Act on the Establishment of a National Firearms Register

(National Firearms Register Act)

National Firearms Register Act of 25 June 2012 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1366)

Chapter 1
Purpose of the National Firearms Register; database

Section 1
Purpose of the National Firearms Register; registration authority

(1) The National Firearms Register enables the identification of persons in relation to weapons, weapons licences, exemptions, orders, seizures or bans.

(2) The National Firearms Register shall be kept by the Federal Office of Administration (registration authority).

(3) The registration authority shall support the authorities specified in Section 10 in discharging the tasks stated therein by transferring the data stored in the register.

(4) The registration authority shall use the data which are transferred to it pursuant to this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 2
Definitions

For the purposes of this Act,

1. persons are:
   - natural and legal persons and associations of persons who have been issued weapons licences, exemptions, orders, seizures or bans,

2. weapons are:
   - a) guns subject to licensing requirements, with the exception of such weapons, acquisition and ownership of which are exempt from licence requirements pursuant to Enclosure 2, Part 2, Chapter 2, no. 1 of the Weapons Act,
   - b) essential components of firearms pursuant to Enclosure 1, Part 1, Chapter 1, nos. 1.3 and 3 of the Weapons Act,
   - c) prohibited weapons pursuant to Enclosure 2, Part 1 of the Weapons Act, the handling of which has been approved on the basis of exceptional approval by the Federal Criminal Police Office pursuant to Section 40 (4) of the Weapons Act and
d) war firearms pursuant to Enclosure 1, Part 3, no. 1.1 of the Weapons Act and nos. 34 and 35 of Enclosure Part B to Section 1 (1) of the War Weapons Control Act in the version of the announcement of 22 November 1990 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2506), most recently amended by Article 2 of the Act of 6 June 2009 (Federal Law Gazette 2009 II, p. 502),

3. weapons licences are:
   licences to handle weapons pursuant to Section 10 (1), (4) and (5), Section 21 (1), sentence 1, Sections 21a, 26 (1), sentence 1, licences to transfer weapons pursuant to Section 29 to 31, licences for the conveyance of weapons pursuant to Section 32 (1) and (6), exemptions from bans pursuant to Section 40 (4) and Section 42 (2) and special authorisation pursuant to Section 57 (1), sentence 2 and Section 58 (1) of the Weapons Act,

4. weapon authorities are:
   a) the authorities designated to enforce weapons legislation under Land law,
   b) the Federal Office of Criminal Police in the cases covered by Section 40 (4) of the Weapons Act,
   c) the Federal Office of Administration, where it takes action pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Weapons Act, and
   d) the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control with regard to Section 57 (1) of the Weapons Act.

Section 3
Grounds for storage of data

Data shall be stored in the National Firearms Register in the following circumstances:

1. 
   a) issuance of a weapon owner’s licence, issuance of a licence for a person to acquire their first gun and entry of a permit to acquire one or more guns in a previously issued weapon owner’s licence pursuant to Section 10 (1), sentence 1 of the Weapons Act,
   b) entry of a weapon in or removal of a weapon from the weapon owner’s licence and entry or removal of the appurtenant licence to acquire ammunition pursuant to Section 10 (3), sentence 1 of the Weapons Act,

2. entry or removal of an authorised person pursuant to Section 10 (2), sentence 1 of the Weapons Act,

3. change in the identity of the responsible person pursuant to Section 10 (2), sentence 3 of the Weapons Act,

4. issuance of an ammunition acquisition licence pursuant to Section 10 (3), sentence 2 of the Weapons Act,

5. issuance of a weapons licence certificate pursuant to Section 10 (4), sentence 1 of the Weapons Act or extension of the period of validity of a weapons licence pursuant to Section 10 (4), sentence 2 for
   a) persons at risk pursuant to Section 19 of the Weapons Act,
   b) security operators pursuant to Section 28 (1) of the Weapons Act in conjunction with Section 34a of the Trading Ordinance, including the naming of
security personnel pursuant to Section 28 (3) of the Weapons Act and the
addition of a rider to the weapons licence pursuant to Section 28 (4) of the
Weapons Act,

