

## **IMPORTS OF AIR GUN IN INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The importation of airsoft guns in India is an issue that has received a great deal of attention in recent years. As airsoft became more popular among Indian sports enthusiasts and amateur athletes, its imports increased significantly. Air guns are classified as firearms under the Indian Firearms Act and are subject to strict regulations. However, air guns are treated differently from conventional firearms, and imports are permitted for non-lethal purposes such as sports shooting and pest control.

The demand for air guns has increased significantly in recent years in India due to growing interest in shooting sports and the availability of international quality air guns. This has increased the number of Indian airsoft importers importing a wide range of airsoft guns from different countries. However, importing airsoft guns into India is not without its challenges. This process can be lengthy and complicated, and importers must comply with strict government regulations and requirements. In addition, concerns have been raised about the illegal importation of air guns and their possible misuse by criminals. Overall, the importation of airsoft guns into India is a significant issue that needs to be carefully considered and regulated. As interest in airsoft guns for sporting and recreational purposes grows, it is important to ensure that their importation is controlled and controlled to prevent possible misuse.

**Keywords:** Importation, firearms, imports, importers, India guns, misuse, regulations, airsoft, shooting

### **INTRODUCTION**

Air guns have gained significant popularity among sports enthusiasts and hobbyists in India over the past few years. These guns are considered to be non-lethal firearms and are primarily used for sports shooting and pest control. However, the import of air guns in India is subject to strict regulations under the Indian Arms Act. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the import of air guns into India, owing to the growing demand for high-quality air guns among shooting enthusiasts. This has led to a rise in the number of air gun importers in India, who are importing a variety of air guns from different countries. The import of air guns in India is not without its challenges. Importers must comply with strict regulations and requirements set by the government, and the process can be lengthy and complicated. Additionally, concerns have been raised over the potential misuse of air guns by criminals, which has led to increased scrutiny of the import

of air guns in India. Given the growing interest in air guns for sports and recreational purposes, it is essential to understand the regulations governing their import in India and the potential challenges associated with their import. Therefore, this research paper will explore the import of air guns in India, including its regulatory framework, the challenges faced by importers, and the potential implications of their import for public safety and security. Overall, the import of air guns in India is an important issue that requires careful consideration and regulation. While there is a growing interest in air guns for sports and recreational purposes, it is crucial to ensure that their import is managed and controlled to prevent any potential misuse.

In the beginning, guns were only meant to kill or cause damage to the opponent and also to the hunt. The design of these guns can have changed over the years, but the principles are the same.

In terms of manufacturing methods, airguns have structural aspects similar to firearms. Usage, mechanism, appearance. This is the only difference between airguns and firearms. Do not use propellants to propel projectiles. Airguns are now produced relying on air instead. Enough kinetic energy to propel the projectile. How this kinetic energy exists Depending on the type of air pistol, the scope of delivery may vary from air pistol to air pistol. In India, under the Armament Act 1959 (as amended 2016), all air forces apply. It can produce more than 20 joules of energy or an initial velocity of more than 20 joules. Gun license now required for sizes over 1000 ft/sec or .177 caliber, 2016 Airguns of any type (rifle or pistol) are not permitted. Anything below the statutory limit is considered a firearm under the 2016 Amendments to the Firearms Act. This change was and still is considered a major controversy by many airsoft enthusiasts.

According to the dictionary, an airgun is technically not a firearm, so the maker and the maker meaning. Airguns are used to hunt small game and in some cases can also hunt large game.

Shooting practice such as competition shooting and printing by hobbyists and enthusiasts. But airguns are very powerful and accurate weapons and easy to use. Is malicious or intended to defraud. More on this in the literature.

## **GLOBAL AIR GUN MARKET**

The APAC air gun market is divided into the following regions: Australia, India, China, Japan, South Korea, and the Rest of APAC. As tensions and conflicts rise in countries like India, China, and Pakistan, the military's strategic purchase of significant quantities of air rifles and air guns has aided the region's air gun market growth. In diverse countries, certain government rules and restrictions are in place for the buyer. In Australia, the government announced various laws for the acquisition of air guns such as air rifles that are classified as Class A firearms to be used for legal purposes, air pistol shooters should have a membership and sufficient attendance as a member of an authorised pistol club for six months before becoming an owner of the air pistol. Similarly, China's air gun law is often considered to be the most stringent in the world. Individuals' increased interest in hunting and shooting has prompted the Chinese government to make various changes in order to assist the younger generation in advancing and expanding their hobbies.

