

File 101702

MINUTES OF MEETING
FIREARMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE, INC.
CAMELOT INN, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

TO: J.I. BURNS

PRESENT:

*E.F. BARRETT WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW
WHAT WE THINK
OF THIS PLAN.
PLEASE GIVE ME
YOUR COMMENTS.*

JPL

BROWNING ARMS COMPANY
M. Kordas

HARRINGTON & RICHARDSON, INC.
R. Chatigny

O. F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC.
D. Katona
C. Liedke

OLIN CORPORATION
T. W. vanWilgen (Committee Chairman)

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY
E. Barrett
A. Hugick

SAVAGE ARMS
E. M. Stark

SMITH & WESSON
R. L. Baker
H. A. Into
H. E. Sibley

THOMPSON/CENTER ARMS
T. Pancurak

SAAMI: C. F. Turner

Chairman vanWilgen called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Attendance was recorded and the following matters were discussed.

ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE

The committee was reminded of counsel's memorandum on antitrust.

PROPOSAL FOR FIREARMS FIRE CONTROL TESTING

The minutes of the September 10-11, 1979 meeting on this subject were read by the chairman (See Attachment A). After lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed that the following revised proposal to establish a meaningful test procedure would be submitted to the Policies and Practices Committee for its review and recommendations.

Purpose - The intention of this effort is to establish a non-destructive firearm fire control test to which all applicable firearms models be subjected. With such a test, a mark analogous to a proof mark would be used to identify that an individual firearm had been so tested or was capable of passing said test.

We believe that with such a standardized test, the firearms industry would be better able to take a defensive posture in cases involving product liability due to accidental discharge.

Tasks to be considered are:

I. Trigger System Function

- essentially in effect.*
- A. Free operation of the trigger
 - B. Trigger pull force
 - C. Disconnecter operation
 - D. Security at "half cock" etc.

II. Exposed Hammer Function - Applicable to those firearms with an exposed hammer that is capable of manual operation.

- A. Inspect for safe and reliable manual cocking and lowering of hammer.
- B. If equipped with a "half cock" notch, inspect for reliability when the hammer is being lowered into the "half cock" position.
- C. With hammer retracted to the "full cock" position, inspect for hammer being caught in the "half cock" notch when released.

III. "Safety" Functions

- We currently do not have a test for this.*
- A. When the safety is in the non-fire position, inspect by applying pressure to pull the trigger using considerably more than normal trigger pull force. The hammer or striker mechanism should not fall.
 - B. After release of manual pressure on the trigger move the safety from the non-fire to the fire position. The hammer or striker mechanism should not fall.
 - C. Inspection for positive positioning of the safety in the non-fire and fire positions.
 - D. The gun must not be capable of firing in any position until the action is completely locked.
 - E. When applicable, inspection for reliable function of cocking indicators.

IV. Recovery/Regain/Re-engagement

The ability of a trigger system which is partially pulled and released to the unpulled position.

V. Drop Test

A test or tests that would assure that discharge would not take place when the gun is dropped a reasonable distance with the safety in the non-fire position.

VI. Jar Off

A test or tests that would assure that discharge would not take place when the firearm is dropped a reasonable distance with the safety in the fire position.

I believe this is a good idea, however, destructive testing will have to be done to determine forces, methods, etc. currently an experimental machine is proposed for this check is not for gunners.

Procedure - As related to components critical to product safety, it should be noted that in all of the preceeding considerations, destructive tests, if adopted, might be recommended for prototypes, pre-production samples or on a sampling basis only while on some non-destructive tests it might be recommended that they be performed on each firearm. Match and Target firearms would not be covered by these tests.

ABBREVIATED NAMES PER MEMO OF W. M. BELLEMORE DATED JULY 24, 1979

This item was tables pending agreement by the Ammunition Technical Committee.

UNSAFE FIREARMS PRACTICES

None reported

OLD BUSINESS

None reported

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Self-Loading Rimfire Firearms, Ejection Port Shields - The pros, cons and disposition were discussed. No decisions or recommendations were reached. Mainly a problem when "short" ammunition is used.
- B. Technical Committee Manual, Volume XI, Cartridges & Chambers
The task force was requested to review the following:
 - a) Possible interference between max cartridge and min chamber on 38 Special and 357 Magnum.
 - b) Revision of extractor groove on 9mm Luger cartridge.
 - c) One member requested that the barrel face be identified on the chamber drawings.
- C. Drawing Transfer - It was decided that the thread drawings for iron sights and telescope sight mounts be removed from T.C.M., Volume III, C. F. Rifle and placed in the proper firearms volume(s). (Pages 1556 and 1557.)

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

February 13, 1980 at the Copley Plaza in Boston, Massachusetts.