



INTERPOL

FIREARMS PROGRAMME

IARMS

Illicit arms records and tracing management system



iARMS

What is iARMS?

The INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS) is a web-based system which facilitates information exchange and cooperation between law enforcement agencies on firearm crime, namely through:

- providing a centralized system for the reporting and querying of lost, stolen, trafficked and smuggled firearms by law enforcement agencies globally;
- facilitating the submission of, and responses to, international firearm trace requests, as well as support for monitoring the status of requests.

What is firearm tracing?

Firearm tracing is the systematic tracking of a firearm found or seized, from the point of manufacture or the point of legal importation into a country, through the lines of supply to the last known point of possession. Firearm tracing involves close cooperation among law enforcement, customs and border control agencies internationally. The 2005 International Tracing Instrument identifies INTERPOL as a key partner in the implementation of firearm tracing activities.

Firearm tracing can:

- link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation;
- identify potential firearm traffickers;
- detect firearm crime trends.

The tracing of illicit firearms is a crucial component of the international strategy and framework to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

What functionalities are available through iARMS?

iARMS can be functionally divided into three components:

The Firearm Records Module enables authorized law enforcement officers to:

- create, manage and share records of lost, stolen, trafficked or smuggled firearms rapidly and securely;
- notify a country quickly and easily when a recorded firearm is seized;
- generate and analyse reporting on lost, stolen trafficked or smuggled firearms.

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ILLICIT ARMS RECORDS AND TRACING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Trace Request Module provides an easy-to-use platform to facilitate international firearm tracing activities. iARMS enables authorized law enforcement officers to:

- submit a Trace Request
- read, monitor and export incoming and outgoing Trace Requests
- respond to or comment on an incoming Trace Request
- update the status of a Trace Request,
- generate and analyse reporting on incoming and outgoing Trace Requests.

The Statistics and Reports Module allows INTERPOL member countries to analyse national data information on firearm-related crime and tracing, and to generate tailored reports.

About the Firearms Programme

A threat to the safety of citizens in any country, the criminal misuse of firearms also poses a wider threat to global security, peace, stability and development. Firearms are easy to conceal and transport, and offer lucrative profits to criminals trafficking in illicit small arms and light weapons.

Each year, firearms are used in more than 245,000 murders worldwide, excluding war-torn countries. This figure is only a small percentage of all crimes committed with firearms. Criminals use firearms to threaten and support their criminal acts. No country is unaffected by firearms violence.

INTERPOL offers powerful tools which can help member countries to obtain firearms intelligence and advance investigations using the information on the outside of the firearm and the data that can be gleaned from inside the weapon. Together these tools support law enforcement officers to prevent, investigate and solve firearms-related crimes.

For access to INTERPOL databases and services, please contact your INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB).



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