

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (Product Safety Sub-Committee)

MINUTE #2 - 1974

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Bridgeport, Connecticut
October 30, 1974

~~PRODUCT SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE~~
~~OPERATIONS COMMITTEE~~
~~BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT~~
~~September 13, 1974~~
~~September 23, 1974~~
~~October 28, 1974~~

PRESENT:

COMMITTEE

G.M. Calhoun, Chairman
E. Sparre
J.G. Williams
R.A. Partnoy
T.J. Sharpe, Secretary

OTHERS

E.F. Barrett
E. Hooton, Jr.
L.J. Scott
F.E. Morgan
E.G. Larson
R.L. Hall
W.E. Leek
L.L. Pressnell
J. Linde
A. Hugick
R.B. Sperling

REM 0002630

LUN 0000043

September 13, 1974 Meeting

Present:

COMMITTEE:

G.M. Calhoun, Chairman
E. Sparre
J.G. Williams
R.A. Partnoy
T.J. Sharpe, Secretary

OTHERS

E.F. Barrett
E. Hooton, Jr.
L.J. Scott
F.E. Morgan
E.G. Larson
J. Linde
R.B. Sperling

MODEL 3200 SHOTGUN

J. Linde, Ilion Research, briefed the Subcommittee on the background of a problem detected in the Model 3200 over-and-under shotgun. According to reports from the field, certain guns of this model occasionally fired on closing. There are presently 24,000 Model 3200s out in the field, and to date in 1974, 38 have been returned to Ilion as the result of firing-on-closing complaints. Examination revealed that the problem in 12 of the returned guns was caused either by improper trigger pull adjustments made by customers, or improper positioning of the top ~~hammer~~ at the factory. (The latter was corrected by Remington in the spring of 1973.) The remaining 16 guns, which were all trap guns, were found to have bent or broken top or bottom tangs. Apparently this tang deformation or breakage distorts the sear-hammer relationship in the gun and makes possible firing on closing. Top tang breakage is easily seen, and accounts for about 80% of the reported tang-related firings on closing. Ilion Research is now in the process of conducting extensive tests to determine what causes the tang deformation and what corrective and preventative measures can be developed. Present indication is that tang deformation may be caused by numerous harsh openings and closings of the barrels. Top priority is being given to this matter. No new Model 3200 will be shipped from Ilion until the problem has been solved.

A
[REM 0002031]

[LUN 0005044]

September 23, 1974 Meeting

Present:

COMMITTEE

G.M. Calhoun, Chairman
E. Sparrs
J.G. Williams
R.A. Partnoy
T.J. Sharpe, Secretary

OTHERS

E.F. Barrett
E. Hooton, Jr.
L.J. Scott
F.E. Morgan
E.G. Larson
W.E. Leek
J. Linda
L.L. Presnell
R.B. Sperling

MODEL 3200 SHOOTGUN

W.E. Leek, Manager of Ilion Research, reviewed the problem of the Model 3200 with respect to the reported instances of firing on closing. Tang deformation and breakage due to harsh openings and closings appear to be the cause of the problem. Several remedies are being studied and tested. Proposals include heat treating top and bottom tang, changing the design of sear, adding a strut to maintain the relationship of the hammer and sear. Testing is continuing on a high priority basis. In new production Model 3200s, slam openings and closings will be introduced into the product testing procedures, along with the shooting of 3 inch Magnum shells through the top barrel, in order to test the strength and durability of the tangs.

LAEM 0002632

LON 0000045

October 28, 1974 Meeting

Present:

COMMITTEE

G.M. Calhoun, Chairman
E. Sparre
J.G. Williams
R.A. Partnoy
T.J. Sharpe, Secretary

OTHER

E.F. Barrett
E. Hooton, Jr.
L.J. Scott
E.G. Larson
F.E. Morgan
L.L. Pressnell
W.E. Leak
J. Linda
A. Hugick
R.B. Sperling

MODEL 3200 SHOTGUN

Wayne Leak, Manager of Ilicon Research, began the meeting by briefly reviewing the firing-on-closing problem in the Model 3200. John Linda, Ilicon Research, then outlined the proposed six-step solution to the problem in future production guns:

- (1) screw attach bottom tang to frame,
- (2) heat treat bottom tang,
- (3) heat treat top tang,
- (4) install a long slot nut in rear section of the top tang,
- (5) install a strut between tangs to maintain integrity between hammer and sear,
- (6) alter design of sear to make it less sensitive to tang deformation.

Adam Hugick, Measurements and Testing Lab Supervisor, recounted to the Subcommittee the results of the tests conducted on three guns which incorporated these six modifications. Tests indicated that the modified Model 3200 took over 13,500 slams before the bottom tang broke, and even then there was no firing on closing. Moreover, 30,000 rounds of 3 inch Magnum shells were fired through the modified guns without failure; 90% of the shells were fired through the top barrel which creates the greatest stress situation of the tangs.

[REM 0002633]

[LUS 0008046]

The problem of the guns already in the field was analyzed. Of the approximately 24,000 Model 3200s in the field, about 20,000 are target guns and about 4,000 are field guns. The target gun is subject to much heavier use and is therefore more susceptible to tang deformation. All of the guns returned so far with firing-on-closing complaints have been target guns. Nevertheless, due to the emphasis placed on safety by target shooters and range officials and the positions of shooters at a trap or skeet range, the possibility of personal injury as the result of a Model 3200 target gun firing on closing is extremely remote. Significantly, not one injury has been reported. Moreover, the history of our investigations to date indicates by far the great majority of tang breakage or deformation occurs in the top tang, which is easily seen by the shooter, providing ample notice that the gun needs repair. For all these reasons an attempt to recall the guns in the field is not warranted.

COMMITTEE ACTION

A "soft closing" campaign will be instituted, making shooters more aware of the proper handling of an over-and-under shotgun.

A gunsmith bulletin will be sent to all gunsmiths advising of the design changes and requesting that all Model 3200s with a tang problem be sent back to Ilion for modification.

Attendance of Remington gunsmiths at upcoming shoots will be increased, and Model 3200s will be carefully scrutinized.

A seminar will be held with the field force to apprise our representatives of the situation. The whole matter will continue to be closely monitored.

In order to minimize the possibility of a firing on closing and to increase the durability of the Model 3200 when subjected to harsh barrel slamming, the six-step design change previously discussed would be incorporated into all new production guns, all guns still held in the warehouse, and all guns as they are returned from the field for repair, regardless of whether there is any indication of tang damage.

REM 0002634-1

LON 0008047 1

October 23, 1974

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T. J. Sharpe
Secretary



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