



Republic of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION**  
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, PNP**  
 Camp BGen Rafael T Crame, Quezon City

U.P. LAW CENTER  
 OFFICE of the NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER  
 Administrative Rules and Regulations

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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

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**GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES ON THE ACQUISITION AND REGISTRATION OF RIFLES, CATEGORIZED AS SMALL ARMS, INCLUDING THE SALE OF ITS AMMUNITION AND CARTRIDGES TO LICENSED CITIZENS**

**1. REFERENCES:**

- a. Republic Act (RA) No. 10591 entitled "An Act Providing a Comprehensive Law on Firearms and Ammunition and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof" and Its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR);
- b. Republic Act No. 11766 entitled "An Act Fixing the Validity Period of the License to Own and Possess, Registration, and Permit to Carry Firearms Outside of Residence or Place of Business, amending for the Purpose Sections 7 and 19 of Republic Act No. 10591, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act" and its IRR;
- c. RA No. 11032 entitled "An Act Promoting Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services, amending for the Purpose RA No. 9485, Otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and for other Purposes";
- d. 2024 Amendment to the 2018 RIRR of RA 10591; and
- e. Memorandum from CPNP dated May 7, 2024 with subject: Regulations and Control Measures on the Acquisition and Sale of Rifles Categorized as Small Arm to Licensed Citizens.

**2. RATIONALE:**

The enactment of RA No. 10591 introduced significant changes to the definition and classification of firearms creating a new vocabulary within firearms regulation. These changes necessitated time and effort to educate stakeholders, particularly in understanding distinctions between the new provisions and the old firearms law.

One contentious issue arising from RA No. 10591 and its 2018 RIRR pertains to the types of firearms that may be registered. This created challenges for



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stakeholders including industry players, sports shooters, firearms enthusiasts, and individuals seeking firearms for self defense.

To address these concerns, especially regarding the regulation of rifles under the purview of RA 10591 and its RIRR, and to ensure clarity and coherence in its implementation, specific guidelines were crafted following the amendments Section 3.66 and 3.66 (b) of the said RIRR.

### 3. SITUATION:

The 2018 amendment of the RIRR of RA No. 10591, generated various concerns particularly the definition of the rifles categorized as small arms as provided in Section 3.66 of the RIRR. This classification impacted the ownership, possession, and selling of rifles. To address this, a further amendment was approved on February 16, 2024, and published on March 18, 2024.

The revision of Section 3.66, specifically adding Section 3.66 (b), clarified that rifles, regardless of their loading actions, are no longer restricted to sports shooting purposes alone.

To prevent potential misuse of the revised provision, a memorandum dated May 7, 2024 was issued providing regulation and control measures regarding the acquisition and sale of rifles categorized as small arms to licensed citizens.

Following consultations with industry stakeholders and licensed citizens, a recognized need emerged to further detail the implementation of the amended sections, resulting in this PNP Memorandum Circular (MC).

### 4. PURPOSE:

This MC establishes the guidelines and procedures in the acquisition, and registration of rifles, categorized as small arms. It aims to prevent misuse by ensuring that only qualified licensed citizens are granted the privilege to own, possess, transport, and carry such firearms.

Additionally, this MC provides guidance to licensed firearms dealers regarding the sale, distribution, and importation of rifles and ammunition.

### 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

For purposes of this MC, the following terms or words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:

- a. Acquisition – the process of acquiring rifles, through purchase or transfer (donation, sale, etc.) from licensed dealers or licensed individuals.
- b. Armor Piercing Bullet – bullets specifically designed to penetrate ballistic armor and protective shields.



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- c. **Ballistic Identification Procedures** – the combined processes of firearms stenciling and test-firing to obtain test bullets and cartridge cases enabling the determination of the firearm's functionality and encoding results into the Firearms Identification System. At the same time, stenciling refers to the recording of embossed and/or engraved identifying information on the firearm such as the serial number, make, model, proof mark, and other unique characters for future comparison and identification.
- d. **Ball Cartridge** – refers to the ball cartridge intended for use in rifles, carbines, pistols, revolvers, and/or machine guns against personnel and unarmored targets. The bullet, as designed for general purpose combat and training requirements, normally consists of a metal jacket and a lead slug.
- e. **Class A Light Weapon** - refer to self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, submachine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns not exceeding caliber 7.62MM which have fully automatic mode; and **Class-B Light weapons** which refer to weapons designed for use by two (2) or more persons serving as a crew, or rifles and machine guns exceeding caliber 7.62MM such as heavy machine guns, handheld underbarrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, and mortars of a caliber of less than 100MM.
- f. **Combat or Service Cartridges** – cartridges used by military and law enforcement agency (LEA) such as but not limited to Armor Piercing Cartridge, Armor Piercing Incendiary (API) cartridge, Armor-Piercing Incendiary Tracer (API-T) cartridge, Tracer Cartridge, and other similar cartridges.
- g. **Licensed Sports Shooter** – a licensed citizen who has obtained a sports shooter license and actively participates in sports shooting competitions.
- h. **Muzzle Velocity** – the measure of the speed of the bullet or projectile at the moment it exits the barrel of a rifle.
- i. **Registration** – the process involving the application, approval, record-keeping, and monitoring of firearms with the FEO in accordance with the type of issued license.
- j. **Rifle** –a shoulder-fired firearm designed to discharge bullets through a rifled barrel. Rifles are classified based on their loading mechanisms, which include lever action, bolt action, and self-loading.



