

4.5. STANDARD REGULATION FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF INDIVIDUAL PROOFS OF WEAPONS USING BLACK POWDER [XIX-7]

Art. 1 Principle

1.1. The purpose of this decision is to establish uniform minimum requirements for the individual proof of muzzle-loading or breech-loading firearms using black powder without primer.

These requirements shall also be applicable to highly-stressed components which may be assembled into a firearm without any "fitting". In this case, the completed firearm need not be re-proved if the highly-stressed components have been proved for the highest pressure for that type of firearm. A firearm containing one or more highly-stressed components whose assembly requires "fitting" operations must be proved after assembly.

The term "highly-stressed components", of whatever type, shall be understood to mean those components required to be capable of withstanding the gas pressure, i.e. the complete barrels, the breech plug and the cylinders of revolvers.

The expression "fitting" shall be understood to mean any operation carried out on the component itself which is liable to reduce its strength and would in consequence make a re-proof necessary under C.I.P. provisions.

The following provisions shall not be compulsory for firearms of antique manufacture which can no longer be used for firing and are therefore of historical interest only. The issuing of a certificate stating that such a firearm is of antique manufacture shall be the responsibility of an official authority in one of the Member States.

1.2. Proof marks may only be applied if the firearm, or the highly-stressed components of a firearm, has been proved in accordance with the provisions determined below and has satisfied the requirements imposed.

Art.2 Procedure

The proof shall consist of:

- a check prior to firing;
- the proof firing;
- a check after firing.

Art.3 Checking prior to firing

Firearms must be checked before undergoing proof firing.

The check shall consist of:

- a check of the distinguishing marks;
- a check of operating safety;
- a visual inspection.

Art. 4 Checking the distinguishing marks

The check of the distinguishing marks shall involve checking that the following particulars have been impressed in a clearly visible and durable manner on at least one of the highly-stressed components of the firearm:

- the name, business name or registered mark of the manufacturer or any other mark enabling the firearm to be identified;
- the identification number of the firearm;
- the identification of the calibre, in line with commercial terminology;
- the inscription "Black powder only" expressed in one of the languages used by the member countries of the C.I.P. or, failing this, the letters "B.P.", the meaning of which must be brought to the user's attention by any means considered appropriate;
- optionally, the maximum permissible mass of the powder charge and the maximum mass of the projectile indicated in a manner comprehensible to the user.

Art. 5 **Checking operating safety** and visual inspection

- 5.1. Shotguns, pistols and revolvers may be submitted for proof "in the white" or with a black surface finish, in a completely finished state and fitted with the mechanisms for priming the charge. Barrels "in the white", fitted with their final breech plug and touch hole, may also be submitted, provided that they are in a completely finished state.
The barrel shall be considered as being in a completely finished state" in the white" if all finishing operations liable to affect the thickness of the barrel walls or the properties of the materials, such as slot milling, the brazing of lugs and locking recesses, the machining of decorative areas and threads, etc. have been completed.
- 5.2. For all firearms, the check of operating safety shall involve inspection of the touch hole. For revolvers, it shall involve the free rotation of the cylinder, the correct engagement of the hammer on the first and second notches and the correct stopping of the cylinder.
- 5.3. The visual inspection shall be concerned with discovering any defects in the materials and any weaknesses such as:
 - a. cracks in the barrel, veining or breaks of continuity;
 - b. faulty soldering, brazing or welding of the different components;
 - c. inadequate construction of the locking mechanism.
- 5.4. Any firearms or highly-stressed components found during the check prior to firing to exhibit any of the defects listed above shall be rejected and returned to the applicant.

Art. 6 **Proof firing**

- 6.1. The proof firing shall be carried out on finished firearms or finished highly-stressed components. If the assembly of a firearm has involved the "fitting" of highly-stressed components which have already been subjected to proof, the complete firearm shall also be subjected to proof. In the case of firearms with more than one barrel, each barrel shall be proved, and in the case of revolvers, each chamber of the cylinder.
- 6.2. The proof firing of smoothbore firearms and firearms with rifled barrel(s) shall be carried out using a charge of powder and lead.
Except in the case of revolvers, two rounds shall be fired.
For revolvers, the proof firing shall consist of the firing of not less than one round in each chamber of the cylinder after the latter has been degreased.
The quantities of powder and lead charges for the various calibres are given in the technical annex. (4.6.)
- 6.3. If there are grounds for believing that the proof rounds have been faulty, the Proof House must carry out an additional firing over and above the prescribed number of rounds.

Art. 7 Check after firing

After proof firing, firearms and highly-stressed components must undergo a further check. The provisions of Art. 5 shall apply to this inspection.

Art. 8 **Rejection after firing**

- 8.1. Firearms and highly-stressed components which have visibly deteriorated as a result of the proof firing and any firearms in which inspection has revealed one of the defects listed below shall be rejected and returned to the applicant:
 - a. any deformation of the barrel impairing the safety of the firearm;
 - b. failure of the soldering, brazing or welding of lumps, hooks or ribs;
 - c. cracking of the outside of the barrel or of the breech plug;
 - d. in the case of percussion arms and revolvers, the detachment of the nipple or any other component part of the priming mechanism.

- 8.2. If as a result of the proof firing there remains the slightest doubt as to the strength of a firearm or of one of the highly-stressed components or if any deterioration or the presence of any of the defects referred to in Paragraph 1 is suspected, the Proof House shall carry out an additional proof firing, over and above the prescribed number of rounds.
- 8.3. Firearms or highly-stressed component which have been excluded from the proof firing in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 or rejected in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 may be resubmitted to the same Proof House if the applicant can show that the defects noted have been good. The proof shall then be repeated.

Art. 9 Re-proof

- 9.1. If a firearm or a highly-stressed component which has already been proved has undergone one of the following operations liable to impair the safety of the firearm, that firearm or component must be resubmitted for proof in accordance with Articles 3 to 8:
- replacement of a highly-stressed component involving "fitting" operations;
 - any modification of the dimensions resulting in a reduction in the thickness of the barrel walls;
 - any change in the strength of the materials.
- 9.2. In the event of a proof in accordance with Paragraphs 9.1. and 8.3. having revealed the presence of one of the defects listed in Article 8, any proof mark on the firearm or the highly-stressed component shall be obliterated with an 'X' impressed over or alongside the proof mark.

Art. 10 Application of proof marks

- 10.1. Insofar as the proof and the checks carried out in accordance with Articles 3 to 8 and 9 have failed to reveal any defect, proof marks shall be impressed in a clearly visible fashion on the highly-stressed components which have been subjected to proof:
- in the case of all firearms except revolvers: on each barrel and on the breech plug;
 - in the case of revolvers: on the barrel, the cylinder and the housing.
- 10.2. A proof mark permitting the year of proof to be determined shall be impressed on each firearm and on each barrel submitted separately for proof.

Art. 11 Official records

On the completion of the proof operations, a report shall be prepared containing the following information:

- the serial number and date of the report;
- the nature of the proof;
- the identifying features of the firearm;
- in the event of rejection, the nature of the defect.

Non destructive testing - Recommendation [Minutes XXVI] (see Annex A.4.4.)