6. issuance of a minor firearms certificate pursuant to Section 10 (4), sentence 4
of the Weapons Act,

7. issuance of a shooting licence pursuant to Section 10 (5) or Section 16 (3) of
the Weapons Act,

8. issuance of a licence for a person ordinarily resident in another Member State
of the European Union to acquire and own guns or ammunition subject to licensing
requirements in the cases covered by Section 11 of the Weapons Act,

9. entry and rendering safe of a gun pursuant to Section 20 (6) of the Weapons
Act,

10. issuance of an exemption in individual cases pursuant to Section 20 (7) of the
Weapons Act,

11. issuance of a licence

   a) for the commercial manufacture of weapons or ammunition,

   b) for trading in guns and ammunition

pursuant to Section 21 (1) of the Weapons Act, including a deadline extension pursuant
to Section 21 (5), sentence 2 of the Weapons Act,

12. issuance of an agent's licence pursuant to Section 21a of the Weapons Act,

13. issuance of a licence to manufacture, work on and repair guns on a non-
commercial basis pursuant to Section 26 of the Weapons Act,

14. issuance of a licence to transfer guns or ammunition subject to licensing
requirements into the territory governed by the Weapons Act and out of the said territory
into the European Union, pursuant to Sections 29 and 31 of the Weapons Act,

15. issuance of a licence to take guns into the territory covered by the Weapons Act
pursuant to Section 32 (1) thereof,

16. issuance and extension of a European firearms pass pursuant to Section 32 (6)
of the Weapons Act in conjunction with Section 33 (1) of the General Ordinance on the
Weapons Act,

17. incorporation of subsidiary provisions and restrictions into a weapons licence
pursuant to Section 9 (1) and (2) of the Weapons Act,

18. orders or seizures pursuant to Section 37 (1), sentence 2, Section 40 (5),
sentence 2, Section 46 (2) to (4), sentence 1 of the Weapons Act, Section 94 (1) and
Section 111b (1) of the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure and seizures in accordance
with the legislation of the Federation and the Länder to avert dangers to public safety,

19. confiscation and sale or destruction of weapons or ammunition pursuant to
Section 37 (1), sentence 3 and Section 46 (5), sentence 1 and 2 of the Weapons Act,

20. granting of exemptions by the Federal Criminal Police Office pursuant to
Section 40 (4) of the Weapons Act,

21. prohibition of the ownership or acquisition of weapons or ammunition pursuant
to Section 41 (1) or (2) of the Weapons Act (weapon ban),
22. granting of an exemption pursuant to Section 42 (2) of the Weapons Act,
23. revocation or withdrawal of a weapons licence pursuant to Section 45 of the Weapons Act and
24. issuance of a replacement copy of a lost weapons licence.

Section 4

Contents of the National Firearms Register; record numbers

(1) The following information shall be stored in the National Firearms Register:

1. regarding natural persons: surnames, previous names, name at birth, first names, doctor's titles, date, town and country of birth, gender, nationality, current addresses and date of death,
2. regarding legal persons and associations of persons: names, previous names, name of organisation, current addresses and, in case of commercial enterprises, sector or industry concerned,
3. licences, exemptions, orders, seizures, confiscations, sales or weapon bans, including the appurtenant documentation according to the circumstances pursuant to Section 3 and
   a) in the case of removal pursuant to Section 3, no. 1, letter b, additionally the details of the transferring party pursuant to sub-section 1, nos. 1 or 2,
   b) in the case of Section 3, no. 14, additionally the information which is required in accordance with Section 29 of the General Ordinance on the Weapons Act of 27 October 2003 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2123), most recently amended by Article 3 (6) of the Act of 17 July 2009 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2062),
   c) in the case of Section 3, no. 15, additionally the information required pursuant to Section 30 of the General Ordinance on the Weapons Act,
4. weapon, weapon category, calibre or ammunition designation, manufacturer's name, model designation, serial number,
5. information on the systems employed to secure and block weapons,
6. with regard to essential components of a gun (Enclosure 1, Part 1, Chapter 1, nos. 1.3 and 3 of the Weapons Act), an indication that the components constitute essential components of a gun and, where available, the corresponding details pursuant to no. 4,
7. needs pertaining to handling of the weapon in accordance with the Weapons Act,
8. links based on data from nos. 1 to 6, where
   a) information from various authorities pertaining to the same person, weapon or measure is stored in the National Firearms Register or
   b) several persons are entered as authorised persons in a weapon owner's licence (Section 10 (2) of the Weapons Act).

