

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FIREARMS

It is necessary that firearms, excluding air rifles, imported into Australia conform to standards of safety, which have been agreed upon by all Australian Police Firearms Technicians. Provision is made under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations to prevent the importation of "Goods which, in the opinion of the Minister, are of a dangerous character and a menace to the community".

2. Firearms will be submitted to the Approved Authorities to ascertain whether they conform to standards of safety by the application of various tests. All firearms must be of a standard to withstand the following tests without being discharged, except in the case of a revolver, the testing device to be used in respect of sub-paragraphs (a), (d) and (e) will be a raw hide or rubber hammer weighing approximately one pound:

- **** (a) When cocked and loaded and subjected to blows and jars on various parts. (To simulate the knocks and jars which a firearm may be subjected when in practical use. The firearm will be re-cocked after each test or blow.)
 - (b) When cocked and loaded the firearm will be subjected to a drop test, from an approximate height of 18 inches on to a coir mat, approximately 1 1/2 inches thick. (The firearm will be re-cocked after each test for drop.)
 - (c) When in the process of cocking a loaded manually cocked firearm, the hammer or cocking piece is permitted to slip from the thumb and/or finger, prior to the cocking mechanism engaging. (To simulate this possibility when the firearm is in practical use.)
 - *** (d) When the loaded, but uncocked manually cocked firearm is submitted to blows on the hammers or cocking piece. (To simulate the knocks to which the hammers or cocking piece may be subjected to in practical use.)
 - *** (e) When self-cocking firearms which have been loaded and the cocking mechanism released manually, are subjected to blows on the bolt head or cocking piece.
3. The discharge of firearms subjected to the tests mentioned above may be attributed to various causes, some of which are enumerated:
- (a) The improper engagement of the sear and bent, usually caused by sub-standard workmanship or design.
 - (b) The presence of inferior quality metal in the engagement parts.
 - (c) The ill fitting of the sear and intercepting bent caused by sub-standard workmanship or design.
 - (d) The absence of an intercepting bent.

(e) The absence of an adequate sized hammer or cocking piece with appropriate knurling.

(f) Poor design or excessive length of firing pin or striker.

4. Dependent on the type of firearm, the minimum trigger pressures should be between two and one half to five pounds except in those cases where sanction is obtained from the Approved Authorities for trigger pressures outside of these limits. These limits are set to reduce the possibility of discharge of a loaded and cocked firearm, the trigger of which may foul on brush or other objects. Firearms shall be fitted with efficient safety catches except in those cases where sanction is obtained from Approved Authorities to dispense with safety catches. A safety catch should not be able to move from the "Safe" to the "Fire" position other than by a distinct finger pressure and it should be readily discernible whether the safety catch is "On" or "Off" by the provision of appropriate indicators.

5. The engaging surfaces of sears and bents must be well formed, of good quality tough steel and heat treated to a minimum hardness of approximately 550 D.P.N. (using a load of at least 10 kg) 500 Brinell or 52 Rockwell "C", or of other metals of acceptable quality resistant to wear, well polished, devoid of rough edges and fitted properly and securely into the firearm.

6. Firearms may be subjected to definitive proof tests of the standards set by the London and Birmingham Proof Houses.

7. Special purpose firearms such as Target Rifles and Target Hand Guns may be exempted from certain of the above provisions with the sanction of the Approved Authorities.

**** The model 514 .22 Single shot rifle failed this Section of the Regulations.

***** Section 2 (a) and 2(e) are the appropriate Section headings appropriate to the failure of both 700 models. It is to be noted that the 600 series also has been recently failed for the same reasons as **** above.

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