

From: Franz, Scott
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2007 5:09 PM
To: Lance, Kevin D.; Vicars, Gerald
Cc: Diaz, Danny; James, Will; Norton, Vince; Cook, Todd D.; Reesor, Phillip K.
Subject: M/770 Test Sample Requirements

Kevin,

As you get closer to production on the M/770 I thought it would be beneficial to give you a brief review of where we stand on testing. We had a few areas that we needed to test in order to qualify this new stock and action configuration. These areas included accuracy and functional reliability, strength and SAAMI jar-off, drop and rotation.

To date we have received M/770 samples in .300 Win. Mag and .243 Win. in a Youth configuration. All testing to date has been with early stock samples without texturing as discussed early on. We ran function and endurance with the .300 Win. Mag.. We did have magazine box retention issues on samples as received which everyone was aware of. I believe this issue has been resolved already with the recent changes made to the stock tool in this area. We only function tested guns in which boxes would stay latched in guns. No significant functional issues were noted. We did develop small cracks in stocks in the rear corners of the pocket for the recoil bracket early on in testing. These cracks are only visible if the action is removed from the stock. We ran two .300 Win. Mag. samples up to 1,000 rounds each. These stocks had developed cracks in this area early on in testing and became more noticeable but in no way compromise the structural integrity of the stock or support and retention of the action in the stock. As we all know 1,000 rounds of .300 Win. Mag. ammunition fired in a M710/770 product is probably many lifetimes for this product. I would recommend we continue to investigate the root cause of these small cracks and work toward eliminating them but I would not hold up initial production for this issue since they pose no problem. In essence they're acting as stress relieving cracks that once present do not seem to lead to additional stock failure in any other areas. In order to test a worst case scenario we are going to test new stock samples from the mold run-off of 1/17 with the rifle stored overnight in a -20 F environment (Cold Test). This testing will be completed either this Friday or Monday.

We also shot accuracy on the .300 Win. Mag. and the .243 Win. rifles and our results were in-line with your accuracy data. My expectation is that this new stock will shoot every bit as good as the old 710 stock for all calibers but we have only tested these 2 calibers to date. I know you have tested all calibers with good results.

The last area we looked at was SAAMI jar-off, drop and rotation. Given the breadth of product mix based on caliber variations, barrel lengths, and stock configuration (Standard vs Youth) we determined that the two extremes needed to test was the .243 Win. with the Youth stock and the 7mm Rem. Mag. with the Standard stock. To date we have dropped the .243 Youth without issues. We would like to get 5 rifles with newly molded stocks in 7mm Rem. Mag. for SAAMI testing. I could use the .300 Win. Mag. actions I have here and only have you send 5 new stocks but this is not the desirable route since the 7mm is slightly heavier (by .087 lbs.) due to the smaller bore diameter. **Could you let me know when you could get me 7mm samples to complete the SAAMI testing.** This test is needed in order for me to give the green light to ship product.

Once we have the Cold Test and SAAMI testing completed and if results are positive I could give conditional approval to ship product on the calibers listed above. I would like to do a limited function and accuracy test on all the other calibers prior to release. I am open to the possibility that Mayfield could do this qualification since you plan on testing function and accuracy anyway. Let's discuss this possibility at your convenience.

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