(2) The National Firearms Register shall also record the actual status as pertinent under the law on weapons for the data groups

1. persons pursuant to sub-section 1, nos. 1 and 2,
2. weapons licences, including the documents issued in relation to respective licences, pursuant to sub-section 1, no. 3 and
3. weapons pursuant to sub-section 1, nos. 4 to 6.

(3) With regard to the data stored pursuant to sub-section 1, the designation of the weapon authority supplying the data, its address and the date of data transfer shall also be stored.

(4) The record numbers allocated by the registration authority shall be stored in the National Firearms Register with regard to the information pursuant to sub-sections 1 and 3. These record numbers must not contain any personal details.

Chapter 2
Data transfer, responsibilities

Sub-chapter 1
Data transfer to the National Firearms Register

Section 5
Transfer of data by the weapon authorities

Following the event giving rise to data storage pursuant to Section 3, the competent weapon authorities shall transfer to the registration authority without delay the data to be stored pursuant to Section 4 or the data leading to amendment or deletion of an entry in the register.

Section 6
Allocation of data in connection with the transfer and acquisition of registered weapons

(1) In the case of transfer and acquisition of a registered weapon, the data pertaining to the transferring party as stated in Section 4 (1), nos. 4 to 6 are to be allocated within the Register to the acquiring party.

(2) Where different weapon authorities are responsible for the transferring party and the acquiring party respectively, the weapon authority responsible for the transferring party shall notify the registration authority of the transfer of a registered weapon immediately after receiving notification of the transfer pursuant to Section 34 (2), sentence 1 or 2 of the Weapons Act. A corresponding automatic data update notification shall be generated at the registration authority and transferred by electronic means to the weapon authority responsible for the acquiring party.

(3) Upon receipt of the automatic data update notification, the weapon authority responsible for the acquiring party shall verify the correctness and completeness of the data which are stored pursuant to Section 4 (1) on the weapon and the person to whom the weapon is allocated. It shall notify the registration authority of the acquisition upon entry of the weapon in the weapon owner's licence pursuant to Section 10 (1a) of the Weapons Act. Should the data be incorrect or incomplete, it shall transfer the corrected and complete data in accordance with Section 8 (2), sentence 2 without delay. An automatic data update notification relating to acquisition pursuant to sentence 2 shall be generated at the registration authority and transferred by electronic means to the weapon authority responsible for the transferring party.

(4) Sub-sections (1) to (3) shall not apply where acquisition and ownership of a weapon is exempted from the requirement for a licence pursuant to Section 12 (1) of the Weapons Act.

Section 7
Allocation of data when the holder of a weapons licence moves to a different place of residence

(1) In the event of a holder of a weapons licence moving to the area of jurisdiction of a different weapon authority, the data specified in Section 4 (1), nos. 1 to 6 are to be allocated within the Register to the competent weapon authority at the holder's new place of residence. Where Germans within the meaning of Article 116 of the Basic Law relocate their
Ordinary residence to a place outside the territorial scope of application of this Act, the data specified in Section 4 (1), nos. 1 to 6 are to be allocated within the Register to the competent weapon authority pursuant to Section 48 (2), no. 4 of the Weapons Act. Following notification by the registry office pursuant to Section 44 (2) of the Weapons Act that a person has moved into its area of jurisdiction, the weapon authority competent for the place to which the person concerned has moved shall notify the registration authority that the holder of a weapons licence concerned has moved into its area of jurisdiction, stating his or her new address. On the basis of this notification, the registration authority shall generate an automatic data update notification for the weapon authority which is responsible for the new place of residence and shall transfer this update notification by electronic means to the previously competent weapon authority.

