised	
Date collected/posted	

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F/CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES

## Annexure 'B'

EXPLOSIVES UNIT OFFICE		INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	OFFICE TEL NO	FAX NO
Head Office	Pretoria	Superintendent JJ van Staden	Annex Building Department of Land Affairs 184 Jacob Mare Street PRETORIA	012 393 2763	012 323 1711
Western Cape	Cape Town	Superintendent BE Posthumus	Sunrise Complex, Jan Smuts Drive MAITLAND	021 506 2192	021 506 2199
	Mossel Bay	Superintendent GJE Coetzee	Room 225 Plaza Aquada 55 Marsh Street MOSSSEL BAY	044 690 3771	044 690 3774
	Paarl	Captain E Lourens	53A Main Street PAARL	021 863 1040/1	021 836 1044
Eastern Cape	East London	Superintendent IPG Ferreira	12 St Peters Road Southernwood EAST LONDON	043 722 4080	043 722 4080
	Grahamstown	Superintendent L Coetzee	51A Hill Street Saamspan Building GRAHAMSTOWN	046 622 3821	046 622 3827
	Queenstown	Captain MG Gaqavu	78 Cathcart Road QUEENSTOWN	045 838 3878	045 838 3877
	Port Elizabeth	Superintendent R Kunneke	Stone Street Nashua Building 3rd Floor North End PORT ELIZABETH	041 487 3177	041 487 3176
	Umtata	Superintendent TT Zimela	Police College SAPS UMTATA		047 505 5199
Northern Cape	Kimberley	Superintendent MV Khotha	51 George Street Record Engineering Building KIMBERLEY	053 838 5604	053 831 6460

	Springbok	Superintendent WD Kotze	Magasyn Street SPRINGBOK	027 712 3667	027 712 2684
	Kuruman	Inspector K van Wyk	7 Rose Avenue KURUMAN	053 712 3649	053 712 2965
	Upington	Inspector LV Louw	First Floor Unex Building 36 Scott Street UPINGTON	054 337 3404	054 332 3259
	De Aar	Inspector Nel	20 Station Street Sequira Building DE AAR	053 632 9400	053 632 9407
Gauteng	Krugersdorp	Superintendent CJ Bezuidenhout	118 Commissioner Street KRUGERSDORP	011 951 1101	011 951 1183
	Germiston	Superintendent L Botha	165 Meyer Street GERMISTON	011 871 5627	011 871 5625
	Vereeniging/ Sasolburg	Superintendent FP van der Walt	Corner Voortrekker and Stanley Street VEREENIGING	016 450 2120	016 450 2125
	Soweto	Superintendent EJ Wiedeman	Indaba Street Prolea SOWETO	011 986 9951	011 986 9550
	Pretoria	Captain DS Stidwell	39 Glynn Street Colbyn PRETORIA	012 342 9091/2/3	012 342 9096
Free State	Bloemfontein	Captain ME Sono	Corner Aliwal and Fontein Street BLOEMFONTEIN	051 507 6620	051 507 6082
	Welkom	Superintendent CM Rautenbach	St Helena WELKOM	057 391 6866	057 391 6835
	Bethlehem	Captain A Castelyn	32 High Street BETHLEHEM	058 307 5911	058 303 7168
Mpumalanga	Secunda	Superintendent PJ Oelofse	SAPS Building 1 Steenkamp Street SECUNDA	017 624 2079	017 624 2086





	Nelspruit	Captain P Roodt	SAPS Building 15 Bester Street NELSPRUIT	013 759 1155	013 759 1170
	Middelburg	Inspector D van der Merwe	SAPS Building 22 Joubert Street MIDDELBURG	013 249 1740	013 249 1741
North West	Potchefstroom	Superintendent F Crause	Santamtrust Building 41 Potgieter Street POTCHEFSTROOM	018 299 7795	018 299 7865
	Mafikeng	Superintendent MP Gopane	Vryburg Road MAFIKENG	018 397 0067	018 381 0123
	Rustenburg	Inspector PH van der Merwe	125 Burger Street RUSTENBURG	014 509 4287	014 590 4291
	Brits	Captain MAS Pretorius	Corner Court and Kerk Street BRITS	012 252 5966	012 252 6584
	Vryburg	Inspector WJ Nel	Corner Mark and De Kock Street VRYBURG	053 927 1145	053 927 1282
Limpopo	Polokwane	Superintendent PB Grimbeek	Plot 41 Myngenoegen POLOKWANE	015 263 6690/1/2	015 263 6993
	Modimolle	Inspector J Herbst	Limpala Building. 100 Potgieter Street Ground Floor Room 1 MODIMOLLE	014 718 7683	014 718 7683
	Musina	Captain J Swarts	Beilbridge Border Post Police Building Office 1, 2 and 3 MUSINA	015 534 7458	015 534 7421
	Tzaneen	Captain J Ehlers	Corner Danie Joubert and Agatha Street Joubert Hoek Centre 4th Floor TZANEEN	015 306 2091	015 306 2097

	Thohoyandou	Inspector TS Nerusibi	SAPS Station 2nd Floor Mpefu Street THOHOYANDOU	015 960 1023	015 960 1141
KwaZulu-Natal	Durban	Superintendent CD du Randt	4 Ballance Road Standford Hill DURBAN	031 312 1490/99	031 312 1536
	Pietermaritzburg	Superintendent RJ Botha	231 Loop Street PIETERMARITZBURG	033 845 2727	033 845 2727
	Newcastle	Captain A.W van Staden	7 Industria Road NEWCASTLE	034 312 4252	034 312 4293
	Umfolozo	Inspector G Joubert	29 Copper Corner Alton RICHARDS BAY	035 901 5915	035 791 053
	Umtzinkulu	Inspector S Joubert	40 Bisset Street PORT SHEPSTONE	039 682 3688	039 682 3685

**Annexure 'C'**

SAPS 408(a)

**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE**  
Chief Inspector of Explosives  
Private Bag X624, Pretoria, 0001



**CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES**  
Tel no (012) 3932759/56/67  
Fax no (012) 3231711

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORT PERMIT: BLACK POWDER**  
(ONLY FOR REGISTERED PERSONS)

- 1. Name of applicant ..... Ref. No.: **28/1/3/8/2/1** (.....)
- 2. Address .....
- 3. Tel no (work) ..... Tel no (Home) ..... Fax no .....
- 4. Supplier of black powder/percussion caps .....
- 5. Quantity of black powder/percussion caps required .....
- 6. Exact destination where black powder/percussion caps will be stored .....

**NB** Please provide a detailed list of all black powder firearms you own if you were registered before September 2004, or if you have acquired additional black powder firearms.

Signature of applicant .....

Name in full ..... Date .....

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Transport permit no: ..... issued on ..... expiry date .....

Date .....

INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES

### BLACK POWDER FIREARM LIST

Name: ..... Ref no 28/1/3/8/2/1 (.....)

Make/model	Serial no	Type (shotgun, pistol, rifle, revolver)	L*	A*

\*L = Licensed  
\*A = Antique firearm

Mark with 'X'

Date: .....

.....  
SIGNATURE OF OWNER