**KNIFE LEGISLATION AND HANDLING AT AIRPORTS**

**IN**

**RUSSIA**

# Weapons Act

*1.1 Which knives are considered weapons under your local law?*

Classification of knives as a cold arms is carried out on the basis of the Weapons Act and National State Standards applicable to different types of knives.

A cold arms is a weapon designed to hitting the target by human muscular force in direct contact with the object of destruction (Article 1 of the Weapons Act).

The form of the statute and National State Standards do not contain a single list of characteristics (size, shape of a knife, etc.), which can clearly identify whether a knife is a cold arms or not.

Knife is a cold arms if it has the following characteristics (Appendix B to the National State Standard “Side arms. Terms and definitions”):

The presence in the product of structural elements with a point and/or one (two) blade(s) and (or) a concentrated mass and a solid surface.

Compliance of the mass and overall dimensions of the product with the physical capabilities of a person to carry and operate these products manually.

Sufficiency of muscular energy of a person to defeat effectively a live target with a single use of the article.

The lack of a direct and convenient way of using the product for domestic or industrial work.

Presence of the design elements, contributing to the use of the product for hitting the target and interfering with the performance of household or industrial works.

The presence in the product of strength and reliability excessive for its use as a tool for carrying out domestic work.

Dealing in of knives on the territory of the Russian Federation supposes obligatory certification. The Federal Law "On Weapons" defines that items certified as domestic and industrial products, sports projectiles, structurally similar to weapons do not belong to weapons (Article 1 of the Weapons Act).

Thus, the classification of a knife as a cold arms or an article of domestic use takes place at the stage of its certification. Given that the certification of knives is performed on the basis of National State Standards, it seems reasonable to consider requirements for specific types of knives by way of examples.

I. Hunting knives.

Hunting knives are considered to be civilian cold arms and must meet the following characteristics (National State Standard “Hunting knives and daggers. General specifications”):

* length of the blade is more than 90 mm;
* the thickness of the butt is more than 2,6 mm;
* angle of the tip is not more than 70°;
* the hardness of the blade is not less than 42 Rockwell points;
* it is allowed to perform additional sharpening on the bevel and part of the bevel on the length up to 1/3 of the blade (from its tip);
* a hunting knife must have a blade and a safety handle;
* the junction of the blades of hunting knives with the handles must be tight and strong;
* another characteristics specified on National State Standards.

Accordingly, if the knife has less characteristics in comparison with the above mentioned (for example, the length of the blade is less than 90 mm or the hardness of the blade is less), it is not a cold arms and is certified as a survival knife.

Dealing in of other knives, which are cold arms, on the territory of the Russian Federation is prohibited.

*1.2 Is there a legal requirement to have a legitimate/justifiable reason for carrying and/or transporting a knife in the public? If so, for what kind of knives (lock knife, folding knife [depending on a special blade length or not?], fixed knife or any knife)?*

It is advisable to consider this issue separately with respect to knives that are cold arms and knives that are not.

I. Knives that are not cold arms

No permit or license is required for the purchase and subsequent storage, carrying, transportation and use of knives, which are not cold arms. It is recommended to carry with such a knife only a copy of the information sheet to the protocol of forensic tests or an insert stating that the knife meets certain state standards and information on the fact that this knife is not a cold arms. The sale of products together with these documents is recommended by the National State Standards (Article 7.5. of the National State Standard “Survival knives. General specifications”).

II. Cold arms

Carrying knives, which are cold arms, in public places is prohibited. This is due primarily to the fact that the use of cold arms for self-defense is expressly prohibited by law. Knives, which are civilian cold arms, are hunting knives, the carrying of which is allowed only in places of hunting (Article 6 of the Weapons Act).

To purchase, store, carry, transport and use cold arms knives (hunting knives), it is necessary to have a permit for keeping and carrying of hunting weapons, issued by the authorities of the National Guard of the Russian Federation (Rosgvardia). It may be obtained by any citizen of the Russian Federation, who has reached the age of 18 years, after he has passed the appropriate training and examination of knowledge of the rules of safe handling of weapons, providing a medical report on the absence of medical contraindications to the possession of weapons, as well as a medical report on the absence in the human body of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their metabolites (Article 13 of the Weapons Act).