Section 8
Responsibility for data transfer and the correctness of data

(1) The weapon authorities shall be responsible to the registration authorities for ensuring the reliability of transfer and for the correctness, completeness and up-to-dateness of the data which they transfer. The registration authority shall ensure by means of suitable electronic data processing programmes that the data to be stored are coherent and that no previously stored data are unintentionally erased or become incorrect as a result of storage of these data.

(2) Where the weapon authorities have specific grounds to suspect that the data they have transferred are incorrect or incomplete, they shall check the correctness and completeness of these data. If the data which they have transferred are incorrect or incomplete, they shall transfer corrected and complete data forthwith. The registration authority shall update the transferred data accordingly.

(3) The bodies specified in Section 10 are to notify the competent weapon authority immediately, if they have any specific grounds to suspect that the data which have been transferred to them are incorrect or incomplete. The competent weapon authority shall examine the notification without delay. On establishing that the data are incorrect or incomplete, it shall transfer the corrected and complete data to the registration authority without delay.

(4) Should the registration authority establish that several data records relating to one and the same person exist in the Register's database, it may integrate these to form a single data record in consultation with the weapon authority which transferred the data to the registration authority.

(5) The weapon authorities shall undertake appropriate measures corresponding to the state of the art for the purposes of data protection and data security, in particular in order to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the data which they store and transfer. The data transfer process is to be encrypted in accordance with the given state of the art at the time of transfer.

Section 9
Obligation to keep data storage logs

(1) As the data-storing body, the registration authority shall produce logs of data transfers pursuant to Section 5 to 7, specifying the following:

1. the date and time of data transfer,
2. the transferring body,
3. the transferring person and
4. the transferred data.

(2) The logged data may only be used for the purposes of providing information to the data subject, for the purpose of data protection monitoring, for data security and to ensure correct
and proper use and administration of the Register. The logged data are to be protected against usage other than for the specified purposes and against any other form of misuse. Logging pursuant to sub-section (1) is to be ensured in accordance with the given state of the art at the time of logging. The log data are to be kept for at least twelve months and are to be erased after 18 months. This shall not apply where they are required for a monitoring process which is already in progress.

Sub-chapter 2
Data transfer from the National Firearms Register

Section 10
Transfer of data to weapon authorities, police forces of the Federation and the Länder, judiciary and customs authorities, tax inspection and intelligence services

In order to enable the tracing of weapons, weapons licences, exemptions, orders, seizures or bans to persons, the data stored pursuant to Section 4 (1) and (2) and the record numbers pursuant to Section 4 (4) shall be transferred to the following bodies on request, where this is necessary in order to discharge the stated tasks:

1. the weapon authorities, to enable them to discharge their tasks
   a) in accordance with the Weapons Act,
   b) in accordance with the statutory instruments enacted on the basis of the Weapons Act and
   c) in accordance with this Act and statutory instruments enacted on the basis of this Act,

2. the courts and prosecuting authorities, including law enforcement agencies, for the purposes of criminal justice,

3. the authorities responsible for imposing due punishment for administrative offences, for the purpose of prosecuting such offences,

4. the police forces of the Federation and the Länder
   a) to avert a concrete threat to the life, limb, health or liberty of a person or a threat to substantial material or capital assets,
   b) to protect the life, limb, health or liberty of persons entrusted with discharging policing tasks, where data transfer cannot take place in accordance with letter a,

5. the main customs offices, the customs investigation offices and the Customs Criminological Office, in order to discharge their tasks in accordance with the Customs Administration Act, the Customs Investigations Service Act, the Act to Combat Clandestine Employment, the Posted Workers Act and the Act on Temporary Employment Businesses; no. 4, letters a and b shall apply mutatis mutandis,

6. the agencies of the Land financial authorities entrusted with tax investigation duties, in order to discharge their duties in accordance with the German Fiscal Code; no. 4, letters a and b shall apply mutatis mutandis, and

7. the Federal and Land Offices for the Protection of the Constitution, the military counter-intelligence service and the federal intelligence service, to discharge the tasks which they are allocated by law, where such data cannot be obtained from generally accessible sources, or where obtaining such data would otherwise require disproportionate effort or a measure which would affect the data subject more severely.

