

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 has made a number of changes that affect firearms legislation. There are three main areas which are amended:

- (1) Possession of firearms in a public place
- (2) Air weapons age limits
- (3) Prohibition of certain air weapons

(1) Possession of firearms in a public place

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 Sec 37 amends Section 19 of The Firearms Act 1968, which deals with possessing certain firearms in a public place. This section now reads as follows....

A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse (the proof whereof lies on him) he has with him in a public place

- (1) *a loaded shotgun*
- (b) *an air weapon (whether loaded or not)*
- (c) *any other firearm (whether loaded or not) together with ammunition suitable for use in that firearm, or*
- (d) *an imitation firearm.*

The above is effective from 20 th January 2004.

(2) Air weapon age limits

Previously, there were certain provisions, which allowed the possession of air weapons by persons over the age of 14 years. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 Sec 38 affectively changes this age to 17 years.

Our air weapon web-site page has been amended accordingly, and is effective from 20 th January 2004.