A STRONG DEMAND TO IMPROVE SAFETY, SIMPLICITY AND DIGITIZATION

In 2019, the Central Department of Firearms and Explosive ordnances (SCAE) of the Ministry of the Interior started the digital transition of the public policy on firearms and explosive ordnances control.

The french Firearms Information System (SIA) is the new tool that will replace AGRIPPA, the ageing system that lists firearms owners. The system was rolled out for firearms dealers and at the level of the SCAE in October 2020.

It will be operational in Prefectures as of February 2022. Firearms owners – about 5 million – will also have access to the SIA via a “online space for owners”.

The system will ensure a digital continuum between firearms dealers, owners and the French administration.
THE SIA HAS 3 GOALS

**SAFETY**

The SIA will make it possible to trace in real time Category A, B and C firearms and their parts. Any firearm that is manufactured on, or enters the national territory is registered in the SIA and will be removed only when it exits the territory or is destroyed.

The SIA therefore creates reliable data on firearms owners and will contribute to strengthening the safety of law enforcement response operations (geolocation of firearms).

The SIA will help checking firearms owners more often. Each firearm owner will be subject to periodic checks. Criminal records and other databases of the Ministry of the Interior will be queried to ensure that they can buy and own weapons.

The SIA is a powerful tool in the fight against document fraud. Authorisations will be completely dematerialised and the SIA will be interconnected with the federations’ information systems (hunting, shooting, ball-trap, ski/biathlon).

**SIMPLICITY**

The SIA will be deployed along with administrative simplification measures, which were made possible by digitalisation operations:

- Automated checks of document validity (shooting licence, prior authorisation or hunting permit, etc.)
- Global firearms authorisation valid for 5 years
- Suppression of the receipt of declaration
- Automatic generation of the European firearms pass, up to 2 times a day and without limit to the number of firearms registered in it

**DIGITIZATION**

Owners will have access to a personal space to carry out all administrative procedures. Trade licences, and firearms acquisition licences and declarations will be completely dematerialised.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The system relies on a network of stakeholders:

- 5 million firearms users and owners
- 1,500 firearms professionals (manufacturers, importers, firearms dealers, etc.)
- 400 Prefecture agents
- 4 federations (hunting, shooting, ball-trap, ski/biathlon)
- law enforcement agencies
The SIA will ensure the digital continuum between firearms dealers, owners, prefectures and the central administration. This network is materialised through 4 dedicated portals. These portals are interconnected to facilitate information sharing. They are also interconnected with other databases: police databases, criminal records, the stolen firearms database, etc.

Since October 2020

The “Central administration” portal
It enables, among other things, the examination and issuing of manufacturing and trading permits for firearms professionals.

The “Professionals” portal
It makes it possible to trace firearms that are in stock or sold by arms dealers throughout the country, i.e. approximately 330,000 transactions per year.

From 8 February 2022

The “Prefectures” portal
It will enable the processing of applications from professionals (application for a category C firearms licence) and users (possession authorisations, collector’s card, European firearms pass, etc.) as well as the management of withdrawals.

This portal will be accessible to law enforcement agencies for control and queries in the framework of investigations.

The “owners’ personal space”
The creation of a user-weapon holder account will allow the latter to have access to all the procedures in a completely dematerialized way.

The creation of a personal account will be compulsory in order to retain the right to own firearms. It will also make it possible to develop and simplify the regulations on firearms, in particular by reducing the number of documents required for authorizations to acquire and hold firearms.

*RGA : The General Firearms Repository / French library of data
*LPN : replaces the paper registry for assembled firearms
*FINIADA : lists all persons prohibited from acquiring and possessing firearms
AN INNOVATIVE AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MODEL FOR THE CONTROL OF ARMS AND ARMS OWNERS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE

The digital transition of public policy on firearms control is not limited to the SIA. This new digital tool is part of a digital ecosystem that will become the European reference for the regulation and control of firearms possession.

The General Firearms Repository (RGA)

The Central Department of Firearms and Explosive ordnances is the authority in charge of classifying firearms and therefore, of defining the category of each firearm, which then determines trading, acquisition and possession methods.

In order to ensure the uniformity of classifications in the national territory, in 2020 the SCAE completed the implementation of the General Firearms Repository (RGA). The RGA is a data library. It is a common model for all SIA portals. There are currently 47,000 records to help identify and classify a generic model of a category A, B or C firearm. More than 10,000 new records are added each year by the specialists of the Department.

The RGA is an indispensable tool for firearms dealers, who query it every time they need to register a firearm in their digital police book. They have to add an RGA card number to each firearm they sell.

The implementation of the General Firearms Repository also contributes to the government’s ambition in terms of public data policy, to better exploit, open up, share and enhance public data, for the benefit of public action transparency and efficiency.

The National Register of Persons Prohibited from Purchasing and Owning Firearms

FINIADA

The FINIADA lists all persons prohibited from purchasing and owning firearms following administrative or judicial measures.

100,000 people, including nearly 21,000 banned in 2020, are listed in the National Register. The Act of 28 December 2019 on violence in the family opened up the possibility for the family court judge to temporarily ban firearms, within the framework of the protection order provided for by the civil code.

The Central Department of Firearms and Explosive ordnances is the authority in charge of classifying firearms (SCAE) also verifies reports of registrations in FINIADA communicated by the federations (hunting, shooting, ball-trap, ski/biathlon) authorised to query this database via the «Web armes» website. These federations submit to the SCAE the positive «hits» obtained during the consultation, for validation or invalidation of the initial result. Nearly 1,600 people attempted to acquire a shooting licence (296), ball-trap licence (140) or a hunting permit (1,149) in 2020, even though they were prohibited from owning firearms.

Screening by the federations prevented them from acquiring firearms despite this registration. FINIADA developments
FINIADA developments

It is necessary to improve the database listing persons prohibited from owning firearms for several reasons:

- **technical reasons**: The FINIADA is linked to the AGRIPPA database (the ageing system that lists firearms owners), which makes both systems interdependent. In order to implement the SIA, it is necessary to dissociate both systems. In addition to this, the list of persons granted access to FINIADA is determined by the Internal security Code, and is, at the moment, incomplete and should be extended. Finally, the entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has made it necessary to write a new Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA).

- **content-related reasons**: new grounds for prohibition are provided for in FINIADA (draft law on criminal responsibility and internal security), in order to include all decisions taken by the judicial authority, including those which are not convictions, and which entail a prohibition on the acquisition and possession of firearms, such as judicial controls.

- It is necessary to take into account the development of information exchange at European level: The 2017 European directive provided that the Commission sets up a system allowing the exchange, between Member States, of information relating to persons refused authorisation to acquire and possess firearms «on grounds of security or relating to the reliability of the person concerned». This exchange of information will include, at the request of France in particular, persons who are banned from possessing firearms.

BASEGUN

firearm recognition using artificial intelligence

Basegun is a rapid firearms identification tool for law enforcement and firearms professionals.

Thanks to an official database of pictures of the most common firearms in circulation, combined with the power of artificial intelligence to define recognition points, **the tool will immediately identify a model of firearm** (and its RGA record).

Law enforcement agencies regularly discover firearms (around 7,000 firearms seized per year). Precise identification of a firearm model is complex and requires a good level of expertise. Professionals sometimes have difficulties in quickly identifying a firearm among the thousands of references in the General Firearms Repository (RGA).

**Basegun will therefore complete the identification system for firearms in circulation in France.**