

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Traveler's Guide Checklist: August 26, 2005

- **Handgun Ownership:** restricted, PR firearms license required, registration required
- **Rifle and Shotgun Ownership:** restricted, PR firearms license required, registration required
- **Assault Weapons Ownership:** restricted, PR firearms license with shooters category required, registration required, must be active member in shooting club and federation. Purchase of any assault weapons manufactured after March 2001 prohibited
- **Machine Gun Ownership:** individual ownership totally prohibited
- **Firearm law uniformity:** firearm law uniform throughout the Island, entire federal gun law applies to PR
- **Open Carry:** prohibited, (exception: permitted only by law enforcement agents and uniformed security guard while on duty)
- **Conceal Carry:** PR firearm license with conceal carry category required, granted on "shall issue" basis, first time by superior judge, renewals at PR Police level; no reciprocity available with other States
- **Vehicle carry and transportation:** PR firearms license required, one firearm at a time, must be unloaded, cased, out of plain view and immediate access, preferably in glove compartment or trunk (with shooters category no limit in quantity)

Puerto Rico's gun law is stricter than most states of the union. Gun law violations carry steep and severe prison terms. All visitors to the Island, without a valid "PR firearms license", must deposit their firearms with the PR Police department, at the airport upon arrival. If you don't have a valid "PR firearms license", are not planning an extended stay or visiting to participate in a target shooting event, DO NOT BRING YOUR FIREARMS.

Target shooter's provisional permits are available from PR Police for participating visitors; permit granted on "shall issue" basis, visitors must request permit before arrival; the Police will request "NICS" clear from FBI before issuing permit; you may not take home ammunition purchased on the Island.

Concealed carry is limited to handguns, pistol or revolver; at no time may you carry a firearm on your person without a valid "PR firearms license" with concealed carry category except while target shooting or hunting and only then if your license contains shooter or hunters category.

Transportation, without concealed carry category, is defined as: unloaded, cased and the case is not visible. It is unlawful to carry or transport firearms in a vehicle or otherwise unless one has a valid "PR firearms license".

Puerto Rico's "firearms license" is issued on shall issue basis to all US citizens and legal alien residents in Puerto Rico, 21 years or older, are not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm, are not behind on alimony payments and receive a "NICS" clear. On or before 45 days after receipt of license, the licensee must submit to the PR Police an approved gun safety and training certificate issued by a PR target shooting club. There are more than 30 such facilities on the Island.

Possession of ammunition is strictly prohibited in absence of a valid "PR firearms license"; a licensee may only purchase ammunition of that caliber used by his firearms registered with the PR Police.