

FIREARMSSHOTGUNSMODEL 870 SLIDE ACTION SHOTGUNShort Stock Press Forming

R & D reported that weatherability tests have been made with Stocks selected from another lot from the press formed process. This time a sample of 8 of the experimental Stocks together with a controlled lot of 8 from standard production were exposed to outside elements on the roof for a period of 10 days.

The weather pattern included several days with rather heavy rainfall and some intermittent showers. There was also variable warm and cold weather.

All of the press formed Stocks except two withstood the adverse conditions in fine shape. One of these had a small surface swelling at a point involving sapwood. The other had a surface failure in a repaired area.

The regular production Stocks displayed the usual swelling from moisture which caused excessive wood margins, especially on the butt end. However, there was sufficient elasticity of the RK-W coating so that there were no surface cracks. These would be expected to recover to about the normal dimensions if the wood has been properly pre-conditioned.

After examination of the test specimens by Production and Research, the consensus was that there should now be little significant difference in the adverse weather resistance of the press formed Stocks as now being processed. On the plus side there is a better appearance and toughness of finish, together with consistently better checkering. Also there are more uniformly held Stock dimensions and finish around the grip and Grip Cap which are controlled by the press formed dies instead of subjected to variations in hand sanding.

83