



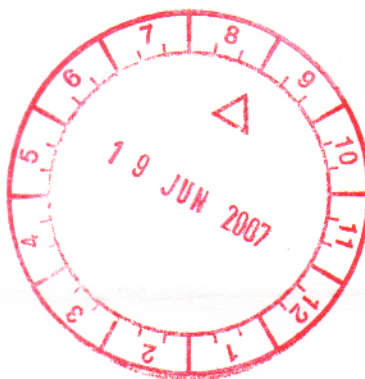
SENATOR THE HON. DAVID JOHNSTON

Minister for Justice and Customs
Senator for Western Australia

Ministerial No: 92392

15 JUN 2007

Mt Tibor Csapo
L5, 83-85 Market St
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500



Dear Mr Csapo

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Customs treatment of the MP-05 Megatron Transformer and the representation you have made on behalf of your collectors.

Customs Regulations control a range of firearms and related goods on import into Australia, these controls have been developed in consultation with the State and Territory Governments to ensure that community protection measures in Australia can be effectively supported. Although replica firearms cannot discharge projectiles they do resemble in appearance real firearms and can potentially be used to replicate real firearms in crimes. In consideration of this the Australasian Police Ministers' Council agreed to national controls of replica firearms.

Replica handguns are specifically listed in Regulation 4F of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations), Schedule 6, Part 2, Item 9A. Under Regulation 4F a replica includes articles, of any material or colour, that are a reproduction of a firearm or have the appearance of a firearm, that could reasonably be taken to be a firearm.

I am advised that upon importation into Australia, Customs officers have physically inspected a number of MP-05 Megatron Transformers and found, in accordance with the definition of a replica under the Regulations, they were of an appearance for them to reasonably be taken to be a firearm, in particular a Walther P38 semi-automatic pistol.

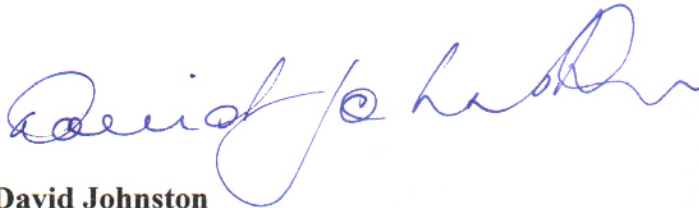
In order to bring replica firearms into Australia importers must obtain the written authorisation of the Police firearms or weapons registry in the State or Territory in which they reside. This authorisation will be in the form of a *B709A Importation of Firearms - Police Confirmation and Certification Form* (B709A Form).

I understand that in some States and Territories there may not be a restriction on the possession of the MP-05 Megatron Transformer. If this is the case in your State or Territory your Police firearms or weapons registry will confirm this to Customs by issuing a B709A Form, which will enable Customs to release the item. In other States or Territories these goods may be prohibited outright in which case a B709A Form will not be issued or they will be restricted - meaning that applicants must meet certain licensing requirements before a B709A can be granted.

If you wish to discuss any restrictions on the possession of this item or you wish to apply for a B709A Form, you will need to contact the NSW Firearms Section either by email on firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au or by telephone on 1300 362 562. For further information relating to Customs issues please contact our Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



David Johnston
Minister for Justice and Customs
Senator for Western Australia