Section 11
Additional requirements pertaining to the transfer of data
(1) The request for transfer pursuant to Section 10 is to be submitted to the registration authority in writing or by electronic means. The intended purpose is to be stated. The requesting body is to place the reason for its transfer request on record. The requesting body shall bear the responsibility for the reliability of transfer. The registration authority shall check only whether the transfer request lies within the scope of the requesting body's tasks as stated in Section 10, unless special grounds for examining the admissibility of transfer exist. Data transfer by the registration authority shall take place in written or electronic form.

(2) If the transfer request does not contain any of the record numbers stored in accordance with Section 4 (4), the following data at least must be included:

1. surname, at least one first name and place of residence or date or place of birth,
2. name of the legal person or association of persons and the current location of the branch or seat of the association or
3. serial number of the weapon, also in conjunction with weapon category, calibre or ammunition designation, manufacturer's name or model designation.

(3) By way of derogation from sub-section (2), it shall be permissible to state only the address in a transfer request from the police forces of the Federation or the Länder, where this is necessary in a specific individual case in order to avert a risk to a person's life, limb or liberty. This shall also apply to inquiries for purposes pertaining to Section 10, no. 4, letter b. In such cases, only the information pursuant to Section 4 (1), nos. 1 or 2 shall be transferred.

(4) The minimum scope of data to be stated by the requesting body pursuant to sub-section (2) is to be supplemented by additional data pursuant to Section 4 (1), nos. 1, 2 and 4, where such data is known to the requesting body. Data pursuant to sub-section (2), nos. 1 and 3 or nos. 2 and 3 may be combined in a transfer request; the serial number does not require to be stated.

(5) If the registration authority is nevertheless unable to clearly establish the identity of the person or weapon, in order to verify a correct match it shall transfer to the requesting body the corresponding record number, the competent weapon authority and

1. the information pursuant to Section 4 (1), no. 1, where the inquiry includes the information pursuant to sub-section (2), no. 1,
2. the information pursuant to Section 4 (1), no. 2, where the inquiry includes the information pursuant to sub-section (2), no. 2,
3. the information pursuant to Section 4 (1), no. 4 and the location of the current principal residence or the current branch office, where the inquiry includes the information pursuant to sub-section (2), no. 3, or
4. the information pursuant to Section 4 (1), nos. 1 or 2 and the serial number, in the case of an inquiry pursuant to sub-section (4), sentence 2.

The requesting body is to erase all data which do not relate to the sought person or weapon forthwith and to destroy corresponding records which are no longer necessary for the purpose pertaining to the inquiry.

(6) The registration authority shall undertake technical and organisational measures corresponding to the state of the art at the given time in order to ensure data protection and data security, in particular in order to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the data stored in the Register.

(7) The registration authority shall furthermore undertake appropriate measures corresponding to the state of the art for the purposes of data protection and data security, in particular in order to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the data which it transfers. The data transfer process is to be encrypted in accordance with the given state of the art at the time of transfer.
Section 12
Group information
(1) A transfer request may request the transfer of several data items, each of which is not provided with all of the information required in accordance with Section 11 (2), where

1. this is necessary in order to avert a concrete threat to the life, limb, health or liberty of a person or a threat to substantial material or capital assets or is required for the purposes of criminal justice and the data cannot be obtained by other means, or where obtaining such data would entail disproportionate effort or where such data are not otherwise obtainable in good time,

2. the data belong to a group by virtue of common characteristics stored in the Register and stated in the transfer request and

3. the head of the requesting body or a representative appointed by the head of the body to approve such transfers grants approval, where the requesting body is not a court of law or a public prosecutor's office.

(2) Section 11 (1), (6) and (7) shall apply mutatis mutandis to data transfer in response to a transfer request pursuant to sub-section (1) (group information).

(3) The requesting body is to erase transferred data which are no longer required for the purpose of discharging its duties.