Hunting cold bladed weapons are registered by the trade organization when selling these weapons. Within two weeks, it is necessary to register the purchased weapons in the bodies of internal affairs and obtain a permit for it, which is valid for 5 years.

*1.3 How must these concerned knives of point 1.2 be carried or transported in the public (e.g. in a closed or locked container)?*

Hunting cold arms are carried by citizens only during hunting, training and training shooting. Citizens of the Russian Federation may transport on their own on the territory of the Russian Federation no more than five weapons in cases, holsters or special cases, as well as in special packaging of the weapon manufacturer on the basis of the appropriate permission. To transport more than five weapons, Russian citizens must conclude a contract for transportation of weapons with legal entities, whose charters provide for the provision of transportation services for weapons and ammunition, on the basis of transportation permits issued by the Federal Service of National Guard Troops of the Russian Federation (Article 77 of the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of July 21, 1998 N 814).

When carrying weapons, individuals must carry their identity documents (passport or service ID, military or hunting card, etc.), as well as the issued license or permit to keep and carry weapons they have.

Foreign citizens after the completion of the inspection by customs authorities have the right to travel independently with temporarily imported weapons into the territory of the Russian Federation on the basis of invitations for participation in relevant events and/or contracts for services in the field of hunting (in the case of participation in hunting) in the presence of a copy of the permit for temporary importation of such weapons into the territory of the Russian Federation. Weapons must be transported in lockable cases (Article 77(1) of the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of July 21, 1998 N 814).

The carrying and transportation of knives that are not edged cold arms is not regulated by the Law "On Weapons" and is allowed without restrictions, except in cases stipulated in paragraph 1.4 of this Memorandum.

Police officers have the right to temporarily confiscate the knife for forensic examination and compliance with the standards of household knives. After such examination the citizen has the right to get this knife back in case it is proved that it does not belong to the category of cold arms.

*1.4 Are there any public places which may be restricted by an authority (on certain days or at certain times) for carrying any knives or other dangerous tools (e.g. railway station, airport, market places, football stadium, event halls etc.)?*

The carrying by citizens of knives that are edged cold arms (such as hunting knives) is restricted. Such cold arms may be carried only in places where hunting is carried out. At the same time, if a citizen of the Russian Federation has less than five units of weapons, such a citizen has the right to transport weapons, which is carried in cases, holsters or special cases, as well as in a special packaging of the weapons manufacturer.

Russian legislation states the principle of free carrying by citizens of knives, which are not cold arms. The cases when carrying any knives, regardless of their classification as cold arms, is restricted are considered below.

I. Public events

According to the current legislation, participants of public events shall not have the right to carry weapons, ammunition, stabbing or cutting objects, or other objects that can be used as weapons (Article 6 of the Federal Law of 19.06.2004 N 54-FZ).

Public events are open, peaceful actions held in the form of a meeting, rally, demonstration, procession or picketing or in various combinations of these forms, which are held on the initiative of citizens of the Russian Federation, political parties and other public and religious associations.

II. Public transport

The carrying of knives, which are not edged weapons, is not restricted when citizens use public transport, urban electric transport (buses, route cabs, trolleybuses) and long-distance and short-distance railway transport. In St. Petersburg and Moscow metro transport it is allowed to carry knives that are not cold arms only in their sheaths (Order of the Transport Committee of the Administration of St. Petersburg dated June 29, 1998 N 233; Decree of the Moscow Government No. 844-PP dated 16.09.2008).

III. Buildings and territories of state bodies of the Russian Federation and other organizations

Buildings and territories of state bodies of the Russian Federation and other bodies and organizations (facilities occupied by federal courts, prosecutor's offices, investigation committee, facilities of diplomatic missions, federal museums, etc.) are objects of state and departmental security. The organization of such protection implies the organization of pass and intra-object regime. This regime may prohibit taking any knives or other dangerous objects into the guarded territory (Article 5 of the Federal Law of April 14, 1999 N 77-FZ).

IV. Airports

Carrying of knives is not allowed in airports (as opposed to carrying them in their cases, holsters or special cases, and in special packing of the manufacturer in accordance with the license). Carrying knives that are not cold arms is also restricted - knives with a blade length of more than 6 cm are not allowed in the transport security zone (Order of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation of July 23, 2015 No. 227).

V. Stadiums

It is prohibited to bring piercing and cutting objects (including any knives) into the venues of official sporting events (Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 16, 2013 No. 1156).

