

I have always had the opinion that you need a licence for .22 inch/5.6mm airguns.

I set out to prove it and lo and behold I got swayed...here is the facts as I see it:

*1. Section 1 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as the principal (u) by the substitution for the definition of "airgun" of the following definition: Act), is hereby amended-*

**"airgun" means any device manufactured to discharge a bullet or any other projectile=**

**(a) of a [caliber] calibre of less than 5.6 mm (.22 [caliber] calibre);**

**(b) at a muzzle energy of less than 8 joules (6ft-lbs).**

**by means of compressed gas and not by means of burning propellant;**

*(b) by the substitution in the definition of "firearm" for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:*

*"(d) device manufactured to discharge a bullet or any other projectile of [.22 calibre] a calibre of 5.6 mm (.22 calibre) or higher at a muzzle energy of more than 8 joules (6 ft-lbs), by means:of compressed gas and not by means of burning propellant;*

So far our uncertainty was with the BARREL DIAMETER and all our efforts was to show that the BARREL is less than 5.6mm or .22 cal (taken it to a gunsmith or stamps on gun etc)

This is WRONG.

The FC Act clearly states that an airgun is a device that discharges a bullet or projectile of less than 5.6mm (.22)...right? YES!

So it has nothing to do with the barrel size in actual fact, it has all to do with the PROJECTILE that it fires.

So if your BULLET or PROJECTILE is less than 5.6mm (.22) your gun will be an airgun and need not be licenced.

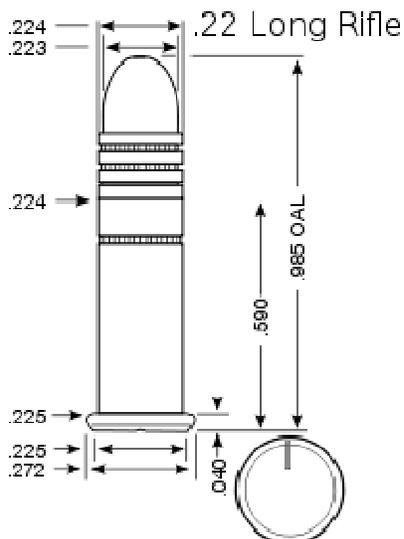
This table is from <http://www.straightshooters.com/documents/pelletcomparison.html>

Pellet .22	Head Dia	Skirt Dia
<a href="#">RWS Hobby</a>	0.215	0.223
<a href="#">Beeman Silver Bear</a>	0.217	0.228
<a href="#">Beeman Laser</a>	0.216	0.219
<a href="#">Beeman H&amp;N Match</a>	0.215	0.217
<a href="#">RWS Meisterkugeln</a>	0.214	0.223
<a href="#">RWS Super H Point</a>	0.213	0.225
<a href="#">Crosman Premier</a>	0.215	0.220
<a href="#">JSB Express</a>	0.214	0.223
<a href="#">Beeman Bearcub</a>	0.218	0.226

<a href="#">RWS Superpoint</a>	0.214	0.225
<a href="#">RWS Superdome</a>	0.215	0.221
<a href="#">Beeman FTS</a>	0.219	0.223
<a href="#">Beeman Ram Jet</a>	0.217	0.228
<a href="#">Beeman Silver Ace</a>	0.214	0.223
<a href="#">Napier Power Hunter</a>	0.213	0.227
<a href="#">Beeman Silver Sting</a>	0.217	0.228
<a href="#">JSB Exact (Jumbo)</a>	0.215	0.223
<a href="#">Beeman Silver Arrow</a>	0.217	0.227
<a href="#">JSB Exact Heavy</a>	.0214	0.223
<a href="#">Beeman Crow Magnum</a>	0.217	0.228
<a href="#">Beeman Kodiak</a>	0.217	0.227
<a href="#">JSB Exact Monster</a>	0.213	0.222

PS we need someone to confirm these sizes...

A bullets caliber is its headsize as seen here:



So if a pellets headsize(head diameter) is LESS than 5.6mm or .22 and you have a gun using anything but burning propellant to launch it you then have an airgun. Its as simple as that.

According to the head diameter out of the table the biggest head size/diameter is 0.219 inch and the smallest is 0.213inch.

Take one inch (25.4mm) and multiply it by 0.219 (biggest headsize) it equals 5.5626mm (0.219 inch)

Take one inch (25.4mm) and multiply it by 0.213 (smalles headsize) it equals 5.4102mm (0.213inch)

So both the smallest and biggest “0.22 pellet: is smaller than 0.22 caliber and smaller than 5.6mm...

And just to refresh here is the Act again :

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**.(a) of a [caliber] calibre of less than 5.6 mm (.22 [caliber] calibre);**

*(b) at a muzzle energy of less than 8 joules (6ft-lbs),*

*by means of compressed gas and not by means of burning propellant;*

**So because the projectile or bullet (pellet) that a .22 (5.6mm) airrifle fires is smaller than both 5.6mm or .22 inch caliber (as specified in the act) it means that 0.22 airguns are exempt from licencing and not considered firearms.**

**In other words: airguns means any device that was manufactured to discharge a bullet of a caliber of less than 5.6mm (.22caliber)...this is exactly what .22 (5.6mm) airguns do! So it stays an airgun and not classed as a firearm.**

**This will hold true for as long as you can prove your PELLET/PROJECTILE is less than 5.6mm or 0.22 inch. The FC Act says ZERO about barrel size, the closest to any mention of barrel size is that your devices should fire projectiles smaller than 5.6mm or .22 inch!**

This is only my personal take on it and is in no way legal advice and we are still to hear from the authorities if we interpret the Act correctly!