

AMMUNITION

22 Caliber Long Rifle "Yellow Jacket" (Bullets left in barrels)

Consumer Services reported three incidents of complaints involving damaged barrels resulting from "Yellow Jacket" bullets left in barrels. Weak reports were involved and investigation revealed the cause to be either low or contaminated powder charges. Our testing indicated that the firing of a second bullet after the first is lodged in the barrel will, at most, cause a bulge in the barrel, with no safety hazard. This is due to the comparatively low pressure present in 22 caliber ammunition. The complaints are highly infrequent, and the most that is involved is replacement of some bulged barrels. It was decided to address the matter as a gun repair service.

Wads Lodged in Barrels

Consumer Services reported on complaints concerning wads lodging in shotgun barrels with two codes of PER 12 6s promotional shotshells loaded in June 1980 as an initial run of unibody product. It has been concluded that a limited number, perhaps 20% of 90,000 rounds, could have been produced with low or no propellant powder. The product has been identified as having been shipped to a West Coast distributor and sold to dealers in the Los Angeles - San Diego area. All complaints have emanated from that area.

Complaint reports and testing have shown that the lodged wad is blown from the barrel on the next shot and that the shot string clears the barrel. Research reported on its testing with wads placed at intervals in barrels. These tests also revealed that there is little exposure to gun damage and no indication of a safety hazard.

Because of the significant amount of malfunctioning product in the field, Marketing may wish to check all shipping records and recommend to Management a recall program for the involved codes.

7mm "Express" Rem. - 7mm Rem. Magnum Mixed Packaging

Consumer Services reported that the incidents involving a single 7mm "Express" cartridge found packed in a 7mm Rem. Magnum box are still limited to the two examples reported at the February 1982 meeting. A few additional details have been reported concerning the second incident. It apparently resulted in a blown Model 700 rifle belonging to an Idaho hunter guide. The ammunition returned to Lonoke showed, by bullet marks in the tray, that the guide had mixed the cartridge himself. He refused an offer of repairs to his firearm. Also, the original mixing incident is still believed to have occurred on a dealer's counter.