



**CONSULTATION ON CONTROL OF
GENUINE FIREARM COMPONENT PARTS
SUBMISSIONS**

1. The Law Society is responding to a consultation paper issued by the Security Bureau on “*Control of Genuine Firearm Component Parts*” on about 17 February 2021 (the “Consultation Paper”).

2. *Consultation Question 1:*

In view of the increasing trend of cases involving genuine firearms in recent years and the mass casualties that can be caused by the misuse of firearms, do you agree that the legislation should provide a clearer definition of firearm component parts?

Answer:

We are in support of the proposal to clarify/or and to provide clearer definition(s) of firearm component parts. As a matter of general principle, it is always prudent to review legislation from time to time, in order to keep the law updated. That applies to not only the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance, Cap. 238 (the “Ordinance”) but also to other legislation.

3. *Consultation Question 2:*

Do you agree that the essential firearm component parts set out paragraph 3.2 should be regulated?

Answer:

We have no objection to the above proposal.

4. Consultation Question 3:

Do you agree that a 90-day grace period should be given before the proposed legislative amendments take effect?

Answer:

We have no comments.

5. By way of a concluding remark, we notice there are no proposals in the Consultation Paper to review the various definitions in the Ordinance. For instance, the meaning of “*air gun* (氣槍)”, “*air rifle* (長槍型氣槍)” in the Ordinance were laid down in 2000 (21 years ago); the definition of “*imitation firearm* (仿製火器)” is not disturbed since the enactment of the Ordinance in 1981, i.e. 40 years ago.
6. The above are quoted for illustration only and are not exhaustive. In light of societal changes in the past few decades, we urge the Government to review and where appropriate update the Ordinance. For one thing, genuine toy guns (for fun) should not inadvertently be caught by the Ordinance. On the other hand, realistic-looking toy weapons should not confuse / frustrate police in their enforcement or threaten public safety thereby.

**The Law Society of Hong Kong
16 March 2021**