The economies of Asia are primarily emerging and fragmented, and they face challenges such as growing inflation, cost pressures, market rivalry, and market volatility. To address these issues, manufacturers and suppliers are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the air gun, which will maximise and improve the user's visibility in acquiring these weapons.

## **AIR GUN MARKET SEGMENTS**

The air gun market is divided into product, ammunition type, accessories, and geographical segments. The air gun market is divided into two product categories: rifle and pistol. The air gun market is divided into airgun pellets, airgun BBs, huge bore pellets, hunting pellets, cleaning pellets, and others based on ammunition type. The air gun industry is divided into accessories such as scopes, sights, mounts, binoculars, compressors, and others. Geographically, the air gun market is divided into North America, Europe, Asia Pacific (APAC), the Middle East & Africa (MEA), and South America (SAM). According to the air gun market analysis, some of the market's leading players include Airforce Airguns, Velocity Outdoor Inc., Daisy Outdoor Products Inc., Feinwerkbau GmbH, GAMO Outdoor, S.L.U, Morini Competition Arm SA,

Smith & Wesson, Carl Walther GmbH, Sport Manufacturing Group Inc., and STURM, RUGER & COMPANY, INC.

## 1 | **INDIAN AIR GUN MARKET.**

During the anticipated period, the India Air Gun Market is expected to expand. The growing popularity of shooting sports and the rise in disposable money have both contributed to the rapid growth of the air gun business in India in recent years. Numerous activities, including plinking, target practise, pest management, and small game hunting, include the use of air weapons. In India, the pistol is the most often used air gun type, followed by the rifle. Air guns' widespread availability, the expanding popularity of shooting sports, and increased disposable income are all key market drivers. However, the ownership and use of air weapons are subject to stringent government controls, which to some extent are limiting industry expansion. According to 6Wresearch, the India Air Gun Market is expected to grow during 2020-2028. India air gun market is currently in its developing stage with majority of the demand. The major factor driving the growth of air gun market in India is the rising popularity of shooting sports. In addition, growing disposable income and awareness about different types of air guns are also fuelling the growth of this market. However, high cost of some premium products and strict government regulations regarding import/export of air guns are restraining the growth of this market.

The Indian air gun business is expanding, catering to shooting enthusiasts and hunters searching for a less expensive and less risky alternative to traditional guns. Air weapons, which come in a number of types such as rifles, pistols and shotguns, use compressed air or gas to drive pellets or BBs towards a target. The growing popularity of shooting sports in India is one of the primary reasons driving the growth of the Indian air gun market. The market for air weapons has increased as more individuals get interested in competitive and leisure shooting. Air guns are also extensively used for pest control on farms and other estates, which adds to their appeal. The Indian air gun market is highly competitive, with a range of domestic and international brands offering different types of air guns. Some of the popular Indian brands include Precihole, Gamo India, and SDB. International brands such as Crosman, Hatsan, and Diana are also available in the Indian market.

One of the challenges facing the Indian air gun market is regulation. Buyers are required to obtain a license to purchase an air gun, and there are restrictions on the caliber and velocity of air guns that can be sold in the country. However, these regulations are in place to ensure the safe use of air guns and prevent misuse. Despite the challenges, the Indian air gun market is poised for continued growth in the coming years. The affordability and versatility of air guns make them an attractive option for shooting enthusiasts and hunters, and the increasing popularity of shooting sports is expected to drive demand for air guns in India

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In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the import of air guns into India, owing to the growing demand for high-quality air guns among shooting enthusiasts. This has led to a rise in the number of air gun importers in India, who are importing a variety of air guns from different countries.