Section 13
Automated data retrieval
(1) On request, the registration authority shall approve the bodies stated in Section 10 for data retrieval by way of an automated process, if

1. the requesting body confirms that it has undertaken the technical and organisational measures required by Section 9 of the Federal Data Protection Act,

2. it is ensured by technical means that the identity of the retrieving body is ascertainable beyond doubt when data is retrieved and

3. automated data retrieval is appropriate with due consideration to the data subject's legitimate interests, on account of the large number of transfer requests to be expected or their particular urgency.

(2) Sections 10 and 11 are to be applied to the automated retrieval process mutatis mutandis. The retrieving body is to erase forthwith all data which do not pertain to the sought person or weapon and to destroy all corresponding records.

(3) The registration authority shall notify the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of the approval, stating which measure the approved body has undertaken according to its own information. Where the registration authority has approved a public body of a Land, it shall furthermore notify the competent body of this land which is responsible for monitoring compliance with the regulations to protect personal data.

(4) The retrieving body shall be responsible for ensuring the permissibility of each individual retrieval. The registration authority shall examine the permissibility of retrieval only when it has special reason to do so. In the automated process, data may only be retrieved by staff who have been duly authorised by the head of their authority. The registration authority shall ensure that data can only be retrieved in the automated process when the retrieving body specifies an intended purpose which permits it to retrieve the data.

Section 14
Automated retrieval of group information
The automated retrieval pursuant to Section 13 of group information pursuant to Section 12 shall only be permissible when an existing risk to a person's life, limb, health or liberty cannot be averted in any other way. The retrieving body shall be responsible for ensuring the
permissibility of retrieval. It is also to document the conditions justifying retrieval pursuant to sentence 1 and to retain this documentation for at least twelve months.

Section 15
Transfer of data for statistical purposes
(1) Data may be transferred without subjugation to the purposes of the National Firearms Register to the weapon authorities, to the higher and supreme Federal and Land authorities responsible for weapons law and to the Land criminal police offices for the purposes of collection, processing, presentation and analysis.
(2) These data must not enable any reference to a certain person or to certain persons.
(3) The data may be transferred to the stated authorities only with regard to their respective areas of jurisdiction. On request, the corresponding figures for the Federal territory as a whole may be transferred for the purposes of comparison.

Section 16
Obligation to keep logs of data transfer in response to requests and in the automated retrieval process
(1) Where data are transferred in response to requests pursuant to Sections 10 to 12 and in the case of data transfer via automated retrieval pursuant to Sections 13 and 14, the registration authority shall produce logs specifying the following:
1. date and time of access or, in the case of retrieval, date and time of retrieval,
2. the requesting body or, in the case of the automated process, the retrieving body,
3. the retrieving person,
4. the transferred data and
5. the grounds for and purpose of transfer.
In the case of group information, the common characteristics stated in the transfer request and the number of matches are also to be recorded.
(2) Section 9 (2) is to be applied.

Chapter 3
Restrictions on processing and use of data, rights of protection
Section 17
Restrictions on processing and use of transferred data
Unless otherwise specified by law, the requesting or retrieving body may use and process the data solely for the purposes for which the data have been transferred to it. It may process and use the transferred data for other purposes for which transfer of the data would also have been permissible.

Section 18
Erasure of data
(1) At the instigation of the competent weapon authority, the registration authority shall erase the data stored in the National Firearms Register when they are no longer necessary to the discharge of assigned tasks.
(2) The data stored in the National Firearms Register shall otherwise be erased at the instigation of the competent weapon authority:
1. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 1, letter b, nos. 2, 3, 8, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 24, twenty years after the licence holder gives up ownership of their last weapon or after the licence holder's final withdrawal of their last weapon owned or 20 years after their death,
2. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 7, twenty years after expiry of the licence,
3. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 1, letter a, nos. 4, 5, 9, 11, 12 and 20, one month after expiry of the licence,
4. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 16, upon expiry of the licence or the subsidiary provision,
5. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 11, letter a, thirty years after the discontinuation of operations,
6. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 11, letter b, twenty years after the discontinuation of operations,
7. in cases covered by Section 3, nos. 13, 14 and 15, twenty years after issuance of the licence,
8. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 6, upon the death of the licence holder or upon return of the licence document,
9. in cases covered by Section 3, no. 18, following res judicata or final rescission of the weapon ban.