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- k. Sniper Rifle – a portable shoulder-fired rifle, either mounted with telescopic/optic sight or which is telescopic/optic sight ready, having recoil/gas operation mode, with a minimum barrel length of twenty inches (20”), either bolt action or semi-automatic, and chambered with a high ballistic performance center fire cartridge for extreme accuracy designed to be used by military and law enforcement agencies. It shall also include bolt action rifle with less than 20 inches barrel length.
- l. Storage (ST) – the registration status of a firearm wherein the firearm has been inspected, examined, and inventoried by the Storage Section, FEO upon its arrival and kept thereat.

## 6. GUIDELINES:

### a. General Guidelines:

- 1) Licensed local manufacturers and firearms dealers are the only authorized entities to manufacture or import rifles for sale or distribution to licensed citizens. Before distribution, all rifles must undergo evaluation by the Firearms and Explosives Office Classification Board (FCB) to ensure compliance with existing laws, rules, and regulations;
- 2) Only rifles classified as small arms may be acquired and registered for ownership and possession by licensed citizens, subject to such limitations as provided herein. However, Sniper Rifles are limited for use by the AFP and PNP;
- 3) The transfer of rifle ownership through sale or donation between licensed individuals is permitted, provided that both parties possess a valid License to Own and Possess Firearms (LTOPF) and comply with all acquisition and registration regulations for small arms;
- 4) Rifles transferred between owners must undergo ballistic identification procedures to ensure that their distinguishing marks or characteristics have not been altered;
- 5) The distribution, sale, or possession of combat or service cartridges to licensed citizens are not allowed; and
- 6) Acquisition, registration, and ownership of rifles by licensed juridical entities shall adhere to the provisions outlined in the IRR of RA No. 11917 (The Private Security Services Industry Act).

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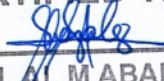
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**b. Specific Guidelines:**

- 1) Licensed citizens may only acquire or possess one rifle of any of the caliber of 5.56/.223, and caliber .30, .306, or .308 with a maximum barrel length of twenty inches (20") except bolt action;
- 2) Licensed citizens who already registered afore-described rifles, prior to the implementation of the 2024 Amendment to the RIRR of RA 10591, shall be allowed to continue ownership and possession, and the cause for the renewal of its registration;
- 3) In case a licensed citizen desires to acquire or register additional rifles described under paragraph 6(b)(1) of this MC, the following requirements shall be submitted:
  - a) For purchase from Licensed Dealer:
    - (1) Letter of intent to the CPNP, through the C, FEO, providing therein his/her reason/s; and
    - (2) Directorate of Intelligence (DI) Clearance.
  - b) For Acquisition from Licensed Dealer through Donation or Sale/Transfer:
    - (1) Letter of intent to the CPNP, through the C, FEO, providing therein his/her reason/s;
    - (2) DI Clearance;
    - (3) Ballistics Report from Forensic Group (FG);
    - (4) Deed of Donation or Deed of Sale/Transfer; and
    - (5) Certification of Technical Inspection from Regional Civil Security Unit (RCSU).
  - c) For Transfer due to the Legal Disability or Death of the Licensee:
    - (1) Letter of intent to the CPNP, through the C, FEO, providing therein his/her reason/s;
    - (2) DI Clearance;
    - (3) Ballistics Report from the FG; and
    - (4) Extrajudicial Settlement/Affidavit of Self-Adjudication or any equivalent document.
- 4) Only ball cartridges or ammunition of commercial grade shall be allowed for sale and distribution to licensed citizens; and

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(2) DI Clearance;

(3) Ballistics Report from the FG; and

(4) Extrajudicial Settlement/Affidavit of Self-Adjudication or any equivalent document.



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- b) Conduct stenciling, ballistics, and test firing of the rifles that are subject for transfer of ownership;
  - c) Encode the collected test bullets and cartridge cases into the database of the integrated firearms identification system for correlation and identification of a particular firearm; and
  - d) Perform other tasks as directed.
- 6) **CSG**
- a) Supervise the FEO in the implementation of this MC; and
  - b) Perform other tasks as directed.
- 7) **SOSIA**
- a) Assist the FEO in the implementation of this MC; and
  - b) Perform other tasks as directed.

