

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

MINUTES #1 - 1980

PRODUCT SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 22, 1980

PRESENT:

SUBCOMMITTEE:

E. F. BARRETT, CHAIRMAN
J. G. WILLIAMS
E. HOOTON, JR.
E. G. LARSON
R. A. PARTNOY

OTHERS:

J. P. GLAS
J. E. PREISER
W. L. FLAHERTY
E. S. McCAWLEY
T. W. RAWSON
J. H. CHISNALL
R. B. SPERLING, ACTING SECRETARY

RECALL OF CERTAIN REMINGTON MODELS
600, 660 AND MOHAWK 600 RIFLES
AND XP-100 PISTOLS

The status of the product recall and the results to date were reviewed. It was reported that 23,318 recall guns had been repaired since the introduction of the recall. Returns have been steadily declining. Through December 31, 1979, 25,000 telephone calls have been received at our Atlanta toll-free number. We are down now to about 7 calls a day. The Atlanta number will remain open until further evaluation.

In August of 1979, approximately 130,000 letters (see copy attached as Exhibit A) were sent out to Federal Firearms License holders requesting the names of customers who purchased recalled guns. Remington received the names of 1,922 customers, to whom we mailed copies of our recall letter.

Pending litigation involving claims against guns subject to recall was discussed. The current status of Remington's audit on the Model 700 was also presented, which showed that from June 13, 1978, to January 15, 1980, 3,376 Model 700's returned to Ilion for service were tested for the "trick" condition. Of this sample, 35 guns failed the "trick" test. But of these 35 guns, 22 guns were trickable because they had been altered or damaged out in the field. This means that the audit to date indicates that only about .4% of the audited Model 700's were susceptible to tricking due to causes not attributable to customer misuse. It is also known that only .4% of the guns manufactured before 1975 are so susceptible.

Since January of 1979, Ilion has added a new test to the Model 700 audit which involves turning the returned Model 700 on its back and inserting a screwdriver into the trigger assembly and attempting to trap the connector so that it cannot move freely back under the sear. In this condition, the gun will fire when the safety lever is moved to the "fire" position. This has been termed "firing off safe". Since the inception of the new test, 38 returned Model 700's were found to "fire off safe", but of this number, only 9 would do so because of causes not attributable to alteration or damage in the field--4 of which were guns manufactured before 1975.

Even if you combine the number of "trickable" guns with the number of guns that will "fire off safe", the figures indicate that approximately .6% of the Model 700's currently in the field will be susceptible to "tricking" or "firing off safe".

The status of the Model 600 recall and the Model 700 audit confirms the wisdom of Remington's previous determination, made in January of 1979 (See Product Safety Subcommittee Minutes dated January 2, 1979), that the Company's efforts to reduce accidents involving bolt action rifles would be best served by publicizing proper gun handling and maintenance information, rather than to continue running Recall notices producing ever-diminishing returns. Remington's ad "Half Safe is Unsafe" will run through April of 1980. The SAAMI sponsored firearms safety ads will be initiated in February 1980 and will be run with heavy intensity through 1981. (See Exhibit B for samples of the SAAMI advertising program.) It was reported that the SAAMI booklet "Firearms Safety Depends on You" (see Exhibit B) is being packed with every Remington firearm shipped from the factory. This program was initiated in January of 1980.

It was suggested that Remington consider putting an insert in its ammunition boxes which would contain the ten firearms safety headings found in the "Firearms Safety Depends on You" booklet. After discussion, it was decided to put the safety message on the panels at the back of the shotshell and center fire ammunition boxes where currently there is placed product information.

MODEL 788 BOLT ACTION RIFLE

Remington has received a letter from Hank Burchard, an outdoor writer from THE WASHINGTON POST, complaining about the position of the safety on the Model 788, in that it can be unknowingly moved to the "fire" position when the gun is carried over the shoulder

(a copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit C). Preliminary examination shows that the Model 788, as well as several other models manufactured by competitors, are susceptible to having the safety moved from "safe" to "fire" by the fleshy part of the hand between thumb and forefinger when the gun is carried over the shoulder. Remington has had a few complaints about this situation in the past, but no reports of personal injury. The Subcommittee determined that the design of the Model 788 should be studied for corrective action, and that a letter of response should be prepared and sent to Mr. Burchard. (Subsequent to the meeting, a letter response was sent to Mr. Burchard--See copy attached as Exhibit D).

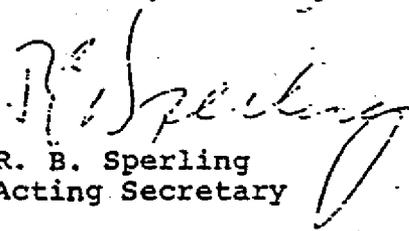
7mm EXPRESS CARTRIDGES

There have been reported incidents of gun damage due to consumers firing 7mm Express cartridges in firearms designed for magnum cartridges. The Marketing Manager (ammunition) and the Manager of Quality were directed to review the problem and recommend what could be placed on the 7mm Express containers that would re-emphasize the fact that the 7mm Express is not to be used in chambers designed for magnum loads.

30-06 HIGH PRESSURE LOADS

A recall notice was placed in vertical trade journals selected by Marketing as directed by the Product Safety Subcommittee in June, 1979. (See Exhibit E). Returns are no longer coming in pursuant to our notices. There still have been no complaints reported from

the field. Since it is believed that virtually all of this ammunition has now been used, no further action is planned.


R. B. Sperling
Acting Secretary

RBS:hss

2/19/80

Attachments