Section 19
Provision of data to the data subject; correction of data

(1) The registration authority shall provide the data subject with information pursuant to Section 19 of the Federal Data Protection Act. The decision on the provision of such information shall be made by the registration authority in consultation with the weapon authority which transferred the data.

(2) The application pursuant to sub-section (1), sentence 1 must contain the following details on the applicant:

1. surname,
2. first names,
3. address and
4. date, place and state of birth.

(3) The information may also be provided by way of online data transmission. In this connection it is to be ensured that state-of-the-art measures are undertaken to ensure data protection and data security, in particular with regard to the confidentiality and integrity of the data. The applicant's identity is to be verified by means of:

1. an electronic identity card,
2. an identity verification service,
3. a qualified electronic signature in accordance with the Digital Signature Act or
4. another electronic verification process incorporating state-of-the-art facilities to ensure data protection and data security.

(4) Where stored data are incorrect or incomplete, the registration authority is to transfer a corresponding notification to the competent weapon authority forthwith. Section 8 (2) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Chapter 4
Final provisions
Section 20
Authorisation to issue statutory instruments
(1) The Federal Ministry of the Interior shall be authorised, via statutory instruments with the approval of the Bundesrat, to stipulate details relating to
1. the data stored pursuant to Section 4,
2. the process for the transfer of data to the registration authority by the weapon authorities,
3. the process for data transfer by the registration authority pursuant to Sections 10 to 12,
4. the automated data retrieval process pursuant to Sections 13 and 14,
5. the technical and organisational measures required in accordance with Section 9 of the Federal Data Protection Act.

(2) Where data transfer processes and procedures are stipulated in statutory instruments based on the present Act, reference may be made to announcements by expert bodies which are generally accessible. The date of the announcement, the reference and the source for the announcement are to be stated in the statutory instrument. The announcement is to be filed in the Federal Archives; the statutory instrument is to include a reference to this fact.

Section 21
Exclusion of divergent Land law
Rules on administrative procedure which are established in this Act or on the basis of this Act shall not be overruled by Land law.

Section 22
Initial transfer of the database
(1) The weapon authorities shall transfer the data stated in Section 4 (1) to (3) to the registration authority at a mutually agreed time no later than 31 December 2012. Subsequent changes to this database shall be transferred to the registration authority on an ongoing basis. Sentences 1 and 2 shall also apply to data and amendments thereto pertaining to licences pursuant to Section 57 (1) of the Weapons Act and licences which remain valid pursuant to Section 58 (1) of the Weapons Act.

(2) In case of transfer pursuant to sub-section (1), sentence 1 and 3, the requirements stipulated in statutory instruments pursuant to Section 20 (1), nos. 1 and 2 may be waived where the transferring authority does not yet possess the data in this form. The minimum requirements to be observed in such cases shall be stipulated by a statutory instrument issued by the Federal Ministry of the Interior with the approval of the Bundesrat.

(3) Where a transferring body applies sub-section (2), sentence 1, the next time a data record is amended it shall adapt this entire data record in accordance with the requirements of the statutory instrument issued on the basis of Section 20 (1), no. 2, whereby such adaptation shall take place by no later than 31 December 2017. It shall transfer the adapted data records to the registration authority forthwith.

Section 23
Introductory provision; trial operation
(1) Until 31 December 2012, Sections 1 to 21 are to be applied only by authorities participating in the trial operation of the processes envisaged in this Act for data transfer and automated data retrieval.

(2) This trial operation shall serve to verify the functionality, interoperability, stability and security of the individual components of the systems and their functional and technical interaction. These authorities shall be designated by the Federation and the Länder within their respective spheres of responsibility and announced in the Federal Gazette. In order to
be eligible for participation in the trial operation, authorities must have the necessary technical and organisational set-up in place.

Section 24
Entry into force

This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 2012.