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## ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS OF-AIR GUN

### Total Value & Volume of Imports in India

**Total Value** \$64,150      **Total Quantity** 3,728,302

**Average price per unit** \$0.02      **Average value per shipment** \$957

### Top Suppliers      Top Ports of Discharge

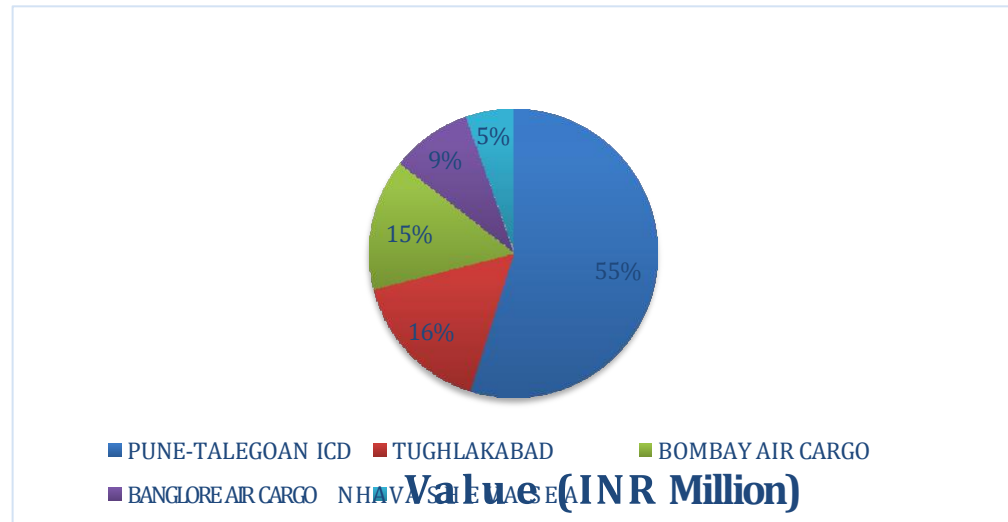
**Germany** \$37,296      **Delhi Air Cargo** \$24,750

**China** \$20,966      **Hyderabad** \$20,966

**Netherlands** \$5,802      **Bombay Air Cargo** \$10,559

## IMPORTS OF AIR GUN PORT WISE

Port	Value (INR Million)
PUNE-TALEGOAN ICD	5.815
TUGHLAKABAD	1.71
BOMBAY AIR CARGO	1.548
BANGLORE AIR CARGO	0.959
NHAVA SHEVA SEA	0.564



## IMPORT PROCEDURE AIR GUNS.

OF

The majority of air guns have a "power limitation" even though they are generally excluded from the Arms Act's regulations (see Indian Arms Act GSR 991, 1959, ii) 1(3)). The antiquated "transaction log test" is used to determine this capacity limit. A pellet is shot into a 1" thick piece of soft wood (often spruce or pine) during the test from a distance of 5 feet. The air pistol is deemed to have failed the test if the pellet enters the 1" block and escapes from the other side. and MUST be mentioned with other guns on the firearms licence.

Now let's talk about air weapon imports. There are essentially JUST TWO legal methods to import air weapons into India, as you might have inferred from the links in the two discussions above.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTS ARE NOT ALLOWED HERE and importation is only authorised for PERSONAL USE in any scenario.

### 1 - IMPORT VIA COURIER/ POST

The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India ALLOWED the import of .177 calibre air guns/air-pistols by shooters registered with Rifle Clubs or District/State/National Rifle Association(s) in its Notification No. 12 (RE-2005)/2004-09 dated July 4, 2005. A scanned copy of this notification and a copy of the regulation exempting the imposition of any import duties are both attached to this post.

Please be aware of the requirements for importing using this route:

1. The importer MUST be an active participant in the aforementioned rifle club or shooting association.
2. Only .177 calibre air pistols and air rifles may be imported.
3. As of now, an import duty of around 35% was levied on the CIF (Cost + Insurance + Freight) value of the

imported items. However, this responsibility is now NADA. However, customs authorities are likely to hold off on waiving import charges on these products until they receive official notification (perhaps early next month). The zero duty regime is currently in effect. It goes without saying that the imported air pistols and firearms must be able to pass the aforementioned deal wood test.