*1.5 How is the blade length measured (only the cutting blade or including the blade shank)?*



The length of the blade is determined by the distance from the point to the limiter, or in case of its absence, to the front end of the bush or hilt of the handle. Open part of the blade shank is included.

If folding hunting knives, as well as camping and special sport knives have a fixed finger stop, designed to open the blade, the length of the blade is determined from the tip to the stop (Article 5.1 of the National State Standard “Survival knives. General specifications”).

*1.6 Are there any further dangerous objects which also fall under the Weapons Act?*

The Law on Weapons regulates the circulation of weapons only. No household items are regulated by this law. Weapons under the Weapons Act (Articles 3,4,5 of the Weapons Act) are defined as:

1. Combat weapons - special weapons adopted into service by state paramilitary organizations;
2. Service weapon - a weapon designed for use by officials of state bodies and employees of legal entities, which are allowed to carry, store and use the specified weapons, for self-defense or to perform the duties imposed on them to protect the life and health of citizens, property, protection of nature and natural resources, valuable and dangerous goods, special correspondence;
3. Civilian weapons - weapons used for self-defense (firearms with cartridges of traumatic action, gas weapons, tasers), sports weapons (firearms, cold bladed weapons (sabres, swords, rapiers), throwing and pneumatic weapons), hunting weapons (firearms, pneumatic, cold bladed, hunting throwing firearms (bows, crossbows), signal weapons, cold bladed weapons designed to be worn with the Cossack uniform and national costumes of the peoples of the Russian Federation (Cossack a checkers, daggers), weapons used for cultural and educational purposes (weapons with cultural value, antique weapons and their copies and replicas, decommissioned weapons).

*1.7 Are there any exceptions?*

As mentioned earlier, products certified as domestic and industrial products, sports projectiles, structurally similar to weapons (including air rifles with reduced muzzle energy) do not belong to weapons.

There are a large number of characteristics that make it possible to certify a knife as an article structurally similar to a weapon. Cold arms must comply not only in terms of their size, but also, for example, in terms of the presence of a point or handle to ensure a secure hold. Analyzing the standards, we can highlight the following characteristics, which allow classifying a knife as structurally similar to a weapon:

1. Knives without a point. The point can be replaced by some tool (screwdriver, chisel more than 3 mm wide) or rounded.
2. Knives with a sharpened hook on the butt no further than 1/3 of the point.
3. knives with a blade less than 90 mm.
4. Knives without a sharpened blade.
5. Knives with a handle of less than 70mm.
6. Knives with a handle where the difference between the maximum width in the middle part and the minimum width in the tip area does not exceed 8 mm.
7. Knives with a single stop or a single chuck notch less than 5 mm.
8. Knives with blades with a hardness less than 25HRC.
9. Knives with an advanced stop or chuck notch, with a blade length of up to 150mm and a thickness of less than 2.5mm.
10. Knives with blades made of materials (silumin, aluminum, plastic) that do not provide sufficient strength for weapons.

*1.8 What are the consequences for a legal offense?*

It seems advisable to delineate the responsibility of the manufacturer and seller of weapons and citizens.

I. Liability of a knife owner:

For violation of the rules of purchase, storage, carrying, transportation and use of weapons (for example, for carrying a cold weapon without a special permit) faces a fine of 500 to 2,000 rubles (Clause 4 article 20.8 of the Administrative Code of Russian Federation);

Carrying a knife at a public event is punishable by a fine of 10,000 to 20,000 rubles or compulsory labor for up to forty hours (Clause 1 article 20.1 of the Administrative Code of Russian Federation);

Carrying a weapon shall entail a fine of 500 to 1,000 rubles (Clause 1 article 20.12 of the Administrative Code of Russian Federation);

Carrying a knife at official sporting events is punishable by a fine of 3,000 to 10,000 rubles or by compulsory work for up to 160 hours with or without the prohibition to visit sporting events for 6 months to 3 years. Repeated violation of this rule shall entail a fine of 10,000 to 15,000 rubles or up to 15 days' imprisonment with prohibition to attend sporting events for a period of 6 months to 7 years or without such (Article 20.31 of the Administrative Code of Russian Federation).

