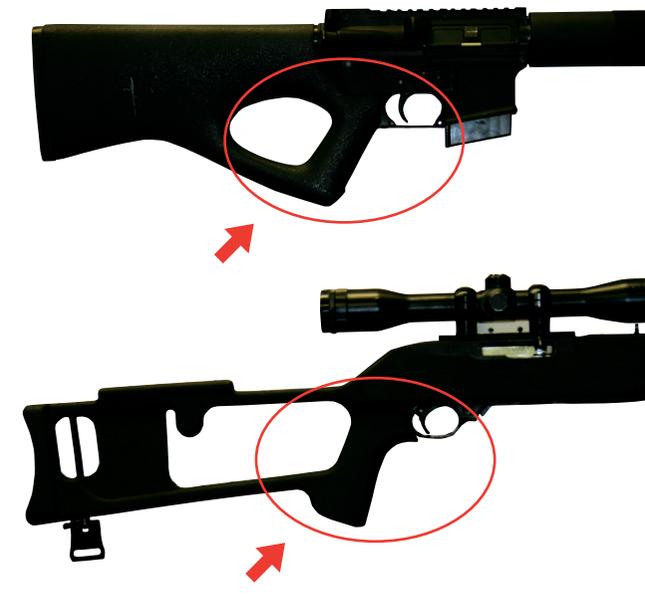


YES: This is a pistol grip



NO: These are not pistol grips



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ARMS ACT 1983

From 11 December 2013

For more information or to pick up a form:

Ask the Arms Officer at your nearest Police station.

Or, visit the Police website: www.police.govt.nz

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ARMS ACT 1983

From 11 December 2013

If you own or use



**A semi-automatic
firearm, air rifle
or air pistol**

This law change may affect you

New Zealand Government

New Law

From 11 December 2013, the Arms (Military Style Semi-automatic Firearms and Import Controls) Amendment Act 2012 comes into effect:

- It creates a new category of restricted airgun
- It changes the definition of the type of pistol grip that will make a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun a MSSA.

MSSA Firearms:

Any semi-automatic rifle or shotgun which has a pistol grip as defined in the Arms (Military Style Semi-automatic Firearms – Pistol Grips) Order 2013 will become a Military Style Semi-automatic firearm (MSSA).

If your semi-automatic rifle or shotgun is affected by the new legislation, you must:

- Apply to Police for an endorsement specific to that MSSA if you want to keep it
- OR
- Dispose of the grip and replace it with an 'A Category' compliant stock
- OR
- Sell or dispose of the MSSA to a licence holder with an 'E' endorsement and a permit to procure, or hand in the MSSA to Police for destruction.

Police will allow affected individuals until 11 June 2014 to comply.

If you want to retain the firearm as a MSSA

- Licence holders who already have an 'E' endorsement specific to other MSSA firearms should apply to have the endorsement made specific to that MSSA (form POL67X). There is no fee.
- Licence holders who do not already have an 'E' endorsement specific to other MSSA firearms should apply for the general 'E' endorsement (form POL67H) and to have that endorsement made specific to the MSSA (form POL67X). The usual fee will be waived if the application is lodged by 11 June 2014.

Military Style Semi-automatic (MSSA)



MSSA describes a self-loading rifle or shotgun with one or more of the following features:

- Folding or telescopic butt
- Magazine that holds, or is detachable and has the appearance of holding, more than 15 cartridges for .22 rimfire
- Magazine that holds more than 7 cartridges, or is detachable and has the appearance of holding more than 10 cartridges for other than .22 rimfire
- Bayonet lug
- Pistol grip as defined by Order in Council
- Flash suppressor.

You need a specific endorsement (General 'E' endorsement coupled with a permit to procure, permit to import or POL 67X) from the Police to possess one of these firearms.

Restricted Airguns

A new category of "restricted airguns" has been created. A restricted airgun is an airgun that:

- (With or without any of its attachments) has the appearance of being a pistol, a restricted weapon or a MSSA; or
- Is designed for use in airsoft or paintball sports and (with or without any of its attachments) has the appearance of being a firearm capable of full automatic fire.

A permit to import is now required to import restricted airguns and there must be a special reason for the import. The same process that is currently applied to the importation of pistols, restricted weapons and MSSAs will be used. Applications can be made to your nearest Arms Office.

Pistol Grip Definition

A semi-automatic firearm (other than a pistol) that has a pistol grip will be a MSSA:

A pistol grip is a free-standing grip.

Free-standing grip, in relation to a firearm, means a grip that –

- Is designed to be gripped by the whole or most of the trigger hand of a person firing the firearm; and
- Is (if any trigger guard is disregarded) structurally connected to the firearm at only one point; and
- When deployed, protrudes from the firearm in a direction that is closer to being perpendicular to the barrel than to being parallel to it; and
- Is neither –
 - a thumb-hole stock; nor
 - a stock of the type commonly described as a Dragunov stock or Dragunov-style stock

The direction in which the grip of a firearm protrudes from it must be determined in a general, practical sense –

- Having regard to the attitude that the trigger hand of a person firing the firearm (while gripping the grip as it is designed to be gripped) would assume while the person is firing the firearm; and
- Without having regard to the shape of the grip.

Grip, in relation to a firearm, means a component of the firearm that (whether or not it is also designed to serve some other purpose or purposes) is designed to be gripped by the trigger hand of a person while the person is firing the firearm.

For more information or to pick up a form:

Ask the Arms Officer at your nearest Police Station. Or, visit the Police website: www.police.govt.nz