## **2 - IMPORT AS PERSONAL BAGGAGE**

Anyone returning from abroad is allowed to bring an air pistol or air rifle with them. The following circumstances would be true:

1. Since there are no restrictions on calibre utilising this approach, importance of Air weapons of calibre 22 shouldn't be an issue.
2. Membership in a rifle club or shooting association is NOT REQUIRED of the returning passenger.
3. The tax assessed should be no more than 35%, but the interpretation of the customs officer on duty is quite important; I've heard of a situation where someone was assessed 100% import duty!
4. The baggage regulations provide the on-duty customs officer a lot of leeway to use his or her judgement. Therefore, even if a club membership is not necessary, having one in some situations may benefit you.
5. The way things turn out varies greatly; in some instances, the customs officer assesses duty on the airgun and promptly releases the luggage. In other situations, the airgun is confiscated and must be validated as an airgun (and not a weapon) by the local police guns branch before it may be released. Therefore, it is not a good idea to have an immediate onward connection; allow yourself at least one day to account for any customs issues.
6. PLEASE confirm the regulations for checking an air gun in your luggage with your airline well before your travel. Some airlines go out of their way to be helpful. All airlines classify air rifles as "dangerous goods," so if you need more information, get in touch with the airline's "dangerous goods" department. Depending on where you would be travelling, there could be extra criteria (such packing it in a TSA certified gun box). To avoid any last-minute delays brought on by the inconvenience of checking in the air gun, please go to the airport early.
7. Each returning passenger is allowed to bring back 2000 pellets, although this is not often strictly enforced, and the customs officer may seize more or even less than this amount. Everything depends on your luck.

## **IMPORT POLICY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR SPECIFIED SPORTSPERSONS / SPORT BODIES**

S.O.(E) The Central Government hereby amends the Schedule (Imports) of the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items in accordance with the authority granted by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read in conjunction with Paragraph 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014:

2. Below is an excerpt from the previous Import Licencing Note (1) in Chapter 93 of the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items:

On the advice of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, the import of guns is authorised for famous shooters and rifle clubs for their personal use under the condition that they get a licence. However, shooters who are members of rifle clubs or the district/state/national rifle association will not be charged for the importation of 0.177 bore air rifles and air pistols. The National Rifle Association of India

(NRAI) would also be permitted to import 0.177 bore air guns and air pistols for free in order to offer the same to the qualified State Rifle Associations / Clubs and qualified shooters. The NRAI must maintain an accurate record of the imported firearms.

3. The Import Licencing Note (1) would be amended to read as follows: "Import of arms (including parts thereof) & ammunition is permitted freely to the following sports persons/sports bodies: Renowned shooters (as defined in Import Licencing Note 3); National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for its own use and for transfer to its State/district affiliates by proper certification by Sports Authority of India." The appropriate recommending or certifying bodies will keep the necessary records.

4. Note (4) is inserted as follows: "Note (4) - Policy for import of 'Air Gun Pellets' is free." This note follows the current Import Licencing Note (3) in Chapter 93 of ITC HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items.

5. This Notification's impact is: The process for issuing import licences or authorizations for the entry of guns and ammunition by designated athletes or athletic organisations has been abandoned. For their own purposes or those of their affiliates, NRAI, SAI, and SSCB are free to import weapons and ammunition. For personal usage, Renowned Shooter is free to import weapons and ammo. The "free" import policy regime for "Air Gun Pellets" is still in place. This notification just modifies the Arms Act, 1959's rules, not exempts the listed sports persons or sports organisations from them.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Indian air gun market is a growing industry that is attracting both domestic and international brands. While there are challenges associated with regulation and licensing, the increasing popularity of shooting sports and pest control applications is driving demand for air guns in the country. Imports of air guns into India have also been on the rise, with countries such as China and Turkey being major exporters. Indian importers are drawn to these countries due to the affordability and quality of their air guns. However, it is important to note that imports of air guns are subject to regulation and require an import license.

Research on the Indian air gun market can shed light on the factors driving its growth and help identify opportunities for market players. In particular, understanding consumer preferences and identifying unmet needs can help businesses develop more targeted and effective strategies to reach their target audience. Overall, the Indian air gun market is a promising industry with significant growth potential, and imports are likely to play an important role in meeting the demand for air guns in the country.

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