II. Liability of manufacturers and sellers of knives:

Violation of the rules of production, sale, storage, destruction or accounting of weapons shall entail an administrative fine of 50,000 to 100,000 rubles (for officials) or 300,000 to 500,000 rubles (for legal entities) (Clause 1 article 20.8 of the Administrative Code of Russian Federation);

Violation of weapon certification rules is punishable by a fine from 2,000 to 3,000 rubles (for officials) or from 20,000 to 30,000 rubles (for legal entities) (Article 20.14 of the Administrative Code of Russian Federation);

The illegal manufacture, alteration or repair of edged weapons is punished by compulsory works for the term up to 480 hours, or corrective works for the term from 1 to 2 years, or restriction of freedom for the term up to 2 years, or imprisonment for the term up to 2 years with the fine from 50 000 to 80 000 rubles (Article 222.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

*1.9 Are there any legislative developments? If so what do they concern?*

According to the draft Federal Law № 1051647-7 it is planned to introduce a ban on the implementation by foreign legal entities of the development, production, testing, storage, repair and disposal of civil and service weapons, trade in such weapons. The draft is at the stage of II reading in the State Duma of the Russian Federation. The planned date of entry into force of these changes is March 1, 2022.

During the UEFA European Football Championship 2020 on the territory of St. Petersburg and the Vyborg District of Leningrad Region the circulation of civil and service

weapons (except the circulation of sporting weapons and carrying, transportation and use of service weapons and ammunition by employees in the performance of their official duties) is prohibited (Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of May 17, 2021 N 286).

# Airports

* 1. *According to the Official Journal of the European Union laying down detailed measures for the implementation of the common basic standards in aviation security, any pointed or sharp objects which may cause serious injury, including a knife with a blade more than 6cm are not allowed to be taken into the security restricted areas or on board of an aircraft.* 
     1. *Are there any further national regulations to be considered in this respect?*

Civil aviation in the Russian Federation is regulated by ratified international treaties, including the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, December 7, 1944), the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Montreal, May 28, 1999), and the Air Code of the Russian Federation and other laws and regulations.

* + 1. *If your country is outside the EU, what are the corresponding local regulations?*

In order to ensure the safety of passengers and aircraft crew members, the aircraft, its on-board supplies, crew members, passengers, baggage, hand baggage, cargo and mail are subject to mandatory pre-flight inspection and post-flight inspection in case of inspection.

According to the rules of preflight inspection, it is allowed to carry in checked luggage and aircraft baggage compartments utility knives and scissors with a blade length over 60 mm, as well as hunting knives, knives with ejectable blades, with locking locks and imitators of any kind of weapon. Accordingly, knives and scissors with a blade length of less than 60 mm are allowed to be carried in the cabin.

* 1. *May the airports/airlines in your country issue any further (stricter) regulations for forbidden items?*

The airport administration, airlines and the operator have the right to decide on the introduction of additional security measures. Therefore, they have the right to prohibit the carriage in the cabin scissors with a blade length of less than 60 mm, folding (without a latch) travel knives and penknives with a blade length of less than 60 mm (Order of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation of 25.07.2007 No. 104).

* 1. *May a pair of scissors or a saw be included in a pocket knife with a blade of max. 6cm? If so, is the size of the pair of scissors or the length of the saw of relevance?*

Legislation does not prohibit the inclusion of scissors in a pocket knife. If the length of the scissors and (or) knife exceeds 60 mm, such a knife must be carried in the luggage compartment of the aircraft. If the length of the knife and scissors do not exceed 60 mm, it is allowed to carry such a knife in the aircraft cabin (unless the airport administration, airline or operator imposes additional safety measures).

In some cases Ministry of transport recognize a saw as a separate dangerous item (alone with the axe, ice-axe, crossbow) and irrespective of the size it must be carried into the luggage.

* 1. *What is considered as a sharp object besides knives?*

As stated above, sharp objects other than knives, the carriage of which may be restricted, are:

* corkscrews.
* hypodermic needles.
* knitting needles.
* scissors.
  1. *Are there any further aviation security regulations with respect to the Victorinox (pocket) knives to be observed?*

The current legislation does not stipulate any additional requirements for pocket knives.

* 1. *Are there any changes intended in the near future? If so what do they concern?*

As of today, there are no draft federal laws or regulations that would change the regulation of the subject matter of this memorandum.

Ibach, Switzerland, 20 June 2021

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