**7. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS:**

All rifles, classified as small arms, currently under “**STORAGE**” or “**ST**” status shall be re-classified, as the case may be, to definitively establish its conformity to existing laws, rules and regulations and issuances prior to sale or distribution to licensed citizens. If confirmed as small arms, the same shall be allowed for sale or distribution. In case found to be Class-A light weapon, bolt action rifle, and/or sniper rifle, the dealer may, surrender to the PNP, or donate or sell to the military, PNP, and other law enforcement agencies authorized by the President.

**8. REPEALING CLAUSE:**

All orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this MC are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE:**

This MC shall take effect after 15 from its filing of a copy thereof at the UP Law Center in consonance with Section 3, Chapter 2, Book VII of Executive Order 292 otherwise known as the “Revised Administrative Code of 1987,” as amended.

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*[Signature]*  
**ROMMEL FRANCISCO D MARBIL**  
Police General  
Chief, PNP



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Annexes:

- Annex A – Application for Purchase of Additional 5.56/.223 and .308
- Annex B – Application for Transfer 5.56/.223 and .308

Distribution:

- Command Group
- IG, IAS
- Cmdrs, APCs
- D-Staff
- P-Staff
- Ds, NSUs
- RDs, PROs
- DDs, NCRPO
- SPA to the SILG

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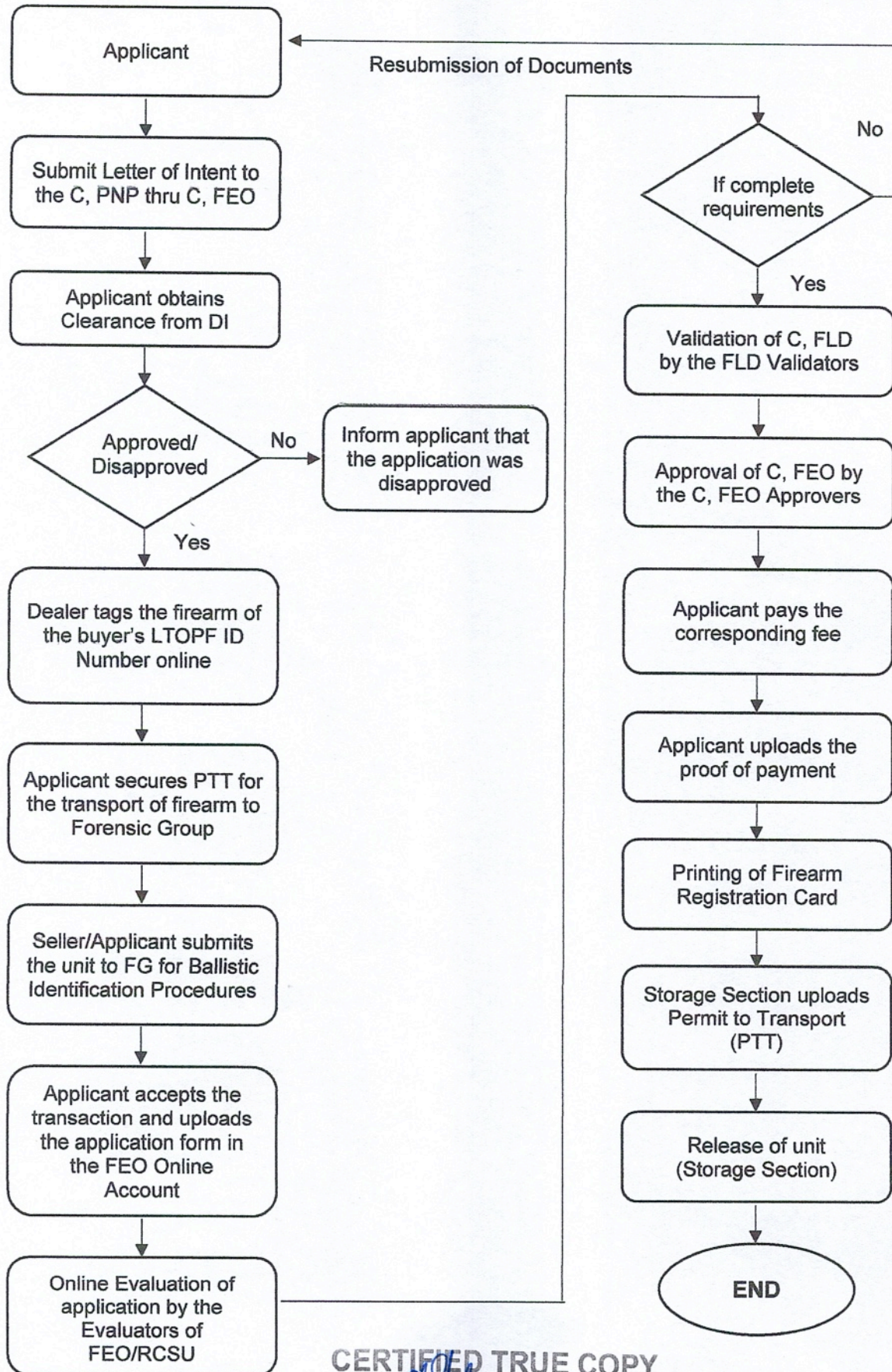
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Application for Purchase of Additional 5.56/.223 or 7.62/.308

