

# Weapon- and hunting permission

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## ...or: How to legally bring your hunting weapons to Sweden

**Disclaimer:** These rules are not intended to be a complete or a correct translation or mirror of Swedish law. They are only there for you to give a general view of *how we do it here in Sweden*.

### The *short-short* version!

(Detailed description is found below)

1. You have to have an invitation to hunt in Sweden
2. You have to make a formal request to the Swedish Police Authorities
3. You must pay an administration fee of € 50
4. Your request must be granted
5. You present the weapon at the Swedish customs when entering
6. You present the weapon at the Swedish customs when leaving

### Who may hunt in Sweden?

In general you may hunt in Sweden if you own property or if you rent the right to hunt on a property or if you are invited by one of the previously mentioned.

To own (= get licence for) hunting weapon(s) you need to be at least 18 years old, have no criminal record and you must pass a hunter's examination. The examination contains theoretical tests as well as practical tests such as rifle- and shotgun tests, safe weapon handling test etc.

You may handle a hunting weapon from the age of 15, but only when accompanied by the owner of the weapon. (For other weapons, e.g. handguns, other rules apply.)

If a foreigner has the lawful right to hunt in his country, he is permitted to hunt in Sweden as long as he is under supervision of a Swedish hunter.

Every hunter (even foreigners) must pay for a **Hunter's Card** (*Jaktkort*) to be allowed to hunt. This card is valid from July 1 to June 30. The card costs around € 20.  
(Ask your Swedish host to get you one.)

To bring a weapon to Sweden you always need permission. Three different rules apply.  
**If you bring a weapon from**

**A. a Nordic country** (not Iceland), you notify the customs when entering Sweden. You are allowed to keep the weapon in Sweden for maximum three months.

**B. a country within the European Union**, you should to get an EU Weapon Pass (not an absolute requirement!) and at the latest notify the customs when entering Sweden. (A "Swedish" EU Weapon Pass costs around € 50 and is valid for five years.  
**But...** I'm not so sure that this method works so well yet.)

**C. an other country** than above mentioned you have to notify the custom, at the latest, when you enter Sweden. There are no agreements between the states to facilitate bringing your weapon, so you should do what is stated in the chapter below.

**A-C.** It is **always an advantage** (but not an absolute requirement!) to bring hunter's exam, membership in a hunters club, or a letter of recommendation from a hunters association etc.

### **This is how it (always!) works**

(**N.b.** These are the general rules and apply to 99%. But to be absolute sure you should contact the Police Authorities where you will enter Sweden.)

**1.** You have to have an invitation (here's an example) from a Swedish host who have permission to hunt in Sweden (se top of page). This invitation must clearly state:

- **Who** is inviting to (i.e. responsible for-) the hunt in Sweden
- (name, address, phone number)
- **Who** is invited (name, address, phone number)
- **When** the hunt shall take place
- **Where** the hunt shall take place
- **What** game will be hunted

(**N.b.** The invitation may contain multiple hunts during one season, meaning several entries to the country on the same request.)

**2.** You have to make a formal request to the Police Authorities where the weapon(s) are brought into the country. For your own convenience: **Fill in the all the fields in the form!** (You are not the only one who wants to bring a weapon to Sweden.) and you must send a photocopy of your weapon license with the form.

The clerks are very friendly but also very busy and must eventually send back the application if it is inconsistent. Note that there are different handling times for the applications in different Police Authorities. ~~Click here to see table (you can also download application forms from there!)~~.

**Now hear this!** For practical reasons the Authorities allow the Swedish organisers for hunting (or competition shooting) to apply (i.e. sign!) for permission for their Non-Scandinavian guests.

**3.** You must pay an administration fee of 500 SEK (around € 50) when you submit the application. If this fee is not paid the application will not be considered and the entry permit will not be granted.

**4.** When all papers are in order your request will (most certainly) be granted. (First then may you bring your weapon to Sweden.)

**5.** When entering the country you must tell the customs that you bring weapon(s) and show your invitation and weapon license (both originals).

**6.** When leaving the country again you must tell the customs that you are taking your weapon(s) out of the country.

### Some useful hints

Let your host in Sweden prepare the "paperwork".

The host in Sweden is legally responsible for the foreign guest, meaning that the host must know that the guest has good shooting skills, knows about Swedish hunting rules, uses legal weapon and ammunition etc.

You may of course bring along the ammunition needed for the hunt (and practice).

A knife is defined as a weapon in Sweden, but you don't have to get a licence for it. It's of course allowed carrying it to and from the hunt and using it for its purpose but otherwise it's forbidden carrying it in public places.

Be sure to let your host tell you about the non-written weapon safety rules that we practice here in Sweden. (I can't - at the moment - describe them here.)

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### The prey

The prey or "the game" could be divided into four groups:

- **Protected**
- **Licensed**
- **Unlicensed**
- **"The rest"**

**Protected game**, also called "the crown's game", are absolutely prohibited to shoot. Every year some are shot by hunters claiming self-defence. Don't even think about it! Every one of these incidents is thoroughly investigated. Not all gets away with it. The "crown's game" are among other; bear, lynx, wolf, wolverine, eagle and falcon.

**Licensed game** are pretty common in most areas of our country. Though they are that popular to hunt, the amount shot every year must be regulated. License means that a landowner gets the possibility to shoot a specific amount per season. The allowance depends primly on the size of the hunting grounds and in what part of Sweden it is. The most known licensed game is the moose (king of the forests).

**Unlicensed game** is left to the hunter (landowner) to decide how hard he should tax the game population. Deer, fox, hare, blackcock, pheasant, are examples of unlicensed game. Licensed- and unlicensed game may not be hunted at al time of the year. All species has their own season. This is mainly defined by their mating- and pregnancy periods and during hard winter conditions.

**"The rest"** is not meant to depreciate any game. These species are (in Sweden) mostly seen as noxious animals. Other countries can have other opinions. These animals are allowed to shoot al year around, with a recommendation not to shoot a female animal when *nursing their small-ones*.

**Remark:** This text will evolve and expand in the same pace as the web site.