

GUN CONTROL IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Regulation/policy
- International agreement
- Firearms amnesty
- Enforcement
- Parliament
- Enforcement challenges/failures

Colonialism & Apartheid

First years of democracy

Negotiating new gun law

Phased implementation of gun control

Full implementation of the Firearms Control Act

Implementation of gun control by the state breaks down from 2010

First attempt to regulate the ownership of firearms

Arms and Ammunition Act regulates gun ownership

24-hour national firearms amnesty

Government's National Crime Prevention Strategy identifies firearms control as a priority

Committee for the Investigation into a New Policy for the Control of Legal Firearms in South Africa appointed

Section 8(1) of the Arms and Ammunition Act amended to prohibit the lending of guns

Firearms Control Bill gazetted

1775

1969

1994
16 December

1996

1997

1999
March

1999
December

SAPS develops and begins implementing its five-pillar Firearms Strategy focussing on:

1. Regulation;
2. Capacity building;
3. Combating illegal gun use;
4. Public awareness;
5. Regional & sector cooperation

Public hearings on Firearms Control Bill

Firearms Control Bill (B34 of 2000) tabled in Parliament

Operation Crackdown launched by SA Police Service (SAPS)

SA signs the legally binding SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials

2000

2000
August

2000
June and August

2000
May

2000
April

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces approve the Firearms Control Bill

2000
October

SA signatory to the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

President signs the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 (FCA) into law

South African Qualifications Authority approves minimum unit standards for firearm competency certification

South African Bureau of Standards 953-1 and -2 prescribes for the storage of firearms and ammunition gazetted

2001

2001
4 April

2002
June

2002
November

Firearms Control Regulations promulgated and FCA fully implemented, operationalising Pillar 1 of SAPS' Firearms Strategy

Court bid to halt the FCA lodged; dismissed with costs

Firearms Control Amendment Act (43 of 2003) approved by Parliament

Operation Normalization launched by SAPS

Operation Sethunya launched by SAPS

Draft Firearms Control Regulations published

National firearms amnesty

Gun licence renewal process under the FCA starts

2005
January to June

2005
January

2004
1 July

2004
June

2003
December

2003
October

2003
April

2003
March

SAPS colonel Christiaan Prinsloo begins selling guns from police stores to gang leaders on Cape Flats

North Gauteng High Court grants an interim order that firearm licences issued under the 1969 Arms and Ammunition Act remain valid

SAPS five-year, five-pillar Firearms Strategy ends

Civilian Secretariat for Police undertakes audit of Central Firearms Registry (CFR) and Minister of Police announces turnaround strategy

National firearms amnesty

SAPS clears the CFR's backlog, processing over one million firearm-related applications in nine months

2007

2009
June

2009
June

2010

2010
January to April

2011/12

North Gauteng High Court grants an interim order halting relicensing following a challenge to the Constitutional Court ruling; the Minister of Police has lodged an appeal

Constitutional Court rules that firearm licence renewals are constitutional and that gun ownership is a privilege

Various cases against alleged gun smuggling syndicates revived

Major General Peter Jacobs appointed head of Police Crime Intelligence

SAPS issues National Instruction to standardise licence renewals; ruling challenged, case referred to Constitutional Court

Operation Impi effectively shut down due to political interference

Legally binding UN Arms Trade Treaty comes into force, SA a signatory

2013
August

2014

2018
July

2018
June

2018

2018
March

2016
February

2016