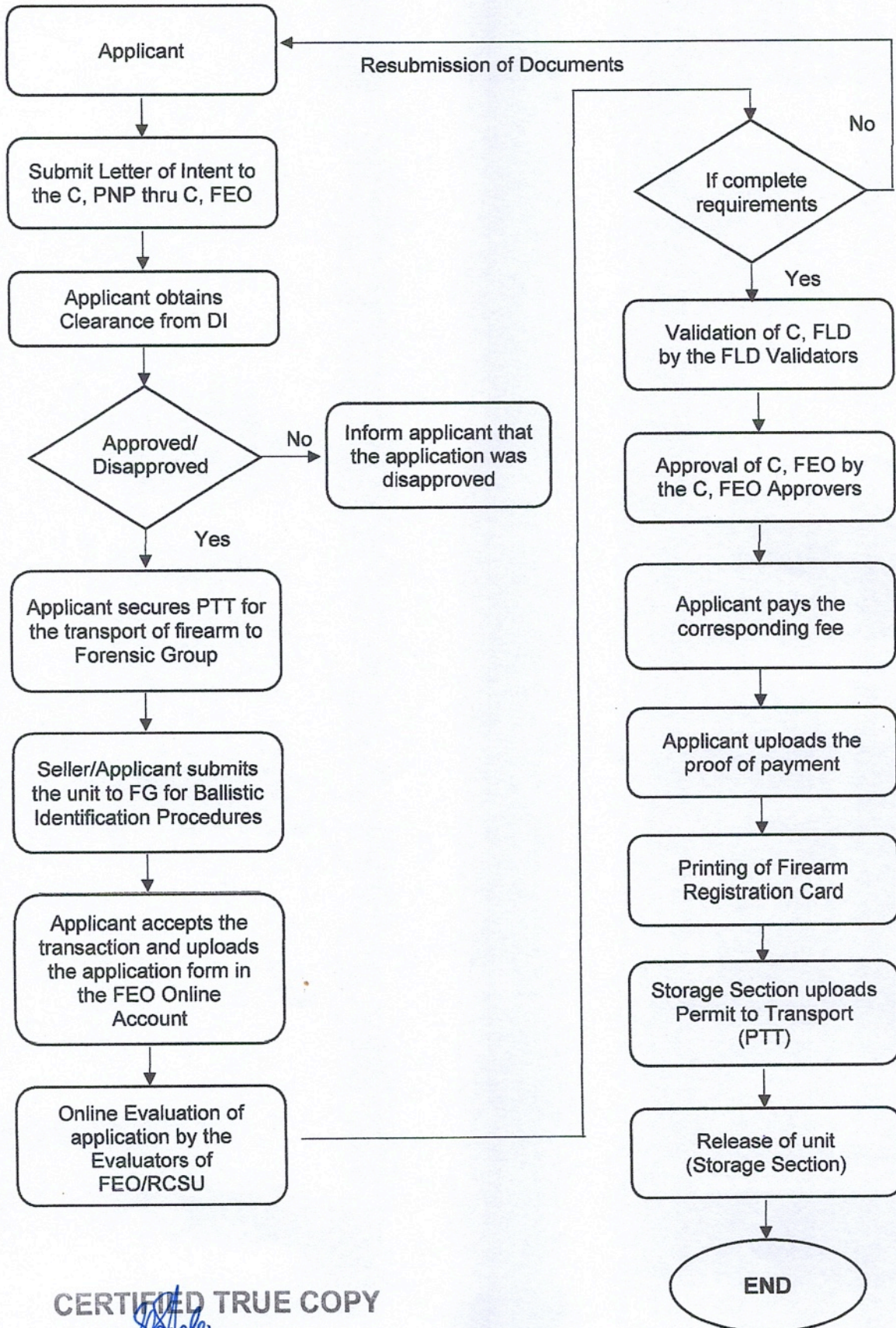


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Application for Transfer 5.56/.223 or